

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

The Common Council of the City of Hartford, Washington and Dodge Counties, Wisconsin, met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 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 Alderperson Garza who was absent.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. The Common Council minutes of February 218, 2023.
2. Authorizing appropriate City officials to accept the quote from Lee Recreation for a BCI Burke Playground for \$50,087 for Homestead Park.
3. Authorizing appropriate City officials to enter into one year Farmland Leases at the Hartford Municipal Airport with Larry Schmidt, for a 15.41-acre parcel at \$1,541 per year; James Borlen, for a 29-acre parcel at \$3,915 per year; and Richard Rohde, for a 59.7-acre parcel at \$8,059.50 per year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Deputy City Clerk Samantha Walters reminded the council that the next Mid-Moraine dinner meeting will be on March 22, 2023 in Saukville. Reservations are needed by March 17, 2023.

**APPEARANCES/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Kathee Isleb, 1483 Morning Glory Dr, appeared to introduce herself as running for Alderperson in District 3. She has previously served on the Common Council and has worked with some of the current Common Council members during that time, and looks forward to hopefully working with the current council in the future.

Brian Boehlen, 244 High St, introduced himself as running for Alderperson in District 2. He is running to make sure that Hartford remains a safe, enjoyable and affordable place to live, work and play. He believes his experience as working as a senior estimator for a custom home builder can be a great asset to the city as discussions move forward on the Next Generation Housing project. He looks forward to hopefully joining the council's effort to make Hartford the best it can be.

**ALDERMANIC REQUESTS**

Alderperson Hegy extended condolences from the council to the family of Darnell Wagner, former Director of Utilities, who passed away last week. He also talked about the importance of the municipal referendum question on the upcoming ballot regarding the shared county sales tax.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance and Personnel**

1. Discussion and consideration of instituting the new wage structure beginning March 20, 2023 for the City of Hartford taxi service drivers.
  - a. City Administrator Steve Volkert explained that Transportation Superintendent Deb Holtan took over a department that was struggling to maintain operations both in the number of available drivers and keeping a manager. She was tasked with coming up with a plan to make the department sustainable and the following is the beginning stage of that plan.
  - b. Ms. Holtan explained that in her education about the city taxi service, she discovered that there was no difference in wages between a 17-year veteran driver and a driver who was just hired, with both making \$13.73. She also learned that funding for the service comes from federal and state grants and local share. She also researched other local taxi services and found that the

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majority of employees in those services receive annual raises, which continue based on the drivers' experience and loyalty. They also frequently receive a pay increase after a 90-day probationary period, based on driver safety and attendance. She went on to explain that the cost of a wage increase was not budgeted for 2023, but the proposed increase would cost \$10,208.97. This amount would be taken from the Transportation Fund Balance, which currently stands at \$321,419.55. This increase would be sustained by future grants.

- i. Mayor Michalak asked what the new wages would be with the increase. Ms. Holtan explained the new position, Lead Driver, would be making \$17, other experienced drivers would make \$14.50, and new hires would make \$14.25, with a \$0.25 increase in wages annually.
- ii. Alderperson Webb pointed out that the Finance & Personnel committee voted to make the increases retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, which Alderperson Rusniak confirmed. The additional wages will also be funded through the Transportation Fund Balance.

MOTION by Alderperson Webb, seconded by Alderperson Fulop to institute the new wage structure beginning March 20, 2023, but retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, for the City of Hartford taxi service drivers.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Discussion and consideration of authorizing appropriate City officials to accept the quote from Foresight Sports for \$36,898, for a Sim-In-a-Box kit golf simulator.
  - a. Parks and Recreation Director Randy Wojtasiak explained there is an underutilized space inside the Rec Center after Jazzercise ended their tenure. It has been filled with miscellaneous activities, but the golf simulator has been suggested for a more permanent solution for that space. It is a booming industry and fits within the umbrella of recreation and leisure. The funds for this item will be coming from a Recreation Fund, which has been built up by sales of Summer Fun tickets. All revenue from the simulator will go back to the fund until the \$36,898 has been paid back, and then 25% of future revenue from the simulator will continue to go to the fund.
    - i. Alderperson Rusniak asked what the lifespan of the simulator is. Mr. Wojtasiak explained that it should last 15 – 20 years.
    - ii. Alderperson Webb asked where the remaining 75% of future revenue would go. Mr. Wojtasiak explained that after the initial amount is repaid, in about a year and a half or two years, Mr. Volkert and Mr. Wojtasiak will discuss where that revenue will go. Mr. Wojtasiak mentioned helping to offset lost revenue from memberships or future staff raises as potential places for that revenue to go. It has not been designated yet. Mr. Volkert also mentioned that those two places mentioned by Mr. Wojtasiak, would be offsetting increasing tax revenue.
    - iii. Alderperson Sikora asked about the quality of the simulator. Mr. Wojtasiak explained that this model will have capabilities to appease the average golfer along with amenities for a more advanced golfer, including being able to work on swing and having access to statistics about the golfer.
    - iv. Alderperson Fulop asked if this Recreation Fund is the same fund additional wages for lifeguards comes out of, considering last summer the Council approved increasing wages due to lifeguard shortages. Mr. Wojtasiak confirmed that the Recreation Fund is a separate account that has not been touched.

MOTION by Alderperson Kohler, seconded by Alderperson Webb authorizing appropriate City officials to accept the quote from Foresight Sports for \$36,898, for a Sim-In-a-Box kit golf simulator.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Webb for adjournment at 7:26 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

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