

**CITY OF HARTFORD
COMMON COUNCIL
February 14, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of Hartford, Washington and Dodge Counties, Wisconsin, met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 7:00 p.m., in the Common Council Chambers of Hartford City Hall, 109 North Main Street, Mayor Timothy Michalak presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Michalak led the Common Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Mayor and all Alderpersons were present except Alderpersons Kohler and Webb who were absent and excused.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Alderperson Hegy, seconded by Alderperson Turchi approving the following items:

1. The Common Council minutes of January 24, 2023.
2. Authorizing a transient merchant license to Keith Harvey, the Window Store, Inc. for the period February 15, 2023 to February 14, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Lori Hetzel reminded the council that the Firemen's Banquet is taking place next Friday. Reservations are needed by Wednesday, February 15th.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Michalak made special note of the passing of Richard Witt, former mayor. He commented on Mr. Witt's 30 years of service on the Police and Fire Commission, as well as his one term as mayor. A memorial service is planned for February 16th at 2:00 p.m. at Shimon Funeral Home. Mayor Michalak thanked Mr. Witt for his many years of service to the city.

ALDERMANIC REQUESTS

Alderperson Hegy announced the Mid-Moraine Legislative Committee met last Wednesday at the Jackson Village Hall. The topic of discussion was the relationship between Library Boards and City Councils.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Personnel

1. Discussion and consideration of authorizing appropriate City officials to purchase two 2023 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid squads from Ewald Automotive Group, for a price not to exceed \$45,199 per vehicle.
 - a. Chief MacFarlan explained that in the approved CIP budget, there were two new hybrid squads scheduled to be purchased. Those squads were ordered, with permission, in February 2022 due to supply chain issues. That order was canceled in January 2023, but Ewald advised there were some fleet vehicles coming in that they would designate for the police department. The squads in the canceled order were not going to be built, but Ewald was pretty certain the fleet vehicles would be built and received. The new squads are \$3,571 per vehicle more than what was budgeted for. The loss of revenue from auctioning the old vehicles is not able to be determined, because it is unknown how long it will be before the new vehicles are received.
 - i. Alderperson Turchi asked about the status of the old squads that are being replaced and when the next study is going to be done to determine how often squads need to be replaced. Chief MacFarlan explained that the old squads will be entering their fourth year in service and have between 75,000 and 80,000 miles on them. Administrator Volkert explained that police vehicles are different from personal use vehicles and mileage is not a major consideration when it comes to deciding when to replace them.

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Engine hours are the major factor. These two squads are the last group of squads transitioning from a two-year cycle to a three-year cycle. When they are taken out of service, a comparison of the two different cycles will be done. Chief MacFarlan also stated that they are always looking at options to try and be the most cost effective, considering that these vehicles are so expensive.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Turchi authorizing appropriate City officials to purchase two 2023 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid squads from Ewald Automotive Group, for a price not to exceed \$45,199 per vehicle.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Utility Committee

1. Discussion and consideration of entering into an agreement with Answering Innovations to provide after hours dispatch services for Hartford Electric and Water Utility.
 - a. Director of Utilities Brian Rhodes explained the Electric and Water Utility is proposing using a third-party dispatch service to handle utility emergencies and after-hours phone calls. During larger power outages over the last few years, both the Fire and Police chiefs have expressed concerns about the increased call volume to the police dispatch center and how that has affected the dispatcher's availability to address other emergency situations that may be occurring at the same time. Director Rhodes had reached out to other communities to see how they are handling this situation, and although overall it was about a 50/50 split, it seemed as though most larger communities were using the third-party vendors. Quotes were requested from three different vendors, and Answering Innovations came back with a quote with the lowest rates and a plan that fits well with the city's needs. Answering Innovations is already operating in the Village of Slinger. Based on call history, cost projections for this service are around \$2,000 annually. The Utility Committee approved this item unanimously.
 - i. Alderperson Fulop asked how about the logistics of switching over from citizens calling the police dispatch center to calling the answering service. He asked if they would still call the police dispatch center and then they would be transferred to the service or if citizens would need to learn a new number to call. Director Rhodes explained that citizens would call the answering service directly and that there would be marketing and information distributed to ensure they know the correct number to call.
 - ii. Mayor Michalak asked how Slinger, Kewaskum and Jackson are handling these calls as they are also members of WPPI and but do not have their own police dispatch center. Director Rhodes explained that he gathered his information from Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW), which had already done a survey to see which local municipalities were using local dispatch centers or third-party vendors. Director Rhodes also pointed out that Kewaskum and Jackson rely on WE Energies for service, and Slinger is already using Answering Innovations for these types of calls.
 - iii. Alderperson Rusniak asked where Answering Innovations is based. Director Rhodes answered that they are a nation-wide company, but are headquartered in Madison and have operators that can speak Spanish.

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Hegy to approve entering into an agreement with Answering Innovations to provide after hours dispatch services for Hartford Electric and Water Utility.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORDINANCES

First Reading and Possible Action Thereon

1. Ordinance No. 1467 – An ordinance amending sections 340.0002(1)(a)(1)(b) and (1)(c) of the Municipal Code relating to speed limits.
 - a. Director of Public Works Darryl Kranz explained it was brought to the city's attention that there are two different speed limits on Lee Road, depending on which direction you are traveling. This ordinance would change the speed limit to match the Town of Hartford speed limit, 30 MPH, east of Cedar Street. The second area that would be changing is North Main Street from Rossman Street to Settlement Road. With the increase in residences and additional intersections, staff feels the best option is to reduce the speed limit from 30 MPH to 25 MPH. Mayor Michalak asked

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if there were safety concerns driving this change or if this was just changing to change. Director Kranz explained that the city did receive a complaint about vehicles going too fast through that area, and now that North Main Street is the designated truck route going North out of the city, the speed limit should be reduced in order to maintain safety. Director Kranz also mentioned that the speed limit change, as the speed limit signs show now, occurs mid-block. The proposed change would move that further north to an area that is less residentially populated.

- b. Alderperson Turchi asked about the specific location of the proposed change and expressed concerns that the entrance to the Borlen Farms subdivision would be in a 35 MPH zone, and would not be included in the speed reduction zone. Director Kranz explained that changing from 25 MPH to 35 MPH is reasonable in that area, considering there are no driveway entrances or pedestrian crosswalks north of the proposed 35 MPH zone. Director Kranz also advised that a flashing sign warning drivers of the upcoming speed reduction will be installed.

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Fulop to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of proposed Ordinance No. 1467.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Alderperson Garza, seconded by Alderperson Fulop for the adoption of proposed Ordinance No. 1467.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Carroll for adjournment at 7:35 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

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