

## UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 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, Dubon, Bounds and Wehr 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 Schwinghamer, City Attorney Schneider and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel. Member McPherron was absent.

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 11, 2023 regular meeting.

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

This was the date, time and place set for a public hearing for the Huntingburg Senior Center Project grant administration. These project minutes copied from Leah Hawkins, Resiliency Coordinator at IND15RPC:

Mayor Steve Schwinghamer called the public hearing to order and asked for public comments. When no one spoke, he mentioned that Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission was the only organization that sent in a proposal for grant administration. Another organization responded by saying that it did not have time to take on the work. Mayor Schwinghamer then introduced Leah Hawkins from Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission.

Ms. Hawkins began, "I am Leah Hawkins; I am the Resiliency Coordinator at IND15RPC. The City of Huntingburg plans to submit an application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities Program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. These funds will be used for a community development project that will fund a senior center located at 4809 N Leland Dr. OCRA requires two public hearings prior to the submission of the application. Public hearings allow the residents to express their views on this project or any other project funded with Community Development Block Grant Funds. I will be taking minutes tonight and will be recording comments. The minutes of the hearing and the sign-in sheet – which I will be passing around - will all be included in the application. I also have a paper copy of a survey that we are distributing to garner more input from the public. I believe that the City also will be posting that to their Facebook page in the coming days, so fill out a paper survey here and let people know to check Facebook for the digital survey. Again, this is an opportunity for anyone to come forward to speak on the proposed senior center project. Please speak loudly and state your name at the beginning of your comments."

Mayor Schwinghamer asked, "Do we have anyone coming forward?"

Rita Reller introduced herself, "I'm Rita Reller, I'm the Director of the Senior Center and we've been trying for five years to get a new senior center and have been promised it for about that long too. We're in a temporary location now. It was supposed to be two years; we've been there five years in June. So, we are looking forward to having a new place that we can call our own where the seniors can get together and play cards, bingo, and have other activities. Maybe we can do some outdoor activities there and I wouldn't have to load my car up every week in the summer and go down and play cornhole at the park. We'll have everything centralized."

Mayor Schwinghamer thanked Mrs. Reller.

Ms. Hawkins said, "Members of the council you are also welcome to make a comment if you'd like." When no one came forward, she continued, "Again, I will be passing around an attendance sheet and a survey as well if anyone would be willing to fill that out. That helps the application, OCRA likes to see some community involvement. I know the seniors have a card tournament on Tuesday nights so we couldn't get a lot of them here

tonight. Hopefully, at our second public hearing in June, we will be able to get a few more people here and garner more comments.”

Councilman Glen Kissling said, “I do have one question about how much money we are applying for.”

We are applying for \$451,350. The local match requirement is 10% making the local match \$50,150. That building will be renovated with really wonderful bathroom facilities. The current location has one ADA-compliant bathroom and it often gets congested after events. So having more facilities is definitely better. It will also have more entrances and exits which also makes it a little bit safer. As Rita said, there will be a lot of room for outdoor activities and more room for indoor activities as well. I think line dancing was a big one that we will have room for inside.

Mayor Schwinghamer asked, “So, the next hearing will be in June, is that correct?” Ms. Hawkins concurred. Mayor continued, “And obviously we would like people to come.” Ms. Hawkins concurred once more.

A councilman asked, “Will it be on a regular meeting night?”

Ms. Hawkins said, “Yes. I believe it’s on the second Tuesday of the month. June 13<sup>th</sup> is ringing a bell.”

Mayor Schwinghamer added, “The second thing I’ve got in regards to that particular thing is establishing what I would call a ‘senior center steering committee’ which is something that OCRA does require if I remember correctly. Or at least some type of committee to oversee what will happen, is that correct?”

Ms. Hawkins said, “They do want to have some idea of what kind of programming and direction of where the senior center will go in the future.”

Mayor continued, “I think I sent out an email to you all in regards to that. I might have changed my mind a bit on the number. I think I put down five members on that steering committee, I think maybe we should have seven. I mention that because I think we want a council member from that particular district in this case it would be Jeff. We would have the planning director on that committee. I would like to have three members of citizens instead of just one, that would be the two changes I made as far as the number of people that would be on that committee. Rita would be on the committee as the senior director now, and I would be on that committee. So, if it’s alright with you, I would like for you to consider the approval of the senior center steering committee. I’ll make a motion to approve that type of situation.”

Councilman Jeff Bounds asked, “Are we approving the members or are we just approving it to be a seven-member...?”

Mayor Schwinghamer said, “I think right now we are just approving it to be a seven-member [committee] because right now I would like to make sure we get good input from the three citizens I don’t want to just name them without actually making sure that we’re in agreement on who they are. So, I think just the seven-member committee right now. So, do I have a motion?”

Councilman Kissling made the motion and Councilman Bounds seconded. With none opposed, the motion was carried unanimously by those present.

With no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned.

The Mayor recommended for approval a seven member OCRA required Huntingburg Senior Center Steering Committee for programing and direction consideration in the future, consisting of Council member Bounds, Senior Citizen’s Director Reller, Planning Director Lake, Mayor Schwinghamer and 3 Huntingburg citizens.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve of the seven member Senior Center Steering Committee as presented.

The Mayor informed the Council of the need to separate out the City of Huntingburg Substance Abuse Policy for: PHMSA Compliance from the City of Huntingburg Policy and Procedure Manual with needed revisions and corrections for insurance purposes.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Dubon and carried to approve the revised City of Huntingburg Substance Abuse Policy for: PHMSA Compliance as presented.

The Mayor presented the most recent Program & Events Report.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler informed the Board that bids and specs for the new bucket truck have been sent to three companies with a bid opening scheduled for June 20, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. A committee to receive and open bids will need to be set up. Clerk-Treasurer Dippel suggested the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer and Energy Superintendent be on the committee.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve appointment of the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer and Energy Superintendent to the Bid Opening Committee for the Electric Bucket Truck.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He informed the Board that 600 feet of 2" plastic gas main was bored in near Holland replacing the current main that was trenched in over 20 years ago and is now exposed by erosion.

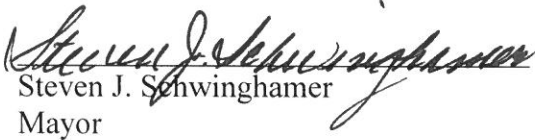
Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He reported maintenance on the North Substation is complete and the Central Substation will be done today. He noted the 20 year old battery packs are in need of replacing at the Central Substation as soon as possible; 96 replacement batteries will be needed at a total cost of \$42,391.00. Technicians are looking into new battery technology; Reutepohler will report on findings at the next meeting. He noted the lead times for the batteries is 12-16 weeks. This issue will be tabled until more information is obtained.

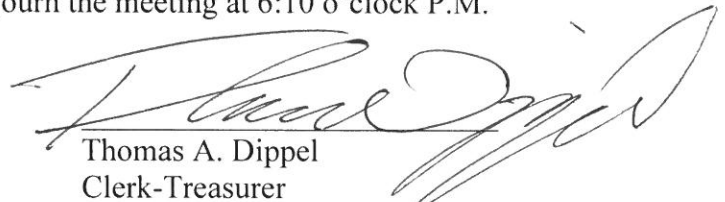
Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report. He noted the Water Department replaced a cracked, leaking main across from the water plant, and a leak at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Street. He presented an invoice from National Water Services, LLC for refurbishment of the failed #1 high service pump in the amount of \$16,052.00. He deemed the repair an emergency and authorized work and now would like the Board to approve.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve the payment of the invoice from National Water Services, LLC in the amount of \$16,052.00.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented the submitted annual ARPA Spending report and the 2024 City Budget calendar for review.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 o'clock P.M.

  
Steven J. Schwinghamer  
Mayor

  
Thomas A. Dippel  
Clerk-Treasurer