

**CITY OF HARTFORD  
COMMON COUNCIL  
April 11, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of Hartford, Washington and Dodge Counties, Wisconsin, met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 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 March 28, 2023.
2. Approving the purchase of a new 2023 Ram 1500 4 x 2 Classic Tradesman truck from Ewald Automotive Group for the Cemetery/Park Department for \$31,214.00 and accepting the Ewald Automotive Group trade-in offer for the 2008 GMC Sierra 1500 pick-up in the amount of \$5,000.00. The total cost and payment after trade-in not to exceed \$26,214.00.
3. Approving the purchase of a Landscape Structures Playground from Gerber Leisure Products, Inc. for Candy Cane Park for a cost of \$38,610.00.
  - a. Alderperson Hegy commented that the minutes from the March 28 meeting should be clarified so it is clear that the engineering services contract item should include the original proposed plan along with looking at a second option for replacing the single-family homes with duplexes and/or townhomes. City Clerk Lori Hetzel advised the correction would be made.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Discussion and consideration of approving a transient merchant license for TruGreen.
  - a. The representative for TruGreen did not appear, but City Clerk Lori Hetzel mentioned that they had four individuals apply to go door-to-door for lawn care services. This item will be moved to next week's meeting, if the representative confirms they can appear.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Recognition of outgoing Alderpersons.
  - a. Mayor Michalak recognized Alderperson Sikora and thanked him for his service to the community.
  - b. Mayor Michalak recognized Alderperson Hegy and thanked him for his 31 years of service on the council. Mayor Michalak reminisced about the growth of Hartford during Alderperson Hegy's tenure. Mayor Michalak then presented Alderperson Hegy with a plaque commemorating his service.
2. National Arbor Day Proclamation.
  - a. Mayor Michalak read the proclamation recognizing April 28<sup>th</sup> as Arbor Day in the City of Hartford.
3. Discussion and consideration of appointing Chris Reinke to the Police and Fire Commission.
  - a. City Administrator Steve Volkert explained that normally this appointment would happen during the annual Reorganization meeting next week, but there is a vacancy that needs to be filled before the next Police and Fire Commission meeting on Wednesday.
    - i. Chris Reinke briefly introduced himself.

MOTION by Alderperson Rusniak, seconded by Alderperson Garza appointment Chris Reinke to the Police and Fire Commission.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## COMMON COUNCIL (04/11/2023)

### ALDERMANIC REQUESTS

Aldersperson Hegy began by congratulating Dennis Regan and Tina Savage on being elected to Aldersperson. He then thanked Brian Boehlen and Kathee Isleb for stepping up and running. He wished Aldersperson Sikora good luck on his future endeavors. He then mentioned that the Mid-Moraine Legislative Committee will be meeting Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Jackson Village Hall. The topic of discussion will be local fire departments and their operations, training requirements, etc. The results from the sales tax referendum and how to proceed will be discussed. He then went on to mention some of the highlights from his tenure on council, including the growth he has witnessed in the city. He thanked everyone in the second district for putting their trust in him and re-electing him ten times. He also thanked everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and offers for assistance.

Aldersperson Rusniak wished Aldersperson Sikora luck in his future endeavors and hoped that Aldersperson Hegy would be able to still attend the Mid-Moraine meetings.

Alderspersons Carroll, Garza, Turchi and Fulop thanked both outgoing Aldersperson for their service to the city and will miss their input and perspectives.

Aldersperson Sikora thanked Aldersperson Hegy for his many years of service and thanked the rest of the council for their guidance and thoughts they have shared. He expressed his gratitude for everyone working together toward what is best for the city.

Aldersperson Kohler thanked Aldersperson Sikora for providing a fresh perspective during his time with the council. Aldersperson Kohler also thanked Aldersperson Hegy and stated that the council will miss the tribal knowledge he provided. He also wished Aldersperson Hegy good health and for he and his wife to have a nice final retirement.

Aldersperson Webb also thanked Aldersperson Sikora for his service to the city and stated he probably would not be part of the council without Aldersperson Hegy. He also commented that Aldersperson Hegy's institutional knowledge is a great asset to the council and will be missed.

Aldersperson Fulop also brought up a constituent concern about dogs off leash. He asked for City Administrator Steve Volkert to comment on the possibility of modernizing the ordinance to include verbiage about dog collars in order to control the dog. He also asked if any other communities are utilizing options other than leashes in dog ordinances. Mr. Volkert commented that he has not heard of any other communities utilizing wireless methods, ie: shock collars, to restrain dogs or other animals. He also mentioned the biggest issue with this is the difficulty of enforcement. It is almost impossible to enforce whether or not the collar is working while on the dog, where the leash is visible.

### RESOLUTIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION THEREON

1. Resolution No. 3646 – A resolution approving staff to apply for a Wisconsin Urban Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Grant.
  - a. City Engineer John Griffin explained there is an opportunity every two years to obtain DNR funding in order to cover 50% of projects within the Stormwater Program. One of those projects is to update the city ordinances related to stormwater. Another project would be a study to see if a stormwater utility would be feasible in the city. A third project would be to use the already in place GIS, but adapting it to be able to record work being done on the stormwater system.
    - i. Aldersperson Rusniak asked what financial numbers are involved. Mr. Griffin stated the proposed projects are approximately \$60,000, so the grant would cover \$30,000.

MOTION by Aldersperson Sikora, seconded by Aldersperson Webb for the adoption of proposed Resolution No. 3646.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Discussion and consideration of amending the Lease Agreement with Wisconsin Signs LLC.
  - a. City Administrator Steve Volkert explained that the ownership has changed to Wisconsin Community Signs, which is a partnership between Bob Jewell and Craig Johnson. The ownership is the only thing changing within the lease. Mr. Volkert clarified that this is not a city-owned sign and the city does not endorse any individuals or businesses that may advertise on the sign.
  - b. Aldersperson Fulop asked if the content of the sign is city-approved. Mr. Volkert confirmed that there is a process that content must be submitted to the administrator or his designee and approval or denial is returned within 48 hours.

## COMMON COUNCIL (04/11/2023)

- c. Alderperson Rusniak asked if the council members were for or against political advertising on the sign. Alderperson Webb asked if the city approves a political ad, does that appear that the city is taking a side? Mr. Volkert clarified that the city just makes sure that the content fits within the pre-determined parameters. If the council would like to change the parameters to not allow political advertising, now would be the time to do that. Alderperson Webb asked for clarification on what the parameters currently are. Mr. Volkert referenced the specific list in the lease agreement. Alderperson Webb then pointed out that the last item on that list refers to declaring or implying an endorsement by the city of any service, product or point of view. Alderperson Webb stated it could be reasonable that a citizen would assume that because the city approves the content, the city is endorsing that point of view. Mr. Volkert pointed out that the city doesn't endorse any other businesses that advertise on the sign, and the only difference is that the advertising is political in nature. Alderperson Rusniak then pointed out that he only received one phone call and Mr. Volkert pointed out that he received two emails regarding the political ad that was displayed on the sign recently. Alderperson Rusniak also pointed out that the citizens who complained had legitimate complaints because they were confused as to who owned the sign.
- d. Alderperson Garza commented that he doesn't feel that political ads go against what has been set out, and feels they should continue to be allowed.
- e. Alderperson Webb commented that he doesn't feel political ads should be allowed because the city is restricting certain other business advertising. This restriction doesn't allow for a free market, in terms of the sign, and he feels political ads shouldn't be allowed. He also commented that he respects the opinions of the others.
- f. Bob Jewell spoke about the sign's benefits to local charities. He stated that the working relationship with the city has been good and he looks forward to that relationship continuing.

MOTION by Alderperson Fulop, seconded by Alderperson Turchi to amend the Lease Agreement with Wisconsin Signs LLC.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Volkert stated that the company name should be changed to Wisconsin Sign Company LLC. Both Alderpersons in the motion agreed to the change.

2. Mr. Volkert then announced that the city is currently looking for a new City Planner. Justin Drew has given his notice, so the position will be open. Mr. Drew will continue to work with the city for the next four weeks, while a replacement is sought.

### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Alderperson Hegy, seconded by Alderperson Rusniak for adjournment at 7:45 p.m.  
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

CCAPR11.23