

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

November 9, 2021

6:30pm

PRESENT: Chairperson Rusniak, Members Fulop, Kohler, Sikora

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Volkert, Fire & EMS Chief Stephans, City Planner Drew

Call to Order – Chairperson Rusniak called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers of Hartford City Hall, 109 North Main Street.

Roll Call – All members of the Committee were present.

Public Comment Period – None.

Discussion and consideration of approving a weights and measures license for AKA Wireless, Inc. – City Clerk Lori Hetzel explained that these licenses are usually issued in July, but this business was late to submit their application.

MOTION by Alderperson Kohler, seconded by Alderperson Fulop approving a weights and measures license for AKA Wireless, Inc.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion and consideration of approving the 2022 Fire Service Agreements between the City of Hartford and the Town of Hartford, Town of Erin, and the Town of Rubicon. – City Administrator Steve Volkert explained that this is an annual occurrence. Each township has its own agreement. Chairperson Rusniak asked about areas served by Woodland Fire Department, as they are no longer in service, and City Administrator Volkert confirmed that the City now covers that area. Chief Stephans is in agreement with all of the service agreements.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Sikora approving the 2022 Fire Service Agreements between the City of Hartford and the Town of Hartford, Town of Erin, and the Town of Rubicon.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion and consideration of purchasing 3 acres from the estate of Alvin J. Regan for a prospective second fire station. – City Administrator Steve Volkert explained this was an unsolicited offer to purchase the land, located along Highway K. Purchasing this land would allow the City to have a prospective location for a second fire house. The CIP budget has funding included for the second fire house in 2026. Alderperson Fulop asked if this would be the final location of the second fire house, bringing up past concerns of being on the same side of the railroad tracks as the existing fire house. City Administrator Volkert explained that the study of Fire and EMS Operations did conclude that this location is recommended due to call volume and location of calls. Alderperson Fulop then asked where the funds are coming from to purchase the land now. City Administrator Volkert explained the purchase would be coming from the fund balance, with the actual building costs being included in the 2026 CIP budget. Personnel and equipment to run the facility would come out of the Operational budget for whichever year the building is operational. There was also discussion about the benefits of purchasing the land now, versus waiting for the real estate market to cool down. The issue of both fire stations being on the same side of the railroad tracks was brought up again. Chief Stephans explained that having the equipment dispersed across the city is an advantage. He also explained that

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there are many more available routes to cross the tracks than when this issue was initially discussed that he does not believe it will be a major issue now.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Sikora approving the purchase of 3 acres from the estate of Alvin J. Regan for a prospective second fire station.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion and consideration of authorizing appropriate City officials to enter into agreements with the implicated wetland mitigation banks and to purchase said wetland credits for a cost not to exceed \$115,160.00 – City Planner Justin Drew explained the city has been working to develop the area between the Western Industrial Park and the Dodge Industrial Park for about 4 years. It has recently been concluded that the best use of that land is for workforce housing. There are wetlands located in the area where the city would like to connect Innovation Way to Western Drive. In order to fill those areas for road purposes, wetland mitigation has to be done elsewhere. If this isn't acted upon by the beginning of December, the DNR will pull back permits, essentially adding on about 6 months of time and about \$25,000 to the project. City Planner Drew also noted that Washington County has pledged \$10 million of their own money toward workforce housing, in addition to applying for a federal grant of \$10 million. In that grant, this area of land was noted as one of two pilot locations that they would like to put the money toward. Staff recommends in favor.

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Fulop authorizing appropriate City officials to enter into agreements with the implicated wetland mitigation banks and to purchase said wetland credits for a cost not to exceed \$115,160.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment – MOTION by Alderperson Kohler, seconded by Alderperson Sikora for adjournment at 6:49 p.m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

FPNOV9.21

Compiled by Samantha Walters, Deputy Clerk