

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL
Thursday, February 13, 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, February 13, 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 Blackgrove, McPherron, Kissling and Summers were present. Also present were Mayor Spinner and City Attorney Schneider. Member Lehr was absent.

Mayor Spinner called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting as presented.

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

A moment of silence was observed for Loma W. Hartke who passed away this past week. Loma was a long time Utilities Superintendent for the City. A Resolution of Respect was presented to his family in recognition of his service to the City.

A motion was made by Summers, seconded by Blackgrove and carried to adopt a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT (Loma W. Hartke)

Fire Chief Scott Patberg requested the Council place the name of Ethan Trusty on the approved list of candidates for members of the Huntingburg Volunteer Fire Department.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to include Ethan Trusty on the list of approved candidates for members of the Huntingburg Volunteer Fire Department.

The Mayor presented a proposed joint resolution opposing the elimination of the business personal property tax without a replacement. The elimination would cost the City approximately \$125,000.00 and the Southwest Dubois County School Corporation about \$126,000.00 in lost revenues.

A motion was made by Blackgrove, seconded by McPherron and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2014-07 entitled:

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG AND BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SOUTHWEST DUBOIS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF THE INDIANA BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

The Mayor introduced Ron Ragan of Utility Gas Management (UGM) to lead a discussion of a proposed agreement for the sale of natural gas from the City's natural gas storage field which is no longer in operation. The proposed agreement would be with Cumberland Natural Gas who would extract the gas, truck the gas to Tennessee and inject the gas into another natural gas storage field. Ragan noted the uniqueness of the proposed project. He indicated two unknowns are how much gas is in the storage field and how much of the gas can be extracted from the field. The price that would be paid for the gas is also unknown. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to allow the City Attorney, Energy Superintendent and Ron Ragan of UGM to negotiate a contract with Cumberland Natural Gas for both a gas sales agreement and a gas storage withdrawal agreement.

Mr. Ragan also informed the Council of the volatility of the natural gas markets with the extreme cold conditions experienced in the Country this season.

Matt Rueff, of Development Concepts Inc. was present to update the Council on the downtown revitalization plan. He presented a summary of projects included in the plan. A proposed resolution was also presented that would accept the downtown revitalization plan.

A motion was made by Blackgrove, seconded by Kissling and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2014-08 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION
STUDY**

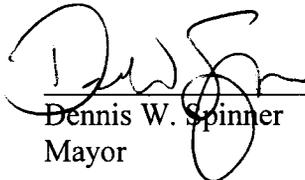
James Zellman of Honeywell Energy & Environmental Solutions updated the Council on the cost savings feasibility study being conducted by Honeywell.

Attorney Schneider presented a proposed resolution that would authorize acceptance of assignment of tax sale certificates for seven tracts in the City of Huntingburg which were eligible for tax sale this past year but did not sell at the tax sale because there was not a bid high enough to satisfy the minimum bid. He noted that a new law allows counties to transfer such tracts to cities if certain procedures are followed. He indicated the cost would be \$100.00 per tract for a total of \$700.00.

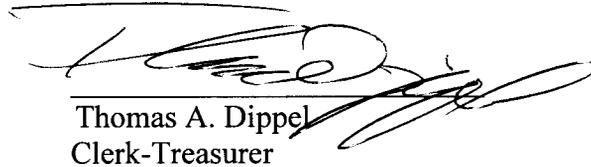
A motion was made by Kissling seconded by McPherron and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2014-09 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENT OF TAX SALE
CERTIFICATES**

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Blackgrove and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 o'clock P.M.



Dennis W. Spinner
Mayor



Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer