

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, October 24, 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, Dubon, Bounds and McPherron 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 Clerk-Treasurer Dippel

Mayor Schwinghamer called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 regular meeting.

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

This was the date, time and place advertised for a public hearing for the vacation of dedicated and reserved public right of way and public utility and drainage easement by petitioner, OFS. Caroline Brinster, Associate with Dentons Bingham Greenebaum, representing OFS, addresses the Council concerning the vacation of the right of way. It was noted that OFS owns the surrounding properties. The public hearing was opened. Attorney Schneider explained the request by OFS. The Mayor asked for public comment. No comments were received. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-24 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN UNDEVELOPED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, UTILITY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT

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. 2023-24 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Dubon and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-24.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2023-24 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-24 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 5:38 P.M.

Attorney Schneider noted that since the Mayor vetoed Ordinance No. 2023-20 after passage by the Council at the last meeting any action to override the veto would need to be considered at this meeting. No attempt to override the veto was done. The Mayor will discuss enforcement of the current ordinance (Ordinance No. 2014-23, regulating the keeping of animals within the City of Huntingburg prohibiting chickens) with Planning Director Lake.

The Mayor presented the Program & Events Report for October 2023 for review.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Park Board has approved the use of League Stadium for the 2024 Red, White and Brauen Music Festival for August 2024.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He informed the Board that the annual PEFA discount check was received (Approx. \$28,000.00). From discussions with the City's gas supplier, UGM, he anticipated natural gas prices to be 20-25% less than last year at this time (under normal conditions).

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report.

Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report. He updated the Board on current activity. He noted that materials are ordered for the east Sunset Drive water main project and work will begin as soon as materials arrive.

Austin expressed the need for a 6 x 12 enclosed trailer. He noted the current safety trailer is not being used as anticipated and requested the sale of the trailer to the Water Department. The trailer is currently owned by the Electric, Water, Gas, Wastewater and Street Departments. His research indicates the value of the 2014 trailer to be \$1,720.00. He is proposing to pay each other owner \$344.00 each.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to authorize the transfer and sale of the 6 x 12 trailer to the Water Department for \$344.00 to each other owner.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel indicated that this is the date, time and place advertised for the adoption meeting on the 2024 City Budget. Dippel indicated that the 2024 budget is \$11,823,942.00 and that no changes have been made since the Budget Hearing of October 10, 2023. He estimated the actual tax rate to be approximately \$.9576 per \$100.00 of assessed value.

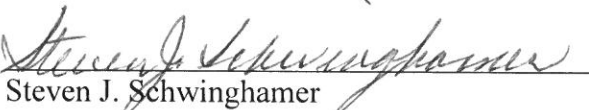
A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-21.

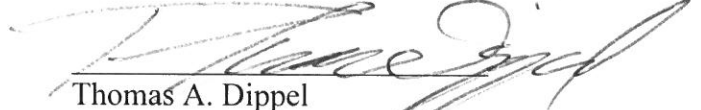
ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES (2024)

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2023-21 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-21 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:05 P.M.

The Mayor noted that the November 14, 2023 Council meeting will be cancelled due to scheduling conflicts and the next meeting will be November 28, 2023.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 o'clock P.M.


Steven J. Schwinghamer
Mayor


Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer