



**CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JULY 27th 2021
MINUTES – Amended**

PRESENT: Mayor Vicki Platt, Councilors: Catalina Burillo, Jim Evans, Mike Powers, Fred Rybarz, and Kris Trygstad.

ABSENT: Dean Hodges

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Rob Splane, City Clerk – Karla Swihart, Bio-Pure – Paul Cutter, DPW Superintendent – Brad Whitney, Energy Superintendent – Michael Schiller, Sharon Hallack,

Mayor Platt called the meeting to order; following the roll call, the mayor led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: C. Burillo motioned to approve the agenda and was supported by J. Evans

- Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sharon Hallack contacted the Herald Journal after last weeks City Council meeting a new resident, during public comments mentioned how there is a lack in advertising what is going on in the City, and Sharon asked if they offered free subscriptions to residents new to the area and they do! So they will be receiving a 6wk subscription to the Herald-Journal.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS: City Manager Rob Splane implemented new tablets for the Council members. And believed they could be helpful by setting them all up the same way; when we encounter communication issues, other members of the council, myself, or city staff can help answer questions. The City is also starting to implement Microsoft teams which is another excellent tool for communication and sharing files on projects. The open meetings Act is still in place as well.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from July 13, 2021
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - C. Burillo motioned to approve Consent Agenda supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2021-60 Authorize City Manager to execute lease agreement on purchase of Street Sweeper
The City of Hart operates and maintains a fleet of trucks and other equipment, and the Public Works Department proposes to replace a non-functional 2006 Elgin P-Series Pelican, and the Public Works Street Sweeper should be replaced with the proposed demo unit due to high cost and frequency of repairs to older equipment of this type, and this is a planned, budgeted expense for this replacement unit and in order to secure the benefits of efficient self-government and to promote and protect our common interests and welfare, The Hart City Council hereby declares: Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Hart City Council, Authorizes the City Manager to sign and execute the proposed lease agreement to purchase a 2018 Demo model Elgin Pelican from Bell Equipment for the cost of \$205,000 and accept the "AS-IS condition" trade-in offer of \$10,000 for the current non-functioning street sweeper reducing the total purchase cost to the City of Hart of \$195,000.
 - C. Burillo motioned to approve Resolution 2021-60 and supported by J. Evans.
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
- Resolution 2021-61 Acceptance of American Rescue Act Funds and Establishment of Fund 285
The City of Hart, accepting the award of \$216,455 from the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Fund, authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the acceptance and amend the budget accordingly by creating Fund-285 – Stimulus Grant Fund. On March 11, 2021, the Federal Government enacted Public Law 117-2, known as the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" or "ARPA," to provide additional relief to address the continued impact of the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals and businesses. On May 10, 2021, the United States

Department of Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by ARPA, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The State has computed the City of Hart allotment of Fiscal Recovery Funds to be \$216,455. This allotment will be paid to the city over two years. The ARPA permits the City to use the Fiscal Recovery Funds to cover eligible costs incurred during the period beginning March 3, 2021 and ending December 31, 2024. Eligible costs generally include recovery of revenue losses, and negative economic impacts from the Final guidance is still being developed related to eligible costs. The City plans to have ongoing dialogue and transparency regarding appropriation of these funds. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Hart City Council authorizes the City Manager to file an application, supplement r amendment for a federal, state, or other grants from Stimulus Funding and that the City Treasurer can amend the budget to create Fund 285, Stimulus Grant Fund, for all stimulus-related revenues and approved costs.

- C. Burillo motioned to approve Resolution 2021-61 and supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
- Resolution 2021-62 Approve pay rate increase for Energy Department Staff
The City of Hart owns, operates, and maintains the Hart Hydro Electric Facility staffed by an energy Superintendent, Lead Journey Line Worker, Journey Line Workers, and Apprentice Line Workers, and there is a wage inequity between the City of Hart Energy Department Employees and local entities currently hiring for similar roles and should be corrected and to ensure the City retains qualified, professional staff in an effort to provide the best possible service to our residents, community, industry stakeholders and in order to secure the benefits of efficient self-government and to promote and protect our common interests and welfare, The Hart City Council hereby declares; Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Hart City Council approves and authorizes a wage increase of union and non-union Hart Energy Department staff of 15% effective July 30th, 2021
 - C. Burillo motioned to approve Resolution 2021-62 and supported by M. Powers
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
- Resolution 2021-63 Authorization to accept engineering proposal to perform electric system modeling
The City of Hart owns and operates an electric distribution system, and previous electric system study's and planning documents are antiquated and in need of updating and City staff and City engineers have investigated the proper steps to take in an effort to ensure proper system maintenance and reliability, and GRP Engineering has prepared a proposal to begin survey and planning work beginning with developing a system model, and the Hart Energy Superintendent and the City engineering firm recommend moving forward with the proposal for electric System Modeling, and cash reserves are available to fund this program estimated at \$20,000 and in order to secure the benefits of efficient self-government and to promote and protect our common interests and welfare, the Hart City Council hereby declares; Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Hart City Council accepts and approves the recommendation to proceed with GRP Engineering Services Proposal for Electric System Modeling, Authorizes and directs the City manager to sign and execute the proposal for an estimated fee of \$20,000 including expenses on behalf of the City of Hart.
 - M. Powers motioned to approve Resolution 2021-63 and supported by F. Rybarz
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Hart Area Fire Department property ownership.
Years ago, the City of Hart purchased the property that the fire department currently sits on. The fire board has indicated they have several capital improvements they would like to start working on. They now own the property to the south of them and are looking to *acquire* the current Firebarn property from the City of Hart so they can have continuous property and perform capital improvements on the existing building that sits on the City property. The fire board ensured that they have no plans on ever moving the fire department from the City of Hart. However, the City would draw up an agreement that gets adopted that if the fire department were ever to move, the City would enquire that property back. As long as there is no objection from the Council, City Manager R. Splane will work with City Attorney to draw up an agreement and present it at the next City Council meeting.
- Boards and Commissions – Discussion on current appointee schedule conflicts.
R. Splane wanted to see if any of the Council members have scheduling conflicts with the current boards that they are on? C. Burillo did bring up that she cannot attend any Board Meetings during the hours of 8 am-5 pm

due to her work schedule. R. Splane will bring to the next City Council Meeting will have a list of board meetings, times, and what Council member sits on what board.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- City Manager R. Splane gave a copy of the Manager's report to all Council members to review. A few items he touched base on
- City of Hart Community Page is live, and almost 100 people have joined in the first four days.
- Resolved City Phone system extension issues.
- 88th Substation Emergency repairs, Mike continues to work with the vendor to establish a clear explanation of the inflated repair cost.
- Brickley Delong is to begin pre-audit work next week.
- Wigton Street issue – Wigton has become a high-priority street repair due to failing infrastructure. Myself and the DPW superintendent have been working with our engineers on this matter and have come up with a few options that will be presented at the next council meeting. I just wanted Council to be aware of this issue.

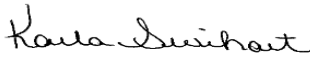
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- M. Powers asked how the Pocket Park project is coming. Pocket Park is complete, but a few items that need some attention and are being addressed. The final payment to the contractor will not be released until all issues have been completed.
- C. Burillo had a question on sidewalks and asked what a Concrete Planner to Plan off sidewalks is? B. Whitney explained that the DPW would be working on sanding down sidewalks that need repairs by sanding down those that are 1 inch or lower.

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm upon a motion by C. Burillo and supported by J. Evans. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 10th, 2021, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Karla Swihart , City Clerk