

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 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, Wehr, Bolte, McPherron and Bounds 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 Elkins, City Attorney Schneider and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel.

Mayor Elkins called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025 regular meeting.

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

O.W. Krohn, the City's Utility Rate Accountant, from O.W. Krohn and Associates C.P.A., presented information about the City's Gas Utility and proposed gas rate increases. He noted the need for and recommended an increase in the Monthly Service Charges, Monthly Metered Volume Rates and connection fees to operate the Gas Utility going forward. He noted that the last gas rate increase was in 2013. It was noted that the City's Utility Rate Advisory Board recommended the proposed rates as presented.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by Bolte and carried to introduce and number Ordinance No. 2025-04 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2013-36 AND
ORDINANCE NO. 2022-22 ESTABLISHING A NEW SCHEDULE OF RATES
AND CHARGES FOR NATURAL GAS AND SERVICES RENDERED BY THE
MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS UTILITY OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG,
INDIANA**

It was noted that a public hearing will need to be set for this proposed rate increase.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to set a public hearing for the gas rate increases for February 25, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

This was the date, time and place advertised for the Common Council to hold a public hearing on the designation of the property commonly known as Poplar Ridge as an Economic Revitalization Area and an Economic Development Target Area, and for the petitioner's request for an abatement of real property taxes attributable to redevelopment and/or rehabilitation activities. The public hearing was opened.

Ruger Kersteins and Scott Steinkamp were present to answer any questions and provide a summary of the Poplar Ridge project. Kersteins noted that the planned start time is March 2025. He also noted that the abatement is being used as the public match to receive a READI grant for the project. Public comment was requested. No comments were received.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to close the public hearing.

City Attorney Schneider presented a proposed confirmatory resolution designating an Economic Revitalization Area and Economic Development Target Area.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2025-05 entitled:

**CONFIRMATORY RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE AN ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION AREA AND AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TARGET
AREA**

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-26, previously introduced, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING A CERTAIN AREA OF THE CITY OF
HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TARGET
AREA AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HUNTINGBURG ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2024-26 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-26 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:54 P.M.

Attorney Schneider indicated the need to consider approval of (3) Statements of Benefit associated with the (3) phases of the Poplar Ridge project. He noted approval can be by motion saying that the benefits justify the tax abatements and authorize the Mayor to sign the Statement of Benefits forms.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve the (3) Statements of Benefits and authorize the Mayor to sign them.

The Mayor presented a proposed service agreement between the City and ALASI for translation services, and assist Latino population in the City and surrounding areas to integrate and adapt to the local culture, civil, social and work environments for a period of 12 months beginning January 1, 2025 in the amount of \$550.00 per month.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to approve the service agreement with ALASI as presented.

The Mayor noted that a bid opening for an Electric Utility truck is scheduled for February 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M., and a bid opening committee will need to be appointed by the Board.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to appoint the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer and Energy Superintendent to the Board's Bid Opening Committee.

Attorney Schneider presented a notice from RailPros, consultant for Norfolk Southern Railway Company, that the City appears to be an unauthorized occupant of the railway's property related to the 2016 construction of the highway bypass and related relocation of electric lines under the railroad. It was noted the original fee for the encroachment was \$45,000.00. The letter presented noted a request for payment of a negotiated \$10,000.00 License Fee. Schneider indicated he thought the fee was reasonable and recommended the Board approve.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bolte and carried to approve the payment of the \$10,000.00 License Fee to RailPros noted above.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented his monthly Gas Utility report.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented his monthly Electric Utility report.

Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report. Austin noted that a bill was received from Midwestern Engineers for work done on the Water Plant project in the amount of \$5,000.00 dated July 18, 2021. The invoice was discussed. It was noted that the invoice, along with an Ice Miller invoice, previously paid for services for creation of a rebate/arbitrage report, can be paid or reimbursed from the SRF funds for the plant

project. Austin also plans to use remaining SRF funds to purchase meters for the Water Utility.

It was noted that the Huntingburg Board of Finance needs to have a meeting in January 2025. The Common Council makes up the Huntingburg Board of Finance.

The minutes of the Board of Finance are made a part of these minutes and are on page 346.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Bolte and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 o'clock P.M.



M. Neil Elkins
Mayor



Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer

THE BOARD OF FINANCE OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
5:30 P.M.

The Board of Finance of the City of Huntingburg met on January 28, 2025 at the hour of 5:30 P.M., in the Council Chambers of Huntingburg City Hall at 508 E. Fourth Street, Huntingburg, Indiana with members Wehr, McPherron, Bolte, Bounds, and Kissling physically present.

The meeting was called to order.

A motion to elect McPherron as President and Bounds as Secretary, was made by Wehr seconded by Bolte and carried.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel, the Investment Officer, presented a written report of 2024 Investments for Board review. The report was reviewed by the Board.

Dippel then presented the current investment policy of the City of Huntingburg. The policy was reviewed by the Board.

There being no more business before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wehr, seconded by Bolte and carried.

Stephen C. McPherron
President

Jeffrey L. Bounds
Secretary