

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL
Thursday, September 13, 2012
7:00 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, September 13, 2012 at the hour of 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Huntingburg City Hall at 508 E. Fourth Street, Huntingburg, Indiana. Members Lehr, Kissling, McPherron, Blackgrove 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 Blackgrove and carried to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2012 meeting as presented.

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

The Mayor suggested the level one voluntary water conservation measure enacted on July 26, 2012 be rescinded.

A motion was made by Summers, seconded by Blackgrove and carried to rescind the level one voluntary water conservation measures enacted on July 26, 2012.

The Mayor recommended moving the Common Council meeting scheduled for September 27, 2012 to September 25, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. due to a conflict with the Herbstfest.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve rescheduling the Common Council/Utility Board meeting from September 27, 2012 to September 25, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.

A motion was made by Lehr, seconded by Summers and carried to approve setting the date and time for Trick-or-Treating for Halloween for October 31, 2012 between the hours of 5:30 P.M and 8:00 P.M.

Tonya Brothers-Bridge was present and distributed a handout of the notes from the three recent listening sessions held in the City and a compilation of the priority items and the list of all items brought up. (Exhibit A). She reminded the Council that the sessions were to ask citizens what they would like the Council to focus its time, effort and energy on.

Sue Tooley, Transportation Director updated the Council on the new receptionist/dispatcher area in the front office at City Hall. She noted the new furniture was being paid for by a stimulus grant and was being made locally by OFS-Styleline. She noted the grant was also used to purchase a new van, computer and radio for the Transportation Department.

Attorney Schneider informed the Board of a proposed settlement option presented by an insurance company to the City to settle a claim where Cynthia Hovda hit one of the City's major utility poles at 11th and Main Street. He noted the insurance company performed an audit of the original bill for \$9,770.00. He indicated that the insurance company criticized the City's equipment rates used. He indicated that in a review by he and Utilities Superintendent Traylor that the City's rates were faulty and does not seem to have any rhyme or reason and is not tied to FEMA rates or to the standard equipment rental Blue Book of current rental rates. He noted that he and Traylor reevaluated the invoice using substantiated rates. The insurance company indicated that they would settle for \$8,500.00. Schneider recommended the City accept the settlement offer of \$8,500.00. Schneider also recommended the Council look into the equipment rates to bring them into line with what they should be.

Traylor also recommended the City settle for \$8,500.00 and he recommended the City use the equipment rental Blue Book and then the FEMA rates and if equipment is not in either one of these resources then obtain a rental price from the closest rental outlet.

Attorney Schneider indicated that the rates were established last year but there are questions of how some of the rates were arrived at.

A motion was made Lehr, seconded by Kissling and carried to approve the settlement with Grange Mutual Insurance Co. of the above referenced invoice for the amount of \$8,500.00.

The Mayor agreed as recommended by City Attorney Schneider and Utilities Superintendent Traylor, that the rental rates need to be reviewed. He recommended Street Superintendent, Jason Stamm; Utilities Superintendent, Traylor; Mayor Spinner and Council Member McPherron review and suggest equipment rates for a new ordinance.

Nick Stevens, Executive Director of the Huntingburg Chamber of Commerce, updated the Council on upcoming Herbstfest events. He indicated that opening ceremonies for the Herbstfest will begin with a presentation, along with a wine and cheese tasting, to commemorate the 175 year anniversary of Huntingburg on Wednesday, September 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at the Old Town Hall.

Kenya Belcher addressed the Council questioning if the City has a police officer that is certified to put car seats in a car. The Mayor indicated that the City did not have an officer so certified. She indicated that she was driving unsafe with her baby in the car and she had to go to Jasper to find a police officer certified to put a baby car seat in a car. She asked if there was training our officers could get to get certified.

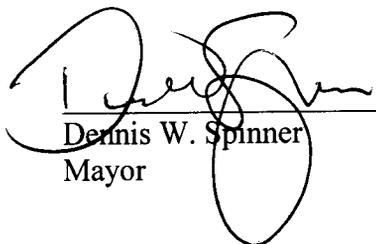
The Mayor indicated that he would address with the Police Department.

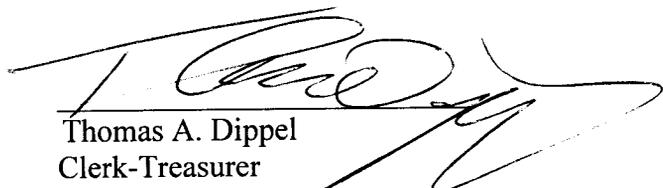
Member Summers indicated that there was a lady locked in the City's dog park for two hours. She explained that the door was open when she entered the fenced park and there were no signs indicating that a fob was needed to open the fence door. She explained that after two hours a man assisted by getting the woman's cell phone and she called 911.

The Mayor indicated that he will follow up on the situation.

Attorney Schneider updated the Council on the clean-up of several properties around the City.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 o'clock P.M.


Dennis W. Spinner
Mayor


Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer

Source: Tonya Brothers-Bridge

Listening Sessions results

City of Huntingburg

Priority Items

August 20, 2012

EXHIBIT A

Common Council

9/13/12

7:00 P.M.

Aesthetics of our Community / Clean-up

1. We took down trees in the city. We like the looks of the older homes, with the older trees in the "old town atmosphere." We want tree-lined streets. ****
2. We have a list of buildings that need repaired (Old Tattoo Parlor, Dairyland, etc.). Do something with these buildings. *****
3. Clean up the city. Houses are in disrepair. (Hoarding, overgrown yards, etc.) *****
4. We need to fix sidewalks on 4th Street and trim and fix trees. *****
5. Keep the big ditches clean and free of leaves and grass. Clear the ditch by the park. *****

Ordinances and Code Enforcement

1. Look at existing ordinances and enforce them or polish them. *** (#4)
2. Make people aware of our existing ordinances so they know what to do and how to comply. *****
3. We need an ordinance about noise; nothing is done about loud radios. This is a problem at the park. ***
4. It's difficult to see oncoming traffic at intersections (Chestnut and Second; 1st and 231). *****
5. Ensure our codes are strict enough. ***** (#39, #30)

Safety

1. We need designated storm shelters. ***
2. EMS has difficulty finding properties. We need larger house numbers. *****
3. Keep the city safe. Neighborhood Watch. Make sure officers have all they need. ***

Collaborating

1. Look at what we have and how we can do it better- groups working together. City working with others. We need to be better collaborators. ***** (#45)

Diversity

1. We need to work on assimilating newcomers into our community. We need to improve our efforts like we welcomed Germans to the area when Huntingburg was new. **** (#8, #11)
2. Involve the Hispanic community with the city. Get their input. ***** (#15, #16)

Hospital

1. How can the old hospital be used? *****
2. Work with the owner of the hospital to see it utilized as a business. *****

Miscellaneous

1. We need more recyclable receptacles. ***
2. We have access to a very well-maintained airport. We need to increase usage. *****

Biking, Walking, Healthy Living, Parks

1. We need to connect the schools with the city with bike and walk paths. ****
2. We need a park on the north side of town. *****
3. We want a park on the north side of town. *****
4. We don't utilize Huntingburg Lake. ****
5. More programs for lower-income families (such as pool access). ***
6. We need places and things for our elderly to do. More than Senior Center. **

Attracting More Businesses

1. Proactively attract small businesses, especially professional businesses. We have empty space. ****
2. Provide small businesses more incentives. We need more variety of businesses. *****
3. More incentives for small businesses and high tech business. *****
4. Have more places for people to eat. Nicer restaurants-something more than burgers and chicken. *****
5. We need to make it attractive for more businesses to come here (Large businesses, large employers). *****
6. Work with the whole county on new business development. This will attract more people to live here. *****
7. Work with surrounding counties for business development. ***

Communications and Marketing

1. Enhance the ability to communicate with citizens by improving website and email, etc. *****
2. City needs to do more marketing and advertising to attract visitors. *****

Tourism, Attractions, Events

1. Make Huntingburg a desired tourism destination. We have what big city folks are looking for. Work with chamber, merchants, and city government. Coordinate our efforts. Put together travel packages. *** (#30)
2. We need more events or attractions in town. ***
3. We need an amphitheater/venue stage area to encourage different events. ***
4. We need more events at Memorial Gym. *****
5. Develop League Stadium as an asset. Columbia spent \$1 million to develop the stadium. We have more than a cornfield and we need to promote it. *****

City of Huntingburg
Priority Items

1. We took down trees in the city. We like the looks of the older homes, with the older trees in the "old town atmosphere." We want tree-lined streets. ****
2. We need to work on assimilating newcomers into our community. We need to improve our efforts like we welcomed Germans to the area when Huntingburg was new. **** (#8, #11)
3. We need to connect the schools with the city with bike and walk paths. ****
4. Make Huntingburg a desired tourism destination. We have what big city folks are looking for. Work with chamber, merchants, and city government. Coordinate our efforts. Put together travel packages. *** (#30)
5. Have more places for people to eat. Nicer restaurants-something more than burgers and chicken. *****
6. We need designated storm shelters. ***
7. Proactively attract small businesses, especially professional businesses. We have empty space. ****
8. Look at existing ordinances and enforce them or polish them. *** (#4)
9. Make people aware of our existing ordinances to they know what to do and how to comply. *****
10. Look at what we have and how we can do it better- groups working together. City working with others. We need to be better collaborators. ***** (#45)
11. Enhance the ability to communicate with citizens by improving website and email, etc. *****
12. We have a list of buildings that need repaired (Old Tattoo Parlor, Dairyland, etc.). Do something with these buildings. *****
13. We need more events or attractions in town. ***
14. City needs to do more marketing and advertising to attract visitors. *****
15. We need an ordinance about noise, but nothing is done about loud radios. This is a problem at the park. ***
16. It's difficult to see oncoming traffic at intersections (Chestnut and Second; 1st and 231). ****
17. We need places and things for our elderly to do. More than Senior Center. **
18. How can the old hospital be used? *****
19. We need an amphitheater/venue stage area to encourage different events. ***
20. We need more recyclable receptacles. ***
21. We need to make it attractive for more businesses to come here (Large businesses, large employers). *****
22. Keep the big ditches clean and free of leaves and grass. Clear the ditch by the park. *****
23. Provide small businesses more incentives. We need more variety of businesses. *****
24. We need a park on the north side of town. *****
25. Clean up the city. Houses are in disrepair. (Hoarding, overgrown yards, etc.) *****
26. Work with the owner of the hospital to see it utilized as a business. *****
27. We don't utilize Huntingburg Lake. ****
28. Involve the Hispanic community with the city. Get their input. ***** (#15, #16)

29. EMS has difficulty finding properties. We need larger house numbers. *****
30. We want a park on the north side of town. *****
31. Ensure our codes are strict enough. ***** (#39, #30)
32. More incentives for small businesses and high tech business. *****
33. More programs for lower-income families (such as pool access). ***
34. We have access to a very well-maintained airport. We need to increase usage. *****
35. We need to fix sidewalks on 4th Street and trim and fix trees. *****
36. We need more events at Memorial Gym. *****
37. Keep the city safe. Neighborhood Watch. Make sure officers have all they need. ***
38. Work with the whole county on new business development. This will attract more people to live here. *****
39. Work with surrounding counties for business development. ***
40. Develop League Stadium as an asset. Columbia spent \$1 million to develop the stadium. We have more than a cornfield and we need to promote it. *****

City of Huntingburg
Listening Session Notes
August 13, 2012

The following ideas and opinions were shared by a crowd of over 20 citizens of the city of Huntingburg when posed the questions:

1. What are the areas of focus for the Mayor and administration to make Huntingburg an even better place to live, work, and raise a family?
 2. What should the priorities of this administration be?
 3. What concerns do you have or ideas do you have to share with the new administration?
-
1. What you see is important. We have different trash days-should we consolidate?
 2. Congratulations to mayor and his administration for work done so far.
 3. Absent landlords are buying properties but not keeping them up. *****
 4. Set standards and ordinances strong enough that violators know you mean business. **
 5. Streets and sidewalks are being repaired, but the structures do not match.
 6. We took down trees in the city. We like the looks of the older homes, with the older trees in the "old town atmosphere." We want tree-lined streets. ****
 7. Our senior citizens are having difficulty keeping up their properties. We need to give people incentives for keeping up the properties. *
 8. 15% of our population is Latino/Hispanic. Are we providing affordable housing to accommodate? **
 9. We need to work on assimilating newcomers into our community. We need to improve our efforts like we welcomed Germans to the area when Huntingburg was new. **** (#8, #11)
 10. Use St. Joseph's as a place for homeless and use the space for low-income families.
 11. We need to increase our language skills so we can communicate with all citizens with city-sponsored classes. *
 12. Form an integration group where all cultures talk together. **
 13. Create more activities for our senior citizens. (More than card games). *
 14. Stop U-turns on 4th St. *
 15. We need a YMCA.
 16. Can the ambulances get to the Waters in inclement weather? We have changed how we handle snow removal.
 17. We need public transit on the weekends. *
 18. We need to connect the schools with the city with bike and walk paths. *****
 19. Get the youth involved in the beautification of the city (mowing, trimming, and weeding).
 20. Engage the work release folks to help with clean-up.
 21. Make Huntingburg a desired tourism destination. We have what big city folks are looking for. Work with chamber, merchants, and city government. Coordinate our efforts. Put together travel packages. *** (#30)

22. Have more places for people to eat. Nicer restaurants-something more than burgers and chicken. *****
23. We need designated storm shelters. ***
24. We need public restrooms.
25. We need a playground area on the north side.
26. Coordinate north-side park with walking and biking paths. **
27. Use the St. Joe's empty space for a park. *
28. Proactively attract small businesses, especially professional businesses. We have empty space. *****
29. Use the old, empty Touch of Class building.
30. Our 4th Street businesses are closed on Mondays, disappointing potential shoppers. Merchants need to work together more. ***
31. Our water has too much chlorine. It tastes bad.
32. Need an overpass over the railroad tracks. **
33. Trains create a traffic concern because ambulance can't get through.
34. Create things for people to do while waiting on the train.
35. We want more trains through town. *
36. Increase communication with Norfolk Southern, so they are aware of impact in community.
37. Look at existing ordinances and enforce them or polish them. *** (#4)
38. We have a lack of diversified industry.
39. Make people aware of our existing ordinances to they know what to do and how to comply. *****
40. Set up 4th Street as an economic impact.
41. Continue growth on 231 by interstate. Grow that area.
42. Teach youth to take pride in our community. Create a program to teach history of Huntingburg so they take pride in our city. Teach history, government, and ordinances.
43. Model leadership programs exist in the state- we should consider using those. *
44. Educate citizens that it is ALL of our responsibility to attract businesses to our area.
45. Get the church youth groups to work together for the city. City to work with pastors. **
46. Look at what we have and how we can do it better- groups working together. City working with others. We need to be better collaborators. ***** (#45)
47. Have a community day for cleanup.
48. Encourage existing cleanup programs to continue.
49. Use utility bills as a way to communicate city or community events. ***
50. Enhance the ability to communicate with citizens by improving website and email, etc. *****
51. Notify citizens of street sweeping. Enforce ordinances.
52. Create an internet forum or discussion group to talk about city issues. *
53. Communicate city activities like new sidewalks in front of homes. **

City of Huntingburg Notes
August 14, 2012

The following ideas and opinions were shared by a crowd of 20 citizens of the city of Huntingburg when posed the questions:

1. What are the areas of focus for the Mayor and administration to make Huntingburg an even better place to live, work, and raise a family?
 2. What should the priorities of this administration be?
 3. What concerns do you have or ideas do you have to share with the new administration?
-
1. Keep the parks maintained and the street department. **
 2. Take care of the abandoned buildings. *
 3. We have a list of buildings that need repaired (Old Tattoo Parlor, Dairyland, etc.). Do something with these buildings. *****
 4. Traffic is a concern when people park on both sides of the street. *
 5. We are not drawing the crowds like other communities (An example is DC Bombers). ***
 6. We need more volunteers.
 7. Revive the pride so we have more volunteers. *
 8. Huntingburg needs to be a destination rather than a stopover. *
 9. We need more events or attractions in town. ***
 10. City needs to do more marketing and advertising to attract visitors. *****
 11. The wine festival was good. We need more events like that.
 12. We need an ordinance about noise, but nothing is done about loud radios. This is a problem at the park. ***
 13. Look at tying infrastructure into new subdivisions.
 14. We need to plan where our new subdivisions should be. *
 15. We need more housing for the elderly. We like the Stork Building and need to do more. ***
 16. It's difficult to see oncoming traffic at intersections (Chestnut and Second; 1st and 231). *****
 17. We need places and things for our elderly to do. More than Senior Center. **
 18. We need to communicate that we offer energy audit services for utilities. **
 19. Use the old hospital for a gathering place and activities for elderly. ***
 20. How can the old hospital be used? *****
 21. City needs to encourage dog walking.
 22. Keep dogs leashed or contained. **
 23. We need to increase animal control.
 24. We need to enforce pet owners to pick up after their dogs. We need poop stations. ***
 25. We need to encourage pet owners to have ID's on collars. ***
 26. City needs to communicate that we have a shelter.
 27. We need more restaurants and hotels. ***
 28. We need more WIFI hotspots.
 29. We need an amphitheater/venue stage area to encourage different events. ***
 30. Purchase equipment for media in the park. ****
 31. The train stopping traffic for too long (I sat 40 minutes). **
 32. Ambulances get stuck by train.

33. We need more recyclable receptacles. ***
34. Replace wooden mulch with recycled tires. *
35. We need to make it attractive for more businesses to come here (Large businesses, large employers). *****
36. We need to display a receptive attitude for new businesses. Offer tax incentives, venture networks, shovel ready sites, etc. ****
37. Keep the big ditches clean and free of leaves and grass. Clear the ditch by the park. *****
38. When we develop an area, we need to consider the flood plain area.
39. We need to put more pressure on landlords to keep the properties up. ***
40. Provide small businesses more incentives. We need more variety of businesses. *****
41. Lengthen the time allowed for homeowners to replace sewer lines from 30 days to something longer so they can budget for the expense.
42. The tap water in Huntingburg has a taste. Not good like Patoka water supply.
43. Keep our water the way it is.
44. Businesses need to be open later during the weekend. **
45. We need to welcome visitors and newcomers into town.
46. Parking signs so visitors know where to park.
47. Turn vacant lot behind City Hall into parking lot. *
48. Turn parallel parking into diagonal parking.
49. We need to highlight Teen Outback.
50. We need a footbridge over Van Buren to 12th Street. *
51. We need more pedestrian trails and bike trails. ****
52. Cut down on illegal immigrants. ***
53. Period lighting going North and South through town. **
54. We need a park on the north side of town. *****
55. Reevaluate our police and fire capability.
56. Continue developing 231 down to I-64.
57. Widen the bypass from Phoenix Drive to CR 400. *
58. We need emergency shelters. ***
59. Our main streets are littered with turkey feathers. We need this cleaned up.
60. We need more Adopt a Street programs.

City of Huntingburg Notes
August 16, 2012

The following ideas and opinions were shared by a crowd of 50 citizens of the city of Huntingburg when posed the questions:

1. What are the areas of focus for the Mayor and administration to make Huntingburg an even better place to live, work, and raise a family?
2. What should the priorities of this administration be?
3. What concerns do you have or ideas do you have to share with the new administration?
4. What do you like about the city that you believe can be made even better?
5. Looking forward 10 years, what do you want to be proud of as it relates to the city?

1. Clean up the city. Houses are in disrepair. (Hoarding, overgrown yards, etc.) *****
2. Work with the owner of the hospital to see it utilized as a business. *****
3. Encourage more options and more things to do for our visitors (theater, restaurants, etc.) *
4. Stray animals are everywhere, especially stray cats. *****
5. Keep the museum open after 4 p.m.
6. Relocate the museum so it has more space. ***
7. Advertise what we have more (such as music in the park).
8. League Stadium is a plus but we need more events there.
9. Unlock League Stadium.
10. We don't utilize Huntingburg Lake. ****
11. Reinstitute walking path around lake. *
12. Do not plant trees around the memorial. ****
13. Work with the state to close the ditch on South Main. **
14. Involve the Hispanic community with the city. Get their input. ***** (#15, #16)
15. Improve communication with Hispanic Community. **
16. Reach out to the Hispanic community. Make them feel included. **
17. EMS has difficulty finding properties. We need larger house numbers. *****
18. We need better, more connected sidewalks. **
19. We need sidewalks south of 1st St. **
20. Establish a central guide of resources for new businesses. *
21. We want a park on the north side of town. *****
22. We need an open discussion about sodium fluoride in our water supply.
23. Utilize the utility bills as a communication tool. *
24. There is a group working together to clean up the city that is looking for volunteers.
25. We need Park and Rec programs for our children.
26. Keep the city lake natural. Limit structures. *
27. More activities for seniors like bus trips. *
28. Fiber (high speed internet) is needed in homes.
29. We need more WIFI hotspots in the city.
30. Review zoning ordinances and codes to ensure they are what citizens want. *****
31. Ensure our codes are strict enough. ***** (#39, #30)
32. Limit number of dogs or cats on a piece of property.

33. We need an overpass over the train tracks. *
34. Identify future housing locations. *
35. Our current ordinances do not require sidewalks. This needs reviewed. *
36. Provide new businesses an incentive (for example, no charge for utility hook-ups). **
37. More incentives for small businesses and high tech business. *****
38. Can we reopen the hospital?
39. We need more teeth in our code enforcement for repeat offenders. ***
40. Don't make a neighbor enforce the ordinances. The city needs to handle it. ****
41. We need a public restroom downtown. ****
42. Establish economic impact areas to fund restrooms, etc. *
43. The residents should be treated better than out-of-towners (i.e. Bombers pay less taxes than school.)***
44. We appreciated that the Mayor recognized people/ladies who started businesses in town.
45. The Mayor should have recognized women from the past who changed Huntingburg and who made it what it is today.
46. More programs for lower-income families (such as pool access). ***
47. Develop record of all businesses within the city limits and put map on city website.
48. We need to become a destination for tourists. We need to leverage assets such as League Stadium. ***
49. We need to increase school test scores and graduation rates. **
50. We have access to a very well-maintained airport. We need to increase usage. *****
51. We need to fix sidewalks on 4th Street and trim and fix trees. *****
52. Prohibit U-turns on 4th St. *
53. We need more air shows.
54. We like having access to the Mayor and his open-door policy.
55. Neighbors complain about neighbors' lawns, decoration, etc. Be careful. City needs to ensure both sides of town talk together. **
56. We need more events at Memorial Gym. *****
57. Stop events on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Reserve those times for worship. ***
58. Feed more pictures, articles, etc. to Huntingburg newspaper so there is more content about our city. *
59. Keep the city safe. Neighborhood Watch. Make sure officers have all they need. ***
60. Ensure our entrances to the city look nice. "Keep the City Clean" initiative. **
61. We need a city-wide bike trail. *
62. Protect historical assets like Old Town Hall.
63. Welcome young people to the city. *
64. Get the train off of the highway. **
65. We need more fun things for young adults to do. We need new life and activities. *
66. We need more reasons for young people to move here.
67. Have an electronic billboard in the city. **
68. We want more trains in the city.
69. We need to study if this is the best place for new business. *
70. Work with the whole county on new business development. This will attract more people to live here. *****
71. Subscribe to databases for grants.
72. Work with surrounding counties for business development. ***
73. Make sure our Little League facilities are kept up-to-date.
74. Relocate Herbsfest on 4th Street. **

75. Keep in tax rates and fiscal responsibility in mind. ****
76. Create a Sports Complex to encourage more events here.
77. Foreclosed homes in the city are an eyesore. We can do a better job of cleanup. *
78. Develop an Adopt-a-Street program for cleanup.
79. Develop League Stadium as an asset. Columbia spent \$1 million to develop the stadium. We have more than a cornfield and we need to promote it. *****