

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session at the regularly scheduled meeting time on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 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 Wehr were present. Member Bounds was absent. Also present were Mayor Spinner, City Attorney Schneider and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel.

Mayor Spinner called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2020 Regular Meeting, the September 22, 2020 Executive Session, the October 1, 2020 Special Meeting and the October 1, 2020 Executive Session.

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

The Mayor indicated that this is the meeting set for the adoption of the 2021 City Budget. Clerk-Treasurer Dippel noted that the budget has not changed since introduced at the last meeting.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Dubon and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-24 entitled:

**ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
(2021)**

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2020-24 the vote being 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain (Kissling), 1 absent (Bounds) in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2020-24 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 5:33 P.M.

The Mayor presented a proposed ordinance prohibiting parking on the west side of Geiger Street south of 4th Street. The area has the same turning issues caused by the new bump outs as the area north of 4th Street. It is proposed to take two parking spots by extending no parking on the west side of Geiger Street south of 4th Street for 85 feet. The proposed change was recommended by the Board of Public Works and Safety

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Kissling and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-25 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HUNTINGBURG CODE OF
ORDINANCES CHAPTER 75 PROVIDING FOR NO PARKING ON PORTIONS
OF CERTAIN DESIGNATED STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF
HUNTINGBURG**

The Mayor presented a proposed ordinance updating truck routes in the City. The routes were recommended by the Board of Public Works and Safety.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by McPherron and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-26 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
CHAPTER 74, SCHEDULE IX PROVIDING FOR WEIGHT RETRICTIONS
EXCEPTIONS ON DESIGNATED STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF
HUNTINGBURG**

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Dubon and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-26 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by McPherron and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-26.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2020-26 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds) in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2020-26 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 5:39 P.M.

The Mayor presented a proposed ordinance for the 2021 employees' wages. The Mayor noted that the proposed ordinance includes an across the board increase of 1.5% as discussed at the budget meetings.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-27 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES FOR THE CITY OF
HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2021**

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-27 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-27.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2020-27 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds) in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2020-27 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 5:41 P.M.

The Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours and suggested guidelines were discussed including allowing Trick-or-Treat on October 31, 2020 from 6-8 P.M. A list of County guidelines was presented.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the Trick-or-Treating guidelines for 2020 as proposed.

The Mayor noted that due to the situation (Covid-19) and possible exposure the Trick-or-Treat event at the fire station has been cancelled.

The Mayor presented his consolidation proposal (Exhibit A) to create a department that combines the efforts of the Street Department and the Parks Department. The proposal was discussed.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to allow the Mayor to move forward on the consolidation proposal.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented a proposed ordinance to move appropriation monies from one major budget classification to another for the budget year 2020.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Kissling and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-28 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 Kissling, seconded by Dubon and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-28 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-28.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2020-28 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2020-28 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:08 P.M.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented a proposed ordinance to create a fund for a donation of \$10,000.00 from Commonwealth Engineers and accept the donation to be used for improvements to the soccer field. The fund will be managed by the Wastewater Department and claims will be approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-29 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A RESTRICTED DONATION AND
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOCCER FIELD
IMPROVEMENT FUND IN THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG**

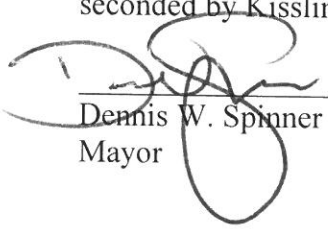
A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Kissling and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-29 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Dubon and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-29.

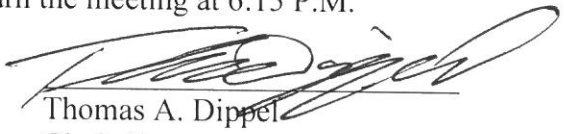
Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2020-29 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2020-29 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:12 P.M.

The Mayor informed the Council that the City of Huntingburg was chosen, by the Website tripsavvy, as the best small town in Indiana.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Kissling and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 P.M.



Dennis W. Spinner
Mayor



Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer

EXHIBIT A
Council Meeting
October 13, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Consolidation Proposal

As the City faces budget concerns due to reduced revenues as the result of the COVID19 Pandemic, I have been looking closely at ways for our City Government to become more efficient while still providing the high quality of service our citizens are accustomed to and deserve.

These are concerns that need to be addressed now, but also going forward as a community. I am proposing a re-alignment of two of our major departments with the goals of reducing costs, increasing efficiency and providing high-quality service as the driving factors. This proposal will create a department that combines the efforts of the Street Department and the Parks Department under one Superintendent and result in cost savings in both personnel and daily operations.

Over the years, the growth in our City's parks has placed demands on the Parks Department that are not being adequately addressed. Concerns have been expressed to me that the level of maintenance in the parks is not where it should be. This, I believe, is a direct result of the continued growth of our public facilities. With the addition of Market Street Park and the completion of the Northside Park within the next year, the need for change is evident. Simply adding more personnel, especially during challenging economic times, is not the proper response. We need to focus all resources the City has to ensure the high reputation of the City Parks in Huntingburg is maintained. We have, without a doubt, one of the finest parks system in the State of Indiana, and we need to take moves that maintains that status.

The need to address those concerns coupled with the decline in revenues has prompted a thorough discussion on how the best utilize all the resources we have in order to control costs. A large percentage of the city budget is dedicated to personnel. I am extremely proud of the work that is accomplished every day by those who are employed by the City. But as every business facing economic challenges is doing, we are rethinking how we provide the services our citizens expect within current budget constraints.

Many of the challenges faced by the Parks Department center around having adequate staffing and resources. It was determined that much of the labor-intensive work done in the Parks was very similar to the work being done by the Street Department. In many cities across the country, and here in Indiana, this kind of department has the responsibility of the maintenance of the streets and park lands, as the manpower and equipment to do so is very similar. Such would be the case in this proposal. Our initial study on the potential cost savings in personnel costs under this consolidation is in excess of \$80,000 annually. That number is significant, and deserves not only more study, but action.

The structure being proposed is not unfamiliar to the City of Huntingburg. In our Energy Department, we have one Superintendent who oversees the operation of both the Gas and Electric Departments, with Crew Chiefs assigned to carry out the daily duties in each division. This is also true in our Water Department, where there are Crew Chiefs overseeing the Distribution System and the Treatment Facility under the direction of the Water Superintendent. Many times manpower and equipment from these departments are shared to make sure work is completed effectively and efficiently.

There are many details that need to be considered in finalizing this proposal, such as department structure, board structure and how the budget will be administered. Should the Council agree, I will instruct the City Attorney to begin drafting the proper ordinances to move us through this process. There will be input from the Council, the members of the Board of Public Works and the Park Board

members before any plan is finalized. And the leadership in each of the departments will be part of the discussion. The goal of this proposal is the re-alignment of work within the combined departments and that all current employees will have positions offered to them. We have dedicated employees who can achieve this goal and bring a high level of service to the citizens of Huntingburg. I believe this can be a positive move that is fiscally responsible for the City of Huntingburg and is sustainable in the long term and I ask for your support.