

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at the hour of 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Huntingburg City Hall at 508 E. Fourth Street, Huntingburg, Indiana. Members McPherron, Kissling, Dubon, Bounds and Wehr were physically present. This meeting was opened to the public, and made available to members of the public and the media streamed through the City of Huntingburg's YouTube channel accessed via the City of Huntingburg's website. Also present were Mayor Schwinghamer, City Attorney Schneider, Clerk-Treasurer Dippel and Mayor's Youth Council representative, Ruthie Sherer.

Mayor Schwinghamer called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 regular meeting.

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

The Mayor presented a proposal agreement for services between the City of Huntingburg and LAA Office, LLC for design and inspection services associated with the Huntingburg Alley Activation Project. The project consists of improvements of the alley between 4th Street and Memorial Gym; Phases I (Construction Documentation & RFQ Coordination) & II (Construction Administration). There was discussion of the project.

Director of Community Development Steckler presented a summary of the project for a section of the alley on the North side of 4th Street. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$344,458.12. The LAA Office, LLC contract is for \$10,000.00.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve the contract with LAA Office, LLC as presented.

Steckler presented a contractor agreement between the City of Huntingburg and Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. (ROI). The agreement is to provide Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds that the ROI receives from the federal government. The contract is in the amount of \$110,819.00. The contract is to commit to undertake the project and obligation to spend committed funds.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the agreement between the City and ROI as presented.

A proposed resolution determining an interest in the purchase of real estate was presented and discussed. The property is a 45' x 45' tract north of 4th Street along the north side of the alley between Main Street and the north-south east of Main Street. The property is owned by the Mayor and his wife. The Mayor has prepared a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. There was a discussion of whether to get appraisals or negotiate with the owner since the purchase price is likely to be less than \$25,000.00. Negotiation is preferred at the beginning.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to nominate Council member Bounds to a committee to negotiate a selling price for the property with the owner.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to nominate Council member McPherron to a committee to negotiate a fair selling price for the property with the owner.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023-06 entitled:

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

The Mayor presented his Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement to the Council for acceptance.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to accept the Mayor's Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement (for the property noted above).

The was discussion on the purchase and financing options of a hydro excavator for the Water Department. Clerk-Treasurer Dippel informed the Board that the Indiana Bond Bank financing was estimated to be approximately 4.85%. He noted recent past loans from the City's Electric Cash Reserve Fund range from 0% to 1.9%. He noted that currently funds are earning approximately 4.5% at the State's TrustIndiana fund. There were discussions of whether another hydro excavator was necessary since two other departments of the City have one.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried by a vote of 4 Aye, 1 Nay (Wehr) to approve the purchase of a hydro excavator for the Water Utility (Model Ring O Matic 850 VX demo from Best Equipment for \$125,690.00).

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron to approve the Huntingburg Water Utility to borrow \$125,000.00 from the Huntingburg Electric Cash Reserve fund for a term of 5 years at an annual rate of 2.5%. Upon the Call of roll for the approval of the motion, the vote was 5 aye, 0 nay in favor of the motion; motion was approved.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented a proposed ordinance for additional appropriations for the year 2023. The proposed ordinance would additionally appropriate funds of the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in the amount of \$965,776.00; Opioid Settlement Unrestricted Funds in the amount of \$7,342.00 and Opioid Settlement Restricted Funds in the amount of \$17,131.00. He noted the funds were unspent at the end of 2022 so they needed to be additionally appropriated to be spent in 2023.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-08 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR
THE 2023 BUDGET YEAR**

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to set a public hearing for the above additional appropriation for February 28, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Huntingburg City Hall.

It was noted that an ordinance is needed authorizing the loan from the Electric Cash Reserve Fund to the Water Utility in the amount of \$125,000.00.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-07 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE ELECTRIC
CASH RESERVE FUND TO THE MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY**

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-07 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-07.

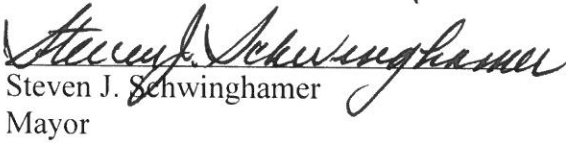
Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2023-07 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-07 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 7:05 P.M.

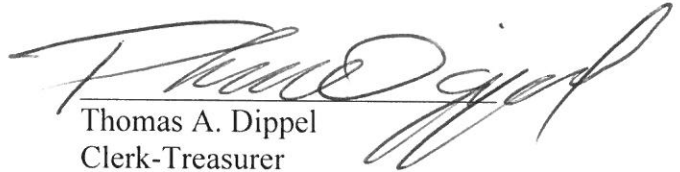
Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented the 2022 Utility write-off report. The total write-off amount is \$7,853.75 compared to \$18,552.61 in 2021. Dippel attributes the decrease in the write-off to using the Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System (TRECS) to collect overdue utility amounts before they become eligible for write-off.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve the 2022 write-offs as presented in the amount of \$7,853.75.

Putting meeting agendas on the City's Website was brought up by Council member Bounds and discussed.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Bounds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 o'clock P.M.


Steven J. Schwinghamer
Mayor


Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer