

**CITY OF HARTFORD  
COMMON COUNCIL  
May 10, 2022**

The Common Council of the City of Hartford, Washington and Dodge Counties, Wisconsin, met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 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**

All Alderpersons were present. Alderperson Webb attended via Zoom.

**MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

Mayor Michalak read the list of boards, commissions and committees. Alderperson Carroll corrected the name of the Common School District Advisory Committee to include both Hartford Union High School and Hartford Jt. 1.

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Kohler approving the appointments to the boards, commissions and committees.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. The Common Council minutes of April 19, 2022.
2. The purchase of 600 water modules from Elster Solutions, Inc., for a cost not to exceed \$51,072 and 600 bronze Badger meter chambers from Midwest Meters for a cost not to exceed \$85,140.
3. The purchase of a Bucher Pure Vacuum Single Engine Sweeper from Envirotech Equipment, Lannon, at a cost not to exceed \$288,960.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Clerk Lori Hetzel advised the next Mid-Moraine meeting is Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**APPEARANCES/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Chief MacFarlan introduced Police Officer Alyssa Moose. City Clerk Lori Hetzel administered the oath of office. Next, Chief MacFarlan introduced Police Officer Adam Miller. City Clerk Lori Hetzel administered the oath of office. Officer Cole Parker then introduced K-9 Officer Flash. City Clerk Lori Hetzel administered the oath of office.

Chief MacFarlan presented Officer Cole Parker with the Officer of the Year award.

Rick Balistreri from WILEAG presented Chief MacFarlan and the Police Department with the WILEAG re-accreditation award.

Scott Schara, 930 Liberty Avenue, Apartment 3, expressed support for Mayor Michalak and the Common Council citing their work to keep the city open during the pandemic as proof that a city can be run efficiently and with honor.

Barb Lindert, Stacy Lynn Lane, seconded Mr. Schara's sentiments and supports Mayor Michalak despite his lack of judgement during the County Board meeting. She had rhetorical questions as to what actually would be investigated by the outside counsel the petition is seeking, and why some citizens are still dwelling on the issue.

Kevin Gehring, owns the business at 1665 Independence Avenue, stated he feels that in previous administrations the city was run by the city administrator. He feels that in this administration, Mayor

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Michalak is able to give the citizens more of a voice and the city is better for it. He also expressed his support for the Mayor and Common Council.

Mike Doyle, 87 South Main Street, joined in the support for Mayor Michalak that has already been expressed.

Chad Waldvogel, 314 Ponderosa Drive, thanked Mayor Michalak and the Common Council for the work they have done for the city. He echoed previous sentiments of wishing to move forward by stating that a mistake that has been sensationalized by the media should not outweigh the numerous years of service that Mayor Michalak has dedicated to the city.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Michalak reminded everyone that the Classic Car Show is happening May 21<sup>st</sup> in the downtown area.

### **ALDERMANIC REQUESTS**

Aldersperson Hegy advised that the Mid-Moraine Legislative Committee will meet on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Jackson Village Hall, and the topic of discussion will be the sharing of future possible increases of sales tax revenue with cities and villages. He also advised citizens that it's coming to the time of year when vehicles are being parked on unpaved surfaces, side yards and back yards, which is not allowed. Those vehicles are often not registered, which is also not allowed. He also encouraged citizens to stay ahead of yard care.

Alderspersons Rusniak, Garza, Sikora, Webb, and Fulop welcomed the new officers.

Aldersperson Carroll also welcomed the new officers and congratulated the police department on their award. He also asked about the heavy truck traffic ordinance on Main Street and what can be done to stop it. City Administrator Volkert advised it is an ordinance and police officers have been stopping trucks they observe drive through the downtown area. There is an exception for trucks making deliveries to downtown businesses, so it may be difficult to determine which trucks are making deliveries and which are just driving through.

Aldersperson Turchi expressed his pride in the police department.

Aldersperson Kohler thanked the citizen members of the boards, commissions and committees in advance for their dedication and work. He also welcomed the new officers to the police department and congratulated Officer Parker on his award. Next, he shared that the Parks and Rec department is looking to fill many summer positions, for anyone who might be looking for employment.

Discussion and consideration of hiring outside counsel to present a complaint for removal of Mayor and to advise the Common Council.

