

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL
Thursday, January 23, 2014
7:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session at its regularly scheduled meeting time on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at the hour of 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Huntingburg City Hall at 508 E. Fourth Street, Huntingburg, Indiana. Members Lehr, Blackgrove, McPherron, Kissling and Summers were present. Also present were Mayor Spinner and City Attorney Schneider.

Mayor Spinner called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Lehr and carried to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2014 meeting as presented.

A motion was made by Blackgrove, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the claims as presented.

The Mayor indicated that this was the date, time and place advertised for the public hearing on additional appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-01 previously introduced. The additional appropriation was for the Riverboat Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be used for ADA compliance projects. He opened the public hearing. He asked if there were any comments on the proposed ordinance. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed. This ordinance was previously introduced.

A motion was made by Summers, seconded by Kissling and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-01 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR
THE 2014 BUDGET YEAR**

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2014-01 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2014-01 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 7:34 P.M.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented a proposed resolution to transfer \$175,000.00 of surplus earnings from each the Electric Utility and the Natural Gas Utility to the General Fund of the City of Huntingburg. The amounts were included as miscellaneous income in the 2014 General Fund budget.

A motion was made by Blackgrove, seconded by Kissling and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2014-05 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE UTILITY BOARD OF THE CITY OF
HUNTINGBURG AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF SURPLUS EARNINGS
OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITY AND THE NATURAL GAS UTILITY TO THE
GENERAL FUND OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG**

The Mayor indicated the need to consider an ordinance that would change the hourly rate for an Operator in the Park & Recreation Department to make it in line with other Operator rates in the City. The rate range would be \$18.58 to \$21.60 per hour. This ordinance was previously introduced.

A motion was made by McPherron seconded by Lehr and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-04 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2013-32 FIXING
SALARIES FOR THE YEAR 2014**

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2014-04 the vote being 4 ayes, 1 nay (Summers), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2014-04 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 7:37 P.M.

The Mayor presented a proposed resolution that would determine interest in the purchase of real estate. The real estate is the property at 407 N. Jackson Street in Huntingburg. The resolution would authorize the Mayor to obtain appraisals and to negotiate for purchase of the real estate.

A motion was made by Blackgrove, seconded by Summers and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2014-06 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA DETERMINING AN INTEREST IN THE
PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE**

Alan Johnson, Board Chairman of Dubois Strong, was present to give an update of Dubois Strong for the year 2013.

The Mayor began a discussion on a community trash collection system. He informed the Council that he has contracted with the University of Southern Indiana (USI) to conduct a survey to gauge the interest in trash pick-up. The surveys will be sent out in February with responses due in by mid-March and the results available in April. The total cost of the survey is estimated to be \$1,200 to be paid from EDIT funds.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He indicated that the gas replacement building was completed 2 weeks ago.

Reutepohler presented the Electric Utility monthly report.

There was discussion on the renovation or replacement of the old gas garage for use by Dubois County EMS.

Reutepohler presented a summary of options for ambulance crews and equipment dated 01-07-2014. The option to renovate was the cheapest and resulted in the most sq.ft.; the estimate is \$190,000.00. There was discussion that the Gas Department should not have to bear the cost of this renovation to house the Dubois County EMS.

A motion was made by Blackgrove, seconded by McPherron and carried to proceed with the renovation of the VanBuren Street gas garage for use by the County, that an engineer be contracted to design the facility and prepare bid documents and that funding sources for the project would be identified prior to the bid letting.

Water Superintendent Williams presented his monthly report. He informed the Board that he changed the way meters are accounted for. He indicated that there have been issues with trying to track the meter, meter register and ERT numbers. He indicated that the Billing Department will now track only one meter number and the meter numbers will be tracked by the Water Department using an Excel spreadsheet.

Williams informed the Board of a project being worked on to link the remote water towers and Patoka Lake meters to the water plant so that operators can have ready access to reads and further tighten production with regard to purchased Patoka water and possible issues, leaks, etc. He noted that the consultant currently contributing to the project has elaborated that a radio network would be much more efficient to maintain and initial set-up would be drastically less expensive than fiber.

Attorney Schneider informed the Board of an issue where a customer has experienced an extremely large water bill due to a leak that could not be seen. He also noted that a policy should be considered to allow for adjustments to water bills in accordance with State laws. A proposed resolution setting a policy was presented for review. There were changes desired by the Board. The policy will be reviewed and changed and be brought before the Board at a future meeting.

Henry and Deborah Ford were present to request relief from the extremely high water bill they received due to a leak that they could not detect without excavation. In the absence of a policy to handle the adjustment, the Board after much discussion, decided to adjust the Ford's bill to reflect the average of the last 3 months water bill prior

to the discovery of the leak; \$87.68. Since the next bill will not be sent out until February that bill will also need to be adjusted to the same average amount.

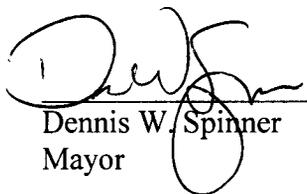
A motion was made by Lehr, seconded by Blackgrove and carried to adjust Henry and Deborah Ford's water bill to reflect a charge of \$87.68 for the current bill and \$87.68 for the next subsequent bill.

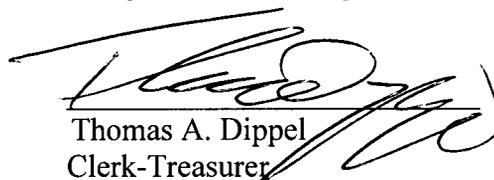
Charlie Franzel addressed the Council with safety concerns about a stovepipe sticking out of a window of a house at 416 Jackson Street which is next to a house that he owns and rents out at 418 Jackson Street which has children residing in it. He presented pictures of the situation.

The Mayor indicated that he will ask the Fire Chief to physically inspect the situation and then have the Code Enforcement Department follow up.

Jeff Summers addressed the Council and suggested fiber be connected to the Teen Outback in connection with the fiber upgrade the City is doing. The Mayor indicated that he would investigate the issue.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 o'clock P.M.


Dennis W. Spinner
Mayor


Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer