

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

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, July 23, 2019 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 Blessinger, Kissling, McPherron, Bounds and Wehr were present. Also present were Mayor Spinner, City Attorney Schneider and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel.

Mayor Spinner called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Blessinger, seconded by Kissling and carried to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019 meeting.

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

The Mayor presented a form of a letter (Exhibit A) to USDA presenting additional information for financial assistance in purchasing a police vehicle. Assistant Police Chief Kramer explained the process and indicated that the City qualifies for a grant to cover 35% (approximately \$11,000) of the cost of an outfitted vehicle. Kramer indicated that this is a public meeting to allow the public to comment on the use of the USDA grant to purchase a police vehicle. The Mayor asked if there were any public comments on the request of the City for the funds from USDA for the grant for the additional police vehicle. Phil Schneider indicated that he is in favor of using the grant for purchase of a police vehicle. No other comments were received.

The Mayor presented a "Petition to Vacate a Public Alley". The alley is an east west connecting alley between two north south alleys between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets and between Chestnut and Walnut Streets. Planning Director Lake explained that all contiguous property owners have signed the petition. He noted the alley is a plated alley that has never been realized. It was noted that a public hearing needs to be set for this issue.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Kissling and carried to set a public hearing on this vacation to be held at the regular meeting on August 13, 2019 at 5:30 P.M.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He noted the City work at Hwy 56 and Kluemper Road is complete and all the forms have been sent into the State to get reimbursed.

Reutepohler presented 3 quotes for a welder for the Gas Department. The low quote was from Arc Weld, Inc. in the amount of \$6,085.00 for a Miller Trailblazer 325 welder. He noted the current welder is not big enough for upcoming projects and noted the high cost of using USDI to hire to weld. He noted that the department's Welder is spending 80% of his time welding.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the purchase of a Miller welder from Arc Weld, Inc. in the amount of \$6,085.00.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He informed the Council that he has ordered a set of rope lights to see how they will work in the alleys off of 4<sup>th</sup> Street. He estimated the cost of lighting; which includes lights, wire strands, and photo cell; the three alleys is approximately \$1,400.00. The cost would be paid by the Electric Department. Reutepohler will check with building owners to see if they agree to have attachments to their building. Attorney Schneider indicated that the City would have to acquire Attachment Easements from the building owners and get them recorded.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Blessinger and carried to approve the purchase of rope lighting, providing permission is granted by the building owners.

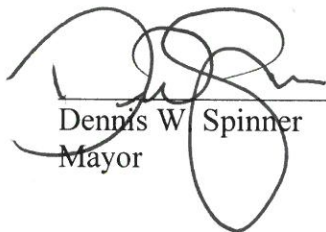
Water Superintendent Meyerholtz presented his monthly report. He noted that an investigation of the interference of the Sensus meter reading system indicated that there were three unauthorized parties in the City's frequency. The parties were informed and subsequently moved out of the frequency; resulting in greatly improved data transmission.

Meyerholtz updated the Board on the plant upgrade noting the plans are scheduled to be ready to send to IDEM by the end of the month for their final approval for both the distribution system and the filter plant. A bid letting is planned for September.

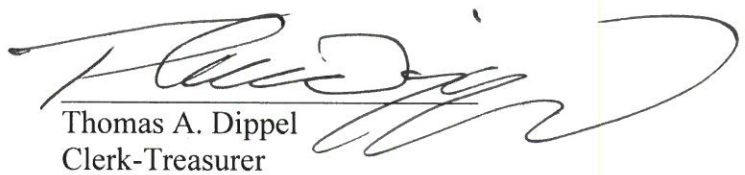
Meyerholtz recommended a water rate study be started as it is a requirement of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) who is proposed to finance the project.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Blessinger and carried to approve Water Superintendent Meyerholtz's recommendation and have O.W. Krohn and Associates conduct a rate study for the upgrades to the water system.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Wehr, seconded by McPherron and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 o'clock P.M.



Dennis W. Spinner  
Mayor



Thomas A. Dippel  
Clerk-Treasurer

EXHIBIT A  
Common Council / Utility Board Meeting  
7/23/19  
5:30 p.m.

July 23, 2019

Mr. Craig McGowan  
CP Southern District Director  
Community Programs  
Rural Development  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1484 Executive Boulevard  
Jasper, IN 47546

Mr. McGowan,

You had requested additional information from The City of Huntingburg in regard to our request to USDA for assistance in funding a project for our police department.

The Huntingburg Police Department is pledged to have 14 full time sworn officers. This includes the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, a Lieutenant, Detective Sergeant, a Narcotics officer, a School Resource Officer, two K9 officers, and 6 patrolman. The Huntingburg Police Department has been operating at an understaffed capacity for the majority of the year of 2019 already due to officers retiring, resigning, and switching departments.

The fleet of the Huntingburg Police Department contains one 2013 Chevrolet Caprice in excellent condition, a 2019 AWD Dodge Durango in excellent condition, two 2018 AWD Dodge Chargers in excellent condition, a 2017 AWD Dodge Charger in good condition, a 2016 AWD Dodge Charger in good condition, two 2014 Ford Explorers in good condition, a 2014 AWD Dodge Charger in good condition, two 2012 Dodge Chargers in fair condition with above average mileage for the year of vehicle, one 2010 Crown Victoria in fair condition with high mileage, one 2010 Crown Victoria in good condition with low mileage, two 2007 Crown Victorias in fair condition with high mileage.

The Huntingburg Police Department has been operating at an understaffed capacity for the majority of the year of 2019 already due to officers retiring, resigning, and switching departments.

The request for a 2019 AWD Dodge Charger will replace a 2007 Crown Victoria that has high mileage and has been having mechanical issues. The 2007 Crown Victoria will be traded in towards the value of the new 2019 AWD Dodge Charger. The purchase of the new 2019 AWD Dodge Charger will be used for the Narcotics Officer and will be a marked police vehicle. It will be outfitted with what is called "ghost striping" in an effort for the vehicle to blend in with everyday traffic, while still being able to perform his regular duties as a police officer in plain clothes.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have further questions, please let me know.

Dennis W. Spinner, Mayor  
City of Huntingburg