

**CITY OF HARTFORD
COMMON COUNCIL**

March 22, 2022

The Common Council of the City of Hartford, Washington and Dodge Counties, Wisconsin, met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 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 except Alderperson Webb, who was absent and excused.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. The Common Council minutes of March 8, 2022.
2. Authorizing the purchase of a new 2022 Ram 1500 4 x 2 Classic Tradesman truck from Ewald Automotive Group with options for \$25,830 less the trade in on a 2008 GMC 1500 Sierra pickup in the amount of \$5,000.
3. Authorizing appropriate City officials to enter into one year Farm Land Leases at the Hartford Municipal Airport with Larry Schmidt, Hartford, for a 15.41 acre parcel at \$1,541.00; James Borlen, Hartford, for a 29 acre parcel at \$3,915.00 and Richard Rohde, Hartford for a 59.7 acre parcel at \$8,059.50.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Clerk Lori Hetzel reminded the Council of the upcoming Spring Election on April 5th.
2. City Clerk Hetzel also advised there will be a Common Council team photo taken at the Organizational Meeting on April 19th.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Michalak expressed his relief as gas prices have decreased since the last meeting. He also reminded the Council that early voting is taking place this week through next Friday.

ALDERMANIC REQUESTS

Alderperson Hegy advised the Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce met and discussed upcoming events including the Auto Show on May 21st and the Balloon Rally on August 13th. He also encouraged citizens to get an early start on Spring clean-up and yard maintenance.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Personnel

- A) Discussion and consideration of approving a Class A intoxicating liquor and fermented malt beverage license to Festival Foods, for the period April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

MOTION by Alderperson Kohler, seconded by Alderperson Sikora approving a Class A intoxicating liquor and fermented malt beverage license to Festival Foods, for the period April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B) Discussion and consideration of approving a Class A intoxicating liquor and fermented malt beverage license to Hartford Mart, LLC, Hartford Shell, for the period April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Fulop approving a Class A intoxicating liquor and fermented malt beverage license to Hartford Mart, LLC, Hartford Shell, for the period April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

COMMON COUNCIL (03/22/2022)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Works

- A) Discussion and consideration of approving an agreement for the funding of Transportation Networks Sustainability Plans for the City of Hartford and Town of Farmington with Washington County.
- a. Alderperson Hegy explained that this would be an agreement between the City and Washington County as a long-range planning tool to work together on capital projects. City Engineer John Griffin added that this agreement would work to align the City's budget with the Town of Farmington's so that funds are readily available for projects.
 - b. Alderperson Fulop asked about the funding aspect of this proposed agreement. City Engineer Griffin clarified that this would be no monetary cost to the City, but the City would be providing information to Washington County. Alderperson Fulop then asked if the agreement needed to be changed or terminated, would that need to be approved by Council. City Administrator Volkert confirmed that any changes or termination would need Council approval.

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Sikora approving an agreement for the funding of Transportation Networks Sustainability Plans for the City of Hartford and Town of Farmington with Washington County.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION THEREON

- A) Resolution No. 3621 – A resolution approving a certified survey map for a property located in the City of Hartford. 1201 – 1323 Bell Avenue.
- a. City Planner Justin Drew advised the Council that Festival Foods had submitted a CSM with four lots last month and that was approved by the Plan Commission, however, the buyer for the fourth lot is no longer purchasing the property, so there is no need to have that fourth lot, as it was created specifically for that buyer. Council was provided with the original CSM that was approved in June of 2021 and is now identical to the current CSM, and advised that staff has no issue with approving the 3 lot CSM instead of the 4 lot CSM. Grant Duchac from Excel Engineering reiterated what Mr. Drew explained. Alderperson Hegy asked Mr. Duchac if it was possible to sell off that lot in the future. Mr. Duchac answered that it is possible and it could be up to two lots. Mr. Drew added that approving the CSM with the out lots already drawn in could hinder the ability to sell those lots, so with no buyer in mind, it's best to leave it with 3 lots.

MOTION by Alderperson Garza, seconded by Alderperson Kohler for the adoption of proposed Resolution No. 3621 – A resolution approving a certified survey map for a property located in the City of Hartford. 1201 – 1323 Bell Avenue.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B) Resolution No. 3622 – A resolution approving a certified survey map for a property located in the City of Hartford. 680 Cedar Street and 755 South Rural Street.
- a. City Planner Justin Drew explained this is property owned by the Jt. 1 School District. They have reached an agreement with HUHS to sell the athletic fields to the high school. In order to do this, the lots need to be split. The new lots easily meet the area and width requirements of their respective districts and staff recommends in favor.

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Sikora for the adoption of proposed Resolution No. 3622 – A resolution approving a certified survey map for a property located in the City of Hartford. 680 Cedar Street and 755 South Rural Street.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A) Discussion and consideration of allowing alcohol consumption in selected rooms at the Hartford Recreation Center and City Hall for private parties.

COMMON COUNCIL (03/22/2022)

- a. City Administrator Steve Volkert explained that the Rec Center will occasionally get requests for room rentals for parties that request to bring in alcohol. It has been an unwritten rule that alcohol is not allowed in City buildings. However, an exception had been made for the American Legion which meets in the new Election Room at City Hall. This item would now allow the general public to consume alcohol at their private parties. City Administrator Volkert checked into liability with the City's insurance company, and there are means to ensure that everyone is protected.
- b. Alderperson Rusniak expressed that he is alright with allowing alcohol consumption at City Hall, but is not comfortable with alcohol consumption at the Rec Center. He is concerned for the family-oriented atmosphere at the Rec Center. He is worried that this is a want vs. a need, and he feels the Council should be making decisions based on the needs of the community.
- c. Alderperson Turchi asked how many requests there are at the Rec Center that involve alcohol. Parks and Rec Director Mike Hermann estimated there one or two requests per month that request alcohol, but he did not have a confirmed number.
- d. Alderperson Kohler discussed the concerns of the Parks and Rec Commission, and pointed out that there are other facilities in neighboring communities that are allowing alcohol consumption. He also addressed the fact that alcohol consumption is not currently limited in outdoor park rentals. Alderperson Rusniak then brought up outdoor recreational immunity, and Director Hermann advised that there is a state law that protects outdoor recreational activities. This is why alcohol consumption at the outdoor park facilities was less of a concern.
- e. Alderperson Kohler then explained that at the Rec Center they chose specific rooms that would have the added benefit of having a supervisor available to monitor what was going on in the room.
- f. Alderperson Fulop asked for clarification regarding liability if someone were to injure themselves after consuming alcohol during one of these rentals. City Administrator Volkert confirmed that there would be a form signed by the renter confirming that they are responsible for everyone in that party.
- g. Alderperson Hegy pointed out that the safety concern of someone consuming alcohol at a party at the Rec Center and then going into the pool or gym is of equal concern if someone just came in to the Rec Center already intoxicated and doing those things. There isn't a monitor in place to prevent someone from walking in already intoxicated. He also agreed with City Administrator Volkert's comment about citizens looking for a lower-cost option for room rentals in the city.
- h. Mayor Michalak agreed with Alderperson Hegy's comments and also addressed the fact that the Parks and Rec Commission voted unanimously to go ahead and bring this item before the Council.
- i. Alderperson Turchi suggested that allowing alcohol at the Rec Center be tabled for now, and instead advertise the Election Hall as an option if there are requests for a space that allows alcohol. If there is more demand, the Council can re-visit allowing alcohol at the Rec Center at a later time.
- j. Alderperson Sikora addressed what was discussed at the Library Board regarding this matter. He explained that the Library Board voted to not allow alcohol consumption in the rental rooms at the Library, mainly for the reason that during an after-hours rental, there would not be any employees on premise to monitor the event. However, there have been requests to use those rental rooms in a similar capacity to those at the Rec Center and City Hall, so the interest is there.
- k. Parks and Rec Director Hermann discussed concerns that were brought up during the Parks and Rec Commission meeting, including additional training that would be needed by Building Supervisors for these parties, age requirement changes for Building Supervisors,

COMMON COUNCIL (03/22/2022)

types of alcohol that would be allowed, which rooms would be best to allow alcohol use in, and implementing this policy on a temporary basis.

MOTION by Alderperson Kohler, seconded by Alderperson Garza allowing alcohol consumption in selected rooms at the Hartford Recreation Center and City Hall for private parties.

Alderperson Rusniak requested that the two locations be voted on separately. Alderperson Kohler and Alderperson Garza agreed to vote separately on the two locations.

MOTION by Alderperson Rusniak, seconded by Alderperson Hegy to vote separately for the Rec Center and City Hall for allowing alcohol consumption in selected rooms.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Alderperson Kohler, seconded by Alderperson Garza to allow alcohol consumption in selected rooms at the Hartford Recreation Center for private parties.

MOTION CARRIED. Alderpersons Turchi and Rusniak voted NAY.

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Carroll to allow alcohol consumption in selected rooms at Hartford City Hall for private parties.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B) Discussion and consideration of approving the replacement agreement with HUHS for the use of Lincoln Athletic Fields by Hartford Parks and Recreation Department.

- a. City Administrator Volkert explained that the previous agreement, supposed to run through the year 2049, was a three-way agreement between Hartford Jt. 1, HUHS and the City for use of Lincoln Athletic Fields. Because HUHS is in the process of purchasing Lincoln Athletic Fields, along with other property, HUHS has proposed a new agreement between themselves and the City for use of the fields.

- i. Alderperson Hegy pointed out that there is no longer a general maintenance obligation to the City in the new agreement. City Administrator Volkert confirmed that the City is now only responsible for clean up after use and is responsible if anything is damaged during the City's use.

- ii. Alderperson Fulop asked for clarity regarding fireworks use. City Administrator Volkert explained that if the referendum on the April 5th ballot passes, the baseball/softball fields would be converted to a synthetic turf and HUHS does not want fireworks falling onto that synthetic turf. Independence Park is being looked at as an alternative location for fireworks, which would actually allow for a bigger show.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Garza approving the replacement agreement with HUHS for the use of Lincoln Athletic Fields by Hartford Parks and Recreation Department.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Alderperson Sikora, seconded by Alderperson Carroll for adjournment at 7:56 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

CCMAR22.22