- a. City Attorney Ian Prust explained that this item is before the Council due to previous Aldersperson's comments and a petition that has been filed with the city. The petition is a request to hire outside counsel to represent the Common Council in possible removal proceedings regarding the mayor. It is city policy that any issues concerning elected officials and/or department heads require outside counsel. The entire process of removal involves many steps, but this is the first step. The outside counsel would be hired to perform an investigation and present the information to the Council.
- b. Aldersperson Kohler asked how many citizens signed the petition. City Clerk Lori Hetzel answered with, "around 54". He then explained that he has received relatively few negative responses to the incident regarding the mayor. He feels that Mayor Michalak has only done positive things for the city, and has always worked to improve the city.
- c. Aldersperson Rusniak shared information regarding past incidents involving an elected official and a former police chief. He explained that these individuals considered resigning, but didn't and continued to perform well in their respective positions. He then stated that he believes this current issue is not a worthwhile endeavor and does not support it.
- d. Aldersperson Hegy stated that the citizens of Hartford have asked the Council to consider the removal of the mayor. The Council needs to determine whether or not there is cause to do

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this. The Council needs to do their due diligence and make sure that they are not “sweeping things under the rug”, which they have been accused of doing. He believes the Council should move forward with the investigation to see if there should be any further action.

MOTION by Alderperson Hegy, seconded by Alderperson Webb approving hiring outside counsel to present a complaint for removal of Mayor and to advise the Common Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES (2) NAYS (7)

MOTION FAILED.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Finance & Personnel

1. Discussion and consideration of entering into a one-year agreement with OnTech Systems, Inc., for managed services beginning on June 1, 2022.
  - a. City Administrator Steve Volkert explained that there was an ad-hoc committee formed to review the city’s cybersecurity and proposals for possible increase in services. OnTech Systems, Inc. is a company the city is already working with and presented a proposal to add on to the services already in place.
  - b. Alderperson Hegy asked where the funding was coming from for this addition. City Administrator Volkert explained that there are enough funds coming in from the A/V portion of the budget to offset the cost this year. However, the budget will need to be increased for next year.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Garza approving entering into a one-year agreement with OnTech Systems, Inc., for managed services beginning on June 1, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Discussion and consideration of authorizing appropriate City officials to execute contract documents for the reconstruction of Harrison Street with Wondra Construction, Inc., Iron Ridge, in the estimated amount of \$1,969,500.
  - a. City Engineer John Griffin explained the bids for this project came back higher than expected due to adding two cul de sacs that were not originally budgeted for, and an increase in the cost of materials. The additional funds will be aggregated from a variety of sources in order to get the project fully funded and completed.

MOTION by Alderperson Hegy, seconded by Alderperson Carroll authorizing appropriate City officials to execute contract documents for the reconstruction of Harrison Street with Wondra Construction, Inc., Iron Ridge, in the estimated amount of \$1,969,500.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### Utility Committee

1. Discussion and consideration of authorizing appropriate City officials to execute contract documents for the replacement of the privately owned and utility owned lead service laterals with Wood Sewer & Excavating in the estimated bid amount of \$468,877 for the privately owned lateral replacement and \$112,136 for the utility lateral replacements.
  - a. Director of Utilities Brian Rhodes explained that the DNR has awarded the city up to \$786,000 in grant money to replace privately owned lead service laterals in the city. There are 110 known lead service laterals in the city, and all of them would be able to be replaced with this grant money. The city had participated in this program last year, and plans to utilize the program a little differently this year by selecting one contractor to complete all of the work. Last year, homeowners were able to choose from a list of contractors and this led to inflated prices and overtime for Utility department staff. The remaining grant funds will be used to begin replacing galvanized services, as these are included in the grant.

MOTION by Alderperson Turchi, seconded by Alderperson Kohler authorizing appropriate City officials to execute contract documents for the replacement of the privately owned and utility owned lead service laterals with Wood Sewer & Excavating in the estimated bid amount of \$468,877 for the privately owned lateral replacement and \$112,136 for the utility lateral replacements.

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MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### ORDINANCES

#### First Reading and Possible Action Thereon

1. Ordinance No. 1457 – An ordinance amending Section 2.02 of the Municipal Code providing for Ward and Aldermanic District boundaries.

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Garza to suspend the rules for immediate consideration.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Garza to approve proposed Ordinance No. 1457.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Discussion and consideration of appointing Randy Wojtasiak as the new Parks and Recreation Director per the Hiring Committee's recommendation.

a. City Administrator Steve Volkert announced Mr. Wojtasiak would be starting July 5<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION by Alderperson Turchi, seconded by Alderperson Kohler appointing Randy Wojtasiak as the new Parks and Recreation Director per the Hiring Committee's recommendation.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Fourth quarter 2021 Financial reports.

a. City Administrator Steve Volkert explained that while the audit for 2021 is not totally complete, the fourth quarter numbers can be discussed. Mr. Volkert reported that revenues were less than what was budgeted for 2021, but expenses were also less. This resulted in the city being able to place \$301,000 into the fund balance for future use. Mr. Volkert credited city staff for always looking for ways to save money and making sure every expense is necessary.

b. Alderperson Hegy brought up the interest that the city would be making on the additional \$300,000 that will be added to the fund balance. He pointed out that it would not be a lot. Mr. Volkert explained that the city invests in such a way that there is no risk of losing any money. Alderperson Fulop then pointed out that the city's investment strategy is regulated by the state.

### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Carroll for adjournment at 8:23 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

CCMAY10.22