

**CITY OF HARTFORD  
COMMON COUNCIL  
July 25, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of Hartford, Washington and Dodge Counties, Wisconsin, met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 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 except Alderperson Savage who was absent and excused.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Alderperson Rusniak, seconded by Alderperson Turchi, approving the following item:

1. The Common Council minutes of July 11, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**APPEARANCES AND CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mark McCune, 2466 Lough Ln, stated that he will be available for questions during Agenda Item 9.

Anton Oberjat, 626 Harrison St, wanted to discuss the terraces of the first phase of the Harrison Street project. He stated that he has been in contact with Alderpersons, the Mayor and city staff since March regarding topsoil, reseeding and repair of the terrace due to the road reconstruction. He then stated that the terrace in front of his home is rye grass, weeds and rocks after the reconstruction, while further down the road, terraces that were planted in June have nice grass. He indicated that John Griffin advised that the city would be fixing the problem for him, but was unclear if this problem would be fixed for his other neighbors who are having the same problem. He does not want the burden to go back to taxpayers by having city staff rectify the problem when the contractor was already paid to do the work, but did it poorly. He asked what the Council is going to do about this problem. Mr. Oberjat was advised that the Council does not answer questions or engage in discussion during this portion of the meeting, but was directed to the City Attorney to find a resolution.

Kelly Smith, 620 Troeller Ct, is also concerned with the terrace work. She is not only concerned about the appearance of the grass, but also the safety of her children as the terrace area is very uneven and has portions of metal sticking out of the dirt. She would like to know a timeline as to when it will be fixed, because up to this point the answer is unclear.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Michalak shared that he would still like to know why gas prices in the City of Hartford are usually among the highest in this area. He travelled to Fond Du Lac, and noted that there was a \$0.31 difference in the price from the stations in Hartford. He would understand a \$0.10 to \$0.12 difference, but \$0.31 is very significant.

**ALDERMANIC REQUESTS**

Alderperson Webb commented that he has seen what the terrace along Harrison Street looks like and is hopeful a solution can be found.

Alderperson Fulop thanked the citizens for their comments about the terrace problem and expects the problem will be addressed to their satisfaction.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Petition for Direct Annexation by Unanimous Consent submitted by Lepien Farmland, LLC for approximately 1.566 acres located south of Firefly Lane and North of Oriole Ponds Apartments**

Mayor Michalak declared the public hearing open at 7:09 p.m. The notice was read by City Clerk Shanna Kreilkamp. The notice was published in the Daily News on July 7 and July 14, 2023 and 17 notices were sent.

City Planner Jacob Maas explained that the petitioned area is contiguous with the city and open to sewer, water and electrical services. He also explained that if developed, the petitioned area is estimated to bring in approximately \$1,050.12 per dwelling unit. The city would be required to pay taxes to the Town of Hartford for 5 years. The proposed development is to divide the area into 4 separate lots and develop two-family dwelling units on each. The impact on the

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school district is estimated at 6-9 students, and would have a minimal impact on police and emergency services. The requested rezoning to Rd-2, two-family residential, does follow the Smart Growth Plan. Staff is in favor of the annexation and proposed development.

Mark McCune, 2466 Lough Ln, the landowner, appeared in favor of the annexation. He advised this has been in planning since 2005 when the Red Oak Country Estates development was planned. All of the utilities are already in place, along with part of the sidewalk. There is very little needed to complete this part of the project.

There were no appearances against.

Aldersperson Fulop asked if the units will be owner-occupied or rentals. Mr. McCune advised that under Federal Housing law, it can't be distinguished between the two. The units will be condos, and very likely that they will be owner-occupied.

There being no further remarks or discussion, Mayor Michalak declared the public hearing closed at 7:17 p.m.

MOTION by Aldersperson Kohler, seconded by Aldersperson Fulop to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of proposed Ordinance No. 1470 – an ordinance annexing territory to the City of Hartford, Wisconsin.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Aldersperson Kohler, seconded by Aldersperson Fulop for the adoption of proposed Ordinance No. 1470.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Finance & Personnel

1. Discussion and consideration of denying the sewer backup claim for Acuity Insurance on behalf of Gust Zignego.
  - a. Wastewater Director Dan Dentice explained that the city was doing routine maintenance by cleaning out roots in the main sewer line. The tool the city uses utilizes high pressure to accomplish this work. Sometimes, this high pressure will cause any water in the traps of the residence to blow back, either into the residence basement or other plumbing. The homeowner is claiming that the city is responsible for damage done by water coming back into the home. The city follows standard procedures for this type of work and the blow-back is something that can happen. It was nothing that the city did intentionally or negligently, therefore the city's insurance company, CVMIC, is recommending denial of the claim.

MOTION by Aldersperson Turchi, seconded by Aldersperson Webb authorizing the denial of the sewer backup claim for Acuity Insurance on behalf of Gust Zignego.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
2. Discussion and consideration of denying the sewer backup claim for The Local Collective.
  - a. Director Dentice explained that in this case, the city's sewer main was plugged by grease and rags. There was no active work being done at the time of the backup. The city cleared the clog after being notified, and helped clean the basement. These sewer mains are regularly maintained, and as long as the city can provide proof of that maintenance, CVMIC again recommended denial of this claim.

MOTION by Aldersperson Turchi, seconded by Aldersperson Carroll authorizing the denial of the sewer backup claim for The Local Collective.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. Discussion and consideration of authorizing the appropriate City Officials to move forward with transitioning dispatch services to the Washington County Sheriff's Department and purchase Pro Phoenix records management software for a cost not to exceed \$166,845.00.
  - a. Police Chief MacFarlan began by emphasizing that no current staff will lose their employment due to this transition. He also pointed out that the decision to make this transition is in no way a reflection of the work those staff members do in the dispatch center. He further explained that this transition is in part due to state legislation and grant funding that is pushing smaller agencies toward consolidation by requiring certain qualifications to access that funding, that the city does not meet. The timing of this decision comes with consideration of staff attrition and future CIP projects, in conjunction with this transition being only a matter of time. There may be some bumps in the road at the beginning of this change, but the service to the residents of the city will not suffer. There will be CIP budget money available to reassign if the city no longer needs to upgrade the 911 system.
  - b. Fire and EMS Chief Stephans commented on the operational efficiencies for Fire and EMS, as Fire and EMS already communicate and operate with Washington County on calls outside of the city. In those cases, there are often double communications as Fire and EMS has to communicate their movements with both Washington County Dispatch and Hartford Dispatch. There will also be improvement in call response times due to the fact that Washington County answers all 911 wireless calls and then has to

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transfer any city calls to Hartford Dispatch for paging. Washington County is also the designated dispatch center for the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System that Hartford is part of, which becomes important during major incidents. There will also be discussion of having a dedicated Fire and EMS dispatcher at Washington County, due to their agency having more resources to increase their staff. Chief Stephans also commented that Chief MacFarlan has done a good job navigating this transition and ensuring that no staff loses their employment as a result.

- c. Chief MacFarlan explained that the second part of this recommendation includes the purchase of a new records management system to replace the current system, which is 20 years old. This purchase was initially included in the CIP budget for 2027, but the system is an integral part of making this transition successful. The city needs to have the same system as Washington County in order for both agencies to be able to share vital information.
- d. Alderperson Rusniak asked what the role will be of the remaining staff members, Police Support Specialists, after the transition. Chief MacFarlan explained that the three remaining staff members will take over the responsibilities of the current Clerks, which includes preparing reports for court, along with the other clerical work the dispatchers were already doing.
- e. Alderperson Kohler commented that the remaining staff members are in support of the transition and he also commented that the transition was handled very eloquently. He stated that as long as both chiefs are in favor, he has no objection.
- f. Mayor Michalak commented that he is happy with how the transition has been handled by both chiefs and is also happy to know that our current staff get to stay with the city.

MOTION by Alderperson Webb, seconded by Alderperson Regan authorizing the appropriate City Officials to move forward with transitioning dispatch services to the Washington County Sheriff's Department and purchase Pro Phoenix records management software for a cost not to exceed \$166,845.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### CLOSED SESSION

1. The Common Council to move into closed session under Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1)(e) "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session" regarding discussion on current housing needs and proposed solutions. The Common Council to reconvene in open session for adjournment only.

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Fulop to move into closed session at 7:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYE (8) NAY (0) MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Alderperson Regan, seconded by Alderperson Carroll to come out of closed session at 9:03 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Alderperson Turchi, seconded by Alderperson Garza for adjournment at 9:03 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shanna Kreilkamp, City Clerk

CCJUL25.23