

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

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, March 23, 2021 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, Kissling, Bounds and McPherron were physically present. Member Wehr was present virtually. 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). Also present were Mayor Schwinghamer, City Attorney Schneider and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel.

Mayor Schwinghamer called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Regular meeting. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Dubon to approve the claims as presented. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Mayor's Youth Council has appointed Max Rasche, the Youth Council's representative, to come to the City's Common Council meetings to be a liaison between the City and the High School.

The Mayor indicated that in the past, requests for landscaping and maintenance of 4th Street bids were sent out. He noted that the landscaping plan was more detailed than what the landscapers wanted to get involved in resulting in no one bidding on the job. He indicated that the City has asked Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group to redo the actual landscaping plan for strictly the landscaping part instead of the maintenance part. He indicated that once the plan is received another bid notice will be sent out.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He noted work was done on the inspection of the 6 inch sleeve over the 4 inch steel high pressure main on County Road 750 S. He indicated that the sleeve and the main were found to not be rubbing on each other, but monitoring will need to be done to identify future issues with the casing and the main.

Reutepohler notified the Board of the new Federal government requirements on how gas regulator stations are built. He noted that USDI is designing the new regulator station and parts are being ordered. The estimated cost is near \$30,000.00.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He presented quotes for a new pickup truck for the Electric Crew Chief. The low quote was from Sternberg Dodge for a 2021 Dodge Ram 1500 in the amount of \$31,031.00.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron to give Reutepohler permission to purchase the pickup from Sternberg Dodge for \$31,031.00. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

The Mayor noted that the Board needs to consider a decision on what to do about electric net metering and excess generation. There was a discussion including protecting the utility and incentivizing customers to generate their own electricity.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by Wehr to table the net metering issue for one year. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

Water Superintendent Meyerholtz presented his monthly report. He informed the Board of the proposed 7% water rate increase from Patoka Lake Regional Water and Sewer District. He noted the drying beds at the treatment plant are 90% complete and the solar field is near completion. He estimated the water plant upgrade will be complete in mid May.

Planning Director Lake informed the Council that due to a recent discovery of the makeup of the Plan Commission, the Council needs to make an appointment to the Plan Commission. It was noted that the Council's appointment needs to be an elected official, appointed official or an employee of the City. Proposed appointment candidates were discussed.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr to table this appointment until the next meeting so the Council can talk to candidates. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

Lake presented a favorable recommendation from the Huntingburg Plan Commission for replacing the current zoning and subdivision ordinances and map by replacing them with the new Unified Development Ordinance and Zoning map.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by Dubon to make the effective date of the Unified Development Ordinance April 1, 2021 and to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-08 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CITY OF HUNTINGBURG ZONING
ORDINANCE, SUBDIVISION CONTROL ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP
AND TO ADOPT THE NEW HUNTINGBURG UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT
ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP**

Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2021-08 at the same meeting it was introduced. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by McPherron to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-08.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2021-08 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2021-08 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:51 P.M.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Southwest Dubois County School Corporation Board has accepted the lease purchase contract that was negotiated (involving the School Corporation's Jackson Street property and the City's South 231 property). It was noted that both parties will need to pass resolutions to complete this transaction.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron to proceed with the transaction. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.


Member Bounds indicated that he would like the Council to consider a motion to appropriate funds within the Council budget to hire legal assistance to research the current and future structure of the City's Parks Department. There was a lengthy discussion on availability of funds; going outside the City's legal system; separation of powers of the Executive and Legislative branches of City government; Park governance options, makeup, authority and knowledge; and the possibility of having a memorandum explaining each Departments powers and responsibilities.

There was discussion on putting together a teaching session on how park boards are organized, what their functions are and what the functions of the Mayor, Park Director are. It was noted that no park board member has asked the City Attorney for any information or posed him any questions.

Member Kissling made a request to have the Park Board minutes to be put on to Boardpaq for Council's review.

It was clarified that Council members can get documents free of charge in exercising their legislative function.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.


Steven J. Schwinghamer
Mayor
Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer