

**CITY OF HARTFORD
COMMON COUNCIL
January 10, 2023**

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. The Common Council minutes of December 13, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Clerk Lori Hetzel advised there will be a primary election on February 21, but it will only include the race for Supreme Court Justice. On April 4, local candidates are as follows: District 1, Jeff Turchi for a 3-year term; District 2, Dennis Regan and Brian Boehlen for a 3-year term; District 3, Kathleen Isleb and Tina Savage for a 3-year term.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Michalak wished everyone a very happy new year. He stated the city concluded 2022 in very good shape and is looking forward to a rousing 2023.

ALDERMANIC REQUESTS

Alderpersons Hegy announced that Kate Carroll is the new Executive Director for the Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce. He also stated the Mid-Moraine Legislative Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, January 11 at the Jackson Village Hall and discussion will be regarding the referendum question that will also be discussed during the meeting tonight; state legislators will also be attending the meeting on Wednesday. He then stated that after 31 years, he will be stepping down from the council due to personal health reasons. He doesn't feel he can fairly represent the citizens while also dealing with the health concerns he is facing. He also thanked everyone who has offered prayers, support and help during his time of need.

Alderperson Kohler thanked the two council members who will not be returning to the council after the Spring election. Alderperson Webb echoed Alderperson Kohler's comments.

Alderperson Fulop asked how to address a citizen concern about speed on North Main Street. Administrator Volkert explained the process which involved filing a complaint with the Administration office and then calling on the police to further investigate the issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A final resolution for the levying and collecting of Business Improvement District special assessments.

Mayor Michalak declared the public hearing open at 7:05 p.m. The notice was read by City Clerk Lori Hetzel. The notice was published in the Daily News on December 27, 2022 and 57 notices were mailed.

City Administrator Steve Volkert explained the city bills the affected businesses for the assessments, collects the funds and then disperses the funds back to the BID for their annual expenditures.

There were no appearances for or against. There was no discussion by council.

There being no further remarks or discussion, Mayor Michalak declared the public hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Rusniak for the adoption of proposed Resolution No. 3644 – A final resolution for the levying and collecting of BID special assessments.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMON COUNCIL (01/10/2023)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Personnel

1. Discussion and consideration of denying a bartender's license for Christian Delonget due to past actions.
 - a. Alderperson Rusniak explained that Chief MacFarlan has recommended denial, and Finance and Personnel Committee has also recommended denial.
 - i. Alderperson Carroll asked if Mr. Delonget appeared at the Finance and Personnel meeting, which Alderperson Rusniak advised he did not appear.

MOTION by Alderperson Kohler, seconded by Alderperson Hegy to deny a bartender's license for Christian Delonget due to past actions.

- b. Alderperson Webb asked for an explanation as to why this license is being denied. Chief MacFarlan explained that this individual met the threshold for number of violations in a certain time period, as well as another condition that would not have allowed him to possess alcohol.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Discussion and consideration of approving a referendum question, regarding the sharing of county sales tax, to be placed on the 2023 Spring ballot.

- a. Administrator Volkert explained that the sales tax charged to citizens of Washington county gets divided between the state and the county, with the state receiving 5% and the county receiving 0.5%. The amount the county receives from this tax has been growing at about 5.15% annually and the municipalities within the Mid-Moraine group are wondering if the county can share a portion of that with communities that are struggling to maintain roads. If the referendum question gets on the ballot, the municipalities would be asking for 20% of the collected amount to be shared. The funds would be distributed to the towns, villages and cities based on an equation of population and equalized value.
 - i. Mayor Michalak asked if this issue will have any impact on the state shared revenue problem. Administrator Volkert explained that state shared revenue has remained flat, and less state shared revenue is shared with municipalities than 20 years ago. This fact led to an unprecedented number of referendum questions on the ballot in communities struggling to fund emergency services. The governor has said that he will look to solve this problem during his next term.
 - ii. Alderperson Kohler clarified that this referendum question is only concerning the 0.5% that the county collects and this would be a non-binding referendum question.
 - iii. Alderperson Hegy also pointed out that the shared revenue and expenditure restraint in 1992 was \$2,000,000. The shared revenue and expenditure restraint is now \$1,000,000. As the community doubled in size, the shared revenue and expenditure restraint was cut in half.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Hegy approving a referendum question, regarding the sharing of county sales tax, to be placed on the 2023 Spring ballot.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Discussion and consideration of approving a proposal from Ramaker for a preliminary design study for the Signicast Indoor Aquatic Center waterslide tower for a cost of \$15,000.

- a. Parks and Rec Director Randy Wojtasiak explained this is a 2022 CIP project that was initially budgeted \$14,000 for. The steps going up to the slide at the indoor pool are starting to corrode and the concrete is beginning to crack. This is a study that will give direction and design as to how to repair the steps.
 - i. Mayor Michalak asked if Ramaker would be bidding on the construction of this project. Director Wojtasiak advised they would be completing the study and providing engineering plans only.

MOTION by Alderperson Turchi, seconded by Alderperson Fulop approving a proposal from Ramaker for a preliminary design study for the Signicast Indoor Aquatic Center waterslide tower for a cost of \$15,000.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMON COUNCIL (01/10/2023)

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Discussion and consideration of approving a Real Estate Agreement for a land swap between the City of Hartford and Allan and Delores Rettler.
 - a. City Administrator Volkert explained the city is looking to develop a 40-acre lot in the industrial park. In order to allow for a road to be constructed, along with the accompanying infrastructure, there needs to be a part of a neighboring property exchanged for a different part of the city-owned property. The city would only need to pay for the closing costs and other incidentals of the agreement.
 - i. Alderperson Fulop asked for clarification on where the property is located. Administrator Volkert confirmed that the property is on the end of Innovation Way and connects down to where the Dream Center is located on Western Drive.
 - ii. Alderperson Turchi asked where in the CIP budget is this proposed road planned and the estimated cost. Administrator Volkert explained the road is part of TID #12 and is scheduled for 2023, if TID #12 is developed.
 - iii. Alderperson Kohler asked if this was the location of the Next Generation housing project from the county. Administrator Volkert explained that it could be, or the land could be used for industrial development as well. However, a road needs to be built in order to access the land, no matter how it is developed.
 - iv. Alderperson Fulop also asked about the location of the possible Next Generation housing project. He asked about road access from Highway N versus connecting Innovation Way and Western Drive. Administrator Volkert explained that there was a proposal about 4 years ago that would have subdivided this area into 2 20-acre lots. The proposal included an east to west road and a north to south road coming from Highway N. He then stated that the current agreement sets up the potential for development in the future. Administrator Volkert commented that the land in this area is essentially useless without putting a road and the infrastructure through for access. The land swap agreement allows for the opportunity for the construction of that road.
 - v. Alderperson Turchi asked about the potential for this proposal to come back to the council. Administrator Volkert explained that if the agreement failed tonight, there would have to be another process to bring it back before the council. Alderperson Turchi expressed concern that if nothing has been proposed for development for this area, why pass this agreement now. Alderperson Rusniak pointed out that it doesn't really matter what kind of development goes in to this area, the road is necessary for any kind of development, and in order for the road to be constructed, the land swap must take place. He also pointed out that the owner of the land is agreeable to the land swap now; they may not be at a later point in time.
 - vi. Alderperson Kohler then pointed out that the issue at hand now is only for the land swap. This only allows for future possibility of road construction; not the guarantee that it will be constructed. Administrator Volkert further explained that road construction would require a much larger step, being that the road construction is only budgeted for in TID #12. The TID would only become palatable if there is a revenue source behind it; whether that be an industrial building or residential development. He added that total cost for infrastructure is well over 3 million dollars.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Webb approving a Real Estate Agreement for a land swap between the City of Hartford and Allan and Delores Rettler.

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Carroll for adjournment at 7:36 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

CCJAN10.23