

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 24, 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, November 24, 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 Dubon, Bounds, Kissling and McPherron participated in this Common Council public meeting by electronic communication by which members were able to simultaneously communicate, and this meeting was made available to members of the public and the media streamed through the City of Huntingburg's YouTube channel accessed via Facebook link at the City's Facebook page (City of Huntingburg). A roll call was taken for attendance: Kissling-Present; Dubon-Present; McPherron-Present; Bounds-Present; Wehr-Absent. Also present in person 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 to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by Dubon to approve the claims as presented. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

The Mayor presented a proposed task order for Market Street Park Phase 2 to the agreement between the City of Huntingburg and Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group (TSWDG). He noted this planned project is an expansion of Market Street (Park). Rachel Steckler, Director of Community Development, and Brad Coomer, Wastewater Superintendent, presented a summary of this expansion of the Farbest Foods Common area. Steckler noted the project came about during construction of Market Street Park. The area is to honor deceased Farbest Foods employee, Jay Houchin. She noted that Ted Seger, of Farbest Foods approached the City about the project. She indicated that Farbest Foods, Ted Seger, personally, and Carrie Houchin all donated money as a part of this project. She noted the task order is to finalize the design and get construction documents ready. Mayor Spinner noted that the task order has been approved by the Park Board to move ahead with this. He noted the funding is all available through the (Dubois County Community) Foundation through the donations noted above. He indicated the Council needs to give approval to allow the project to proceed.

Spinner explained that the reason for Coomer's involvement is that Mr. Houchin was Coomer's Father-in-Law and he has a personal interest in this project, and has requested to be the project manager. He noted the Board of Public Works and Safety will also need to approve Coomer's involvement since the Wastewater Department is technically under the Board of Public Works and Safety. The Mayor would also like the Council to sign off on approval of Coomer as project manager for this project as it goes forward.

Coomer explained that most of the work will preferably be done in house.

The Mayor noted this is Task Order #5 to the agreement between the City and TSWDG for the planning and design of the project. The site design fee is \$44,600.00 and site survey expenses are \$9,200.00.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds to approve Task Order #5 noted above. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

The Mayor presented the 2021 City calendar and the list of 2021 holidays.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron to approve the 2021 City calendar as presented. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote

being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Dubon to approve the 2021 holidays as presented. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

The Mayor informed the Council that earlier this year the City of Huntingburg, the City of Jasper and Dubois County jointly applied for and received a grant through the Indiana Department of Health to develop a Dubois County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. He noted the project cost is \$40,000.00 with \$20,000.00 coming from local sources and \$20,000.00 of grant proceeds.

The Mayor presented an inter-local agreement between the City of Huntingburg, the City of Jasper and Dubois County to have VS Engineering (VS) develop a bicycle and pedestrian master plan in the County. Attorney Schneider explained that the City of Jasper would be the lead agency for the project and that if fees over \$40,000.00 are incurred the excess costs would be split 50% by the City of Jasper, 25% by the City of Huntingburg and 25% by Dubois County. This plan should put the City in a position to acquire grants from other State agencies.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling to recommend to the Board of Public Works and Safety to enter into the Inter-Local Agreement with Jasper and the County for the Dubois County Trails Grant. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

Attorney Schneider explained the need to set a public hearing date for the possible sale of City property. He noted that a couple of meetings ago the Council authorized getting appraisals for the vacant lot at 14th Street and Main Street in regard to a possible sale of the property to a potential developer. He noted the property is in the Main Street Economic Development Area. He noted the developer has signed a written offer to purchase the property for the average price of the two appraisals obtained; \$175,000.00. He noted that before the City can enter into the agreement the Mayor has to recommend that a particular board or committee conduct a public hearing on the advisability of selling City real estate and approving the purchase price.

The Mayor indicated that the Common Council conduct the public hearing and recommended the hearing be set for December 8, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. at the next Council meeting.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron to set December 8, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. as the time and date to conduct a public hearing on the consideration of the sale of City property. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

The Mayor presented a proposal from Crowe LLP to provide Organizational and Financial Assessment Services. He noted it is only an option. The fees proposed were not to exceed \$60,000.00 without prior written authorization.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He noted crews have been working on regular maintenance items.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He noted the FAA contacted the City with issues of ground radio noise in the airport area. He thinks the problem was corrected by tightening connections in the area. He noted the FAA will review again.

Reutepohler informed the Board that the \$9,000.00 for electric charging station was received. He noted the plan is to install the charging station near Highway 231 in Market Street Park.

Water Superintendent Meyerholtz presented his monthly report. He noted that he is experiencing a problem with the current chlorine pump, but with only two weeks to the installation of new equipment he will try to get through.

Meyerholtz noted that some connections near Main Street and 3rd Street were missed and the City crews corrected the issue.

Meyerholtz updated the Board on the filter plant upgrade.

Attorney Schneider, Clerk-Treasurer Dippel and each Council Member addressed Mayor Spinner and wished him well as this is his last Council meeting as Mayor due to his resignation to accept a Directors position with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 P.M. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.


Steven J. Schwinghamer
Mayor


Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer