

## UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, June 27, 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 Kissling, McPherron, Dubon and Bounds were physically present. Member Wehr was absent. 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 and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Stevens.

Mayor Schwinghamer called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 regular meeting.

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

Mayor Schwinghamer presented a proposed resolution to authorize the City of Huntingburg to submit a grant application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. (*Senior Center Project*) The resolution commits the City of Huntingburg to a local match in the amount of \$50,950.00.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023-15 entitled:

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT (Senior Center)**

This was the date, time and place set for a public hearing for the Huntingburg Senior Center Project grant administration. These project minutes copied from Leah Hawkins, Resiliency Coordinator at IND15PRC:

Mayor Steve Schwinghamer called the public hearing to order and introduced Leah Hawkins from Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission. Ms. Hawkins began, "I am Leah Hawkins; I am the Resiliency Coordinator at IND15RPC. I am the one putting the application together and hopefully will be administering the grant if we are awarded. I am passing around an attendance sheet. The City of Huntingburg plans to submit an application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities Program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. These funds will be used for a community development project that will fund a senior center located at 1809 N Leland Dr. OCRA requires two public hearings prior to the submission of the application, this being the second one. Public hearings allow the residents to express their views on this project or any other project funded with Community Development Block Grant Funds. I will be taking minutes tonight and will be recording comments. The minutes of the hearing and the sign-in sheet that's going around will all be included in the application. Again, this is an opportunity for anyone to come forward to speak on the proposed senior center project. Please speak loudly and state your name at the beginning of your comments. As discussed, the total project cost is \$509,500 and the City is provided a match of \$50,950. I think I've met a lot of you already so I think a lot of you know already what the issues are and how we are trying to mitigate them with this proposed new senior center. So if anyone has any questions for me I can answer them now, or if anyone would like to make a comment now is the time to do so."

Mayor Schwinghamer said, "I appreciate you all being here for support. Obviously, you're all here to support the senior center I would assume. Is anyone not in favor of the senior center?" No hands were raised. He invited Rita Reller, Senior Center Director, to speak.



Ms. Reller said, "Right now our activities take place in three different places and it would be nice if we had one place where I can do all the activities and not have to drive around or carry equipment to another place. We have games in the park; I have to load my car with the cornhole boards and the bags and all that. We have line dancing at the Old Town Hall. I just have to be up there and I usually take water up to the dancers so they don't get dehydrated. And we have our activities over at the place we are now that's called the senior center. It's not. We'd like to have a place of our own that we can call the senior center and all get together. We need to keep the seniors active for their own health."

Mayor Schwinghamer thanked Ms. Reller and asked if anyone else would like to speak. Jim Heidorn said, "I'm not one of the long-time die-hard synch players – card players – I know a lot of people do it and I know it's a great place. I guess just from my standpoint, I know everything's going well with all your decisions on the grant but I think they do need a place because you know a lot of these people have lived here all their life or many many, years in life. They're good taxpayers and have actually committed themselves to the community over the years and they need a nice place. They need something that's got easy access with close parking and they don't need ramps and things when they're trying to get in. Maybe when I do get older, I'll know of more things they have."

Mayor Schwinghamer said, "There's not an age limit you can go anytime you want!" Everyone laughed.

Mr. Heidorn continued, "In fact, I'm older than you yet!" more laughter. "Anyway, Rita (Ms. Reller) does a good job around here. We've been on three of her bus trips. They're well organized and it gets a good way to get out and meet people and see things and see what kind of job they do down there. It's a good asset to the City and to the folks."

Ms. Hawkins thanked Mr. Heidorn for his comments. She added, "Rita has been an absolute Rockstar. And the Mayor and Rachel (Steckler) getting everything signed and all the 'i's dotted and the 't's crossed. Rita has been really helping me out getting all the necessary documents."

Ms. Brinkman said, "My name is Mary Brinkman." She got a little choked up but continued, "This is hard. I like the socializing so I don't have to stay at home by myself. Jim mentioned the synch and card playing but we really need people to come to a place where they might not want to play cards but they can come and visit and, you know, participate in something of their liking at the same time. Right now, we don't have anything like that. The main room is filled with card players or bingo players and if anybody else comes there's really no place for them to go."

Ms. Hawkins thanked Ms. Brinkman for her comments and for all of them being there. "I know that most of you didn't say anything but even being here today is very helpful. It shows that there is a lot of support for this and I know it's not the first time I've met a lot of you and I appreciate all of the effort you've put in with writing letters and filling out the surveys. It goes a long way so thank you all."

Mayor Schwinghamer said, "From my standpoint, it's been a long time coming. Obviously, you all were promised this years and years ago as far back as even the Stellar project. We're excited about helping you out if we can get the grant it's going to be a positive thing. If not, we might have to take a step back a little bit. I certainly appreciate you all coming and showing your support for this. I'm sure Leah does too. It's a positive thing that the state looks into as far as people backing it with letters of support and things of that nature. So, we certainly appreciate you doing that."

Councilmember Jeff Bounds said, "I would like to ask Leah maybe for an update on what's been done up to this point. What the status is and what kind of deadlines are approaching? And when would we maybe know if there's been approval?"

Ms. Hawkins said, "Sure. So, we are on the absolute home stretch. Rita just gave me four more letters and I need to get them all in tomorrow because they are due on Thursday. There is a lot to do between here and Thursday but we are looking pretty good. Rachel, the Mayor, and Rita have been great at getting stuff back to me, clerk-treasurer as well has been great. So, we are pretty set to turn it in on Thursday. I don't think we are going to have any hiccups. Then, after Thursday we should be hearing something from the state by the end of August or early September. There was a slight delay last year, but fingers crossed it would happen again."

Councilmember Bounds asked, "So the application has already been submitted?"

Ms. Hawkins answered, "It will be on Thursday."

Councilmember Bounds asked, "So there's nothing submitted yet?"

Ms. Hawkins answered, "Not yet. It's kind of a two-step process where we submitted a proposal at the end of April. We met with our community liaison. They help us review what we submitted at proposal which is sort of a draft. They give us feedback and we ask



them questions and we go from there. We beef up the application in between and we closed our survey last week or the week before and are still collecting a few letters. Those last-minute things and the minutes of this public hearing, that will all go in and it will be good to go."

Councilmember Glenn Kissling asked, "Do we know how much money is available for all the communities for this?"

Ms. Hawkins explained, "I don't know what the actual pot is for everyone. I know that this program in particular is pretty competitive and I want to say that our liaison told us that there were seven other applications for this same pot of money and they usually only award two or three."

Mayor Schwinghamer added, "It's all on a point basis too. The more we can show support for this the more information we can provide or money we can put towards it, the more points we receive. The more points we receive, the higher we score. The higher we score, the better it is."

Councilmember Bounds asked, "So, this may be an impossible question, but because I am a positive thinker, let's just say everything is approved and say we get the notice on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, from that point, it's bidding for contracts and construction would begin? What's the earliest that you could imagine that it would actually be usable?"

Ms. Hawkins answered, "After award, we have a month or two to go through environmental clearance. From there we have 18 months to complete the project."

Councilmember Bounds asked, "So, it could be late '24 or early '25?"

Ms. Reller said, "Christmas '24 is what I am hoping for!"

Mayor Schwinghamer added, "And it could be much sooner than that too obviously. The reason being if we are using the building we obviously bought for that the shell is there."

Councilmember Kissling added, "We have a structure already."

Ms. Hawkins added, "And the structure is mostly gutted."

Mayor Schwinghamer said, "Right. So, it should take a lot less time as far as the construction phase."

Councilmember Kissling asked, "Do we get any credit for in-kind service? Like if we do some of our own..."

Mayor Schwinghamer answered, "Not for this no. It's whatever our portion of the grant is. And at this point, it's only a 10% match rather than a bigger number."

With no further comments or questions, the public hearing was adjourned.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He updated the Council on the 6" Gas Main Replacement Project along Highway 56 East of Ireland.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He presented quotes from Blue Runner Switchgear Testing, LLC for Substations Maintenance Repairs.

The first quote presented was for the North Substation's vacuum bottles in the amount of \$19,894.40.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve the quote from Blue Runner Switchgear Testing, LLC for the vacuum bottles in the amount of \$19,894.40.

The second quote presented was for the Central Substation's batteries in the amount of \$43,266.00.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Dubon and carried to approve the quote from Blue Runner Switchgear Testing, LLC for the batteries in the amount of \$43,266.00.

Reutepohler informed the Board that two bids were opened for the Electric Bucket Truck. The bids are currently under review and will have a recommendation for the Council at the next meeting.

Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report. He updated the Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Water Main Replacement Project from Main Street to Washington Street.



Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Stevens presented a proposed ordinance to move appropriations between one major budget class within the Department or Fund.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-16 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS FROM ONE MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATION TO ANOTHER WITHIN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND FUNDS OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA**

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-16 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-16.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2023-16 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-16 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:13 p.m.

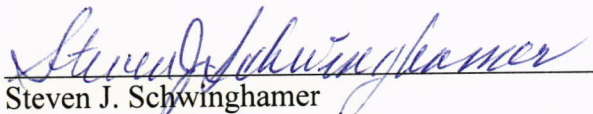
Mayor Schwinghamer requested the Council to approve revising our current ARPA Spending Plan. He requested reallocating funds from the 'Parking Lot at 407 N Jackson St behind City Hall' (ARPA 4) and 'Alley on West 4<sup>th</sup> Street between 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> behind Gaslight' (ARPA 5) to a new project '405 Main Street Parking Lot Project' (ARPA 12); and changing APRA 11 'Alley on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> next to Overtime to Memorial Gym Paving' to 'Alley Activation Improvements'.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve revising the current ARPA Spending Plan noted above.

Tina Bromm, Executive Director of the Huntingburg Housing Authority (HHA) presented an annual report and an audit report for the year 2022 for the HHA. She also updated the Council on projects at the HHA. She requested the City waive the Payment in Lieu of Tax for 2023 in the amount of \$10,665.01. She informed the Council of the need for maintenance and replacement to the air conditioning units.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to forgive the 2023 HHA PILOT payment in the amount of \$10,665.01.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 o'clock P.M.

  
Steven J. Schwinghamer  
Mayor

  
Amy M Stevens  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer