

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, October 10, 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, Wehr, Dubon, Bounds 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 the City of Huntingburg's website. 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 September 26, 2023 regular meeting.

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

Brian DeKemper, President of Destination Huntingburg, presented their annual update to the Council. He noted goals, accomplishments and events. He requested from the City an additional \$10,000.00 to be used for staff. The total request is \$30,000.00 of funding from the City. The request was noted with no action taken.

The Mayor informed the Council that upon review there is no fire hydrant on the east side of Hwy 231 at Sunset Drive near a proposed development. He noted that the developer is willing to pay half the cost of a main extension up to \$25,000.00. The total cost is estimated to be just under \$50,000.00. He noted the issue was discussed at the last Board of Public Works and Safety meeting and they recommended the project to the Utility Board. He noted the main will be bored under Hwy. 231.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the project described above.

The Mayor indicated that Ordinance No. 2023-20 (Chicken Ordinance) can now be considered for adoption. He noted the ordinance was previously introduced.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by Wehr and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-20 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 98 AND CHAPTER 34.04 OF THE HUNTINGBURG CODE OF ORDINANCES ADOPTING REGULATIONS FOR THE KEEPING OF POULTRY IN THE CITY LIMITS AND PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2023-20 the vote being 3 ayes (Wehr, Bounds, Dubon), 2 nays (Kissling, McPherron), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-20 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 5:57 P.M.

The Mayor indicated that he will be Vetoing Ordinance No. 2023-20 and explained that in his opinion he does not believe this is the time and place for allowing chickens, and that this ordinance is not in the best interest of every citizen in the City.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel indicated that this is the date, time and place advertised for the public hearing on the 2024 City Budget. The Mayor opened the budget hearing. Dippel indicated that the 2024 budget is \$11,823,942.00 and that it represents the budgets reviewed and suggested changes made in the August 29, 2023 budget meetings. He noted the budgeted tax rate is artificially high at \$2.9205 per \$100.00 of assessed value to assure the maximum levy. He estimated the actual tax rate to be approximately \$.9576 per \$100.00 of assessed value. There was discussion on the budget.

The Mayor asked for comments on the 2024 budget from the public. No comments were received. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-21 entitled:

ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES (2024)

The budget adoption meeting will be on October 24, 2023.

The 2024 employee salary ordinance was discussed. Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented a proposed ordinance showing what a 3%, 4% and 5% increase would be. There was discussion noting that the salary ordinance raises the high end of the range for positions but is not necessarily the amount of increase employees would receive. There was also discussion on changing the standby pay since it has not been changed in 8 years.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to increase the Standby pay in the salary ordinance to \$15.00 per day for weekdays and \$20.00 per day for Weekends and Holidays.

Rate ranges and discretion to determine rates were discussed. An increase of 5% to the high range is used in the ordinance. Five percent may not be the increase that all employees receive as performance will be considered in employees pay rate change for 2024. The change in the Standby rate is also changed as noted above.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-22 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES FOR THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2024

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-22 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-22.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2023-22 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-22 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:48 P.M.

Salaries of elected officers for 2024 was discussed. A 5% increase was included in the proposed ordinance.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-23, containing a 5% pay increase, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2024

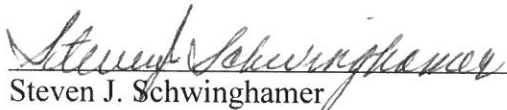
A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-23 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-23.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2023-23 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-23 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:53 P.M.

The Mayor informed the Council of a proposed land trade near the proposed Senior Center. Scott Steinkamp would like to trade 1.4 acres on the north side of the Senior Center for .4 acres on the south side of the Senior Center in order to create a developable lot next to property he already owns. The properties will be valued and Attorney Schneider will present a proposed resolution at a future meeting.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 o'clock P.M.


Steven J. Schwinghamer
Mayor


Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer