

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 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, Wehr and McPherron 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 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 Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2022 regular meeting.

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

The Mayor updated the Council on the Street Sounds downtown audio system. He noted donations were received from Destination Huntingburg, \$10,000.00; and Huntingburg Merchants, \$2,500.00 and the Huntingburg Merchants have agreed to pay the streaming fee for the first 3 years.

The Mayor reminded all that May 5, 2022 is the National Day of Prayer.

Transit Director Blessinger updated the Council on the Transportation Department. She noted a capital grant for a new Transit Van is being considered. She indicated that there is possibly additional State money from INDOT which a justification is needed to receive. She would like to ask for an additional \$1.00 per hour for van drivers estimated to be \$5,568.00. A full-time van driver was discussed. She requested approval. She requested permission to apply for the INDOT 5311 Operating Grant and an INDOT Capital Grant (for the new van).

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve Blessinger to apply for INDOT 5311 and INDOT Capital Grants as noted above.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He informed the Board of a new Federal regulation coming out on regulator stations requiring them to have vent stacks (\$3,000-\$4,000 each) on them or put a small- smart point, SCADA system on each regulator stations (\$1,500 each). The City has 28 regulator stations.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He informed the Board that Austin Kaeck will begin the 2nd year of his apprenticeship. He informed the Board that bucket trucks have a 2 year wait with no price known until the 2nd year. Attorney Schneider indicated that the City may have to procure using Special Purchase procedures when a truck is needed.

A refund to OFS for overcharge of natural gas due to factory set pressure and temperature factors of new meters was discussed. The new meters were installed at OFS Plant #9 in late 2020 and were subsequently corrected in March of 2022. Reutepohler and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel explained the situation which resulted in a gas overcharge of \$169,386.40 (plus associated sales tax). It was noted the meters are now set correctly and the City was given software to check these factory settings. Clerk-Treasurer Dippel requested the Board approve the refund.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve the refund for the gas overcharge to OFS as noted above.

Water Superintendent Austin read his monthly report. No report was presented. The report will be given to Board members subsequent to the meeting.

Austin led a discussion on cost sharing for Sensus meter maintenance. It was noted that when the Water Department started their meter conversion to Sensus meters it was not known if or when the Gas and Electric Utilities would also switch. The Gas and Electric Utilities have decided to switch to like Sensus meters and will use the same infrastructure paid for by the Water Utility. Austin indicated that all four utilities will now share the costs of the infrastructure in place and split equally the annual maintenance fees. Since all utilities will be sharing the infrastructure going forward the Electric, Gas and Wastewater Utilities will reimburse the Water Utility \$33,695.00 each as a one-time charge; this was figured using only 16 years of the 20 year life of the infrastructure due to Water and Wastewater Utilities using the system for 4 subsequent years exclusively. The \$.25 per month per meter maintenance the Water Utility charged to the Wastewater Utility will cease. The \$.49 per month per meter rental charge will continue since the Water Utility paid for all the water meters, but the meters benefit both Water and Wastewater Utilities.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the cost sharing for Sensus meter and maintenance noted above.

A proposed ordinance to create a new fund and accept specific donated funds for accumulating funds for the League Stadium Gift shop upgrade was presented. It was noted that multiple donors will contribute to the gift shop renovation which is to be the terminus of tours at Leagues Stadium. The new fund is to be known as the "League Stadium Gift Shop Fund".

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2022-17 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING RESTRICTED DONATIONS AND
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL FUND TO BE KNOWN AS LEAGUE STADIUM
GIFT SHOP FUND IN THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG**

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. 2022-17 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-17.

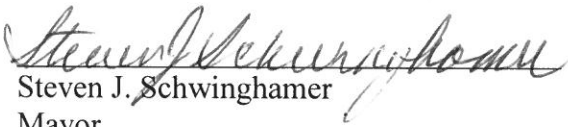
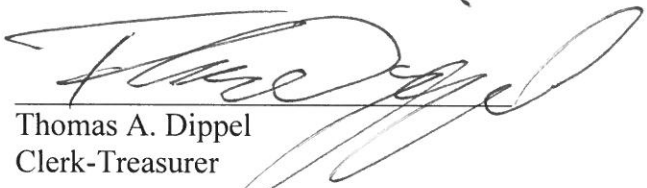
Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2022-17 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2022-17 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:30 P.M.

There was discussion on the alternatives to the demolition of 405 N. Main Street that the City purchased in order to tear down and construct a parking lot for downtown. After discussions it was suggested that the City wait to tear down the structure and hear proposals from interested parties who present plans for the house and are willing to pay for the building, and the needed renovations. Parking spaces are suggested to be retained by the City.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Bounds and carried to temporarily suspend action at 405 N. Main Street, Huntingburg, Indiana including building a parking lot, and receive public input into potential development for the property at the Council's regular meeting of May 24, 2022.

The Mayor indicated that he will be meeting with INDOT Officials and State Senator Mark Messmer about the stop light at 14th Street and Main Street in Huntingburg.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Wehr, seconded by McPherron and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 P.M.


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