

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

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, August 11, 2020 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, Bounds, Kissling, McPherron 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 Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2020 Regular meeting.

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

The Mayor presented a proposed ordinance establishing no parking on the west side of North Geiger Street from the 4th Street curb line north a distance of 52 feet (one parking spot). This should allow better traffic flow. The ordinance was recommended by the Board of Public Works and Safety.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-19 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HUNTINGBURG CODE OF
ORDINANCE CHAPTER 75 PROVIDING FOR NO PARKING ON PORTIONS
OF CERTAIN DESIGNATED STREETS WITHIN 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. 2020-19 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Dubon and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-19.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2020-19 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2020-19 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 5:40 P.M.

The Mayor presented a summary of the Huntingburg Emergency Loan Program activity and the process of the proposed 2nd round of loans. He noted there is \$52,500 remaining to be allocated in the program and requested approval for the 2nd round of loans.

A motion was made by Bounds, seconded by Wehr and carried to move forward with this (2nd round of Huntingburg Emergency Loan Program).

It was noted that the budget meetings for August 12, 2020 have been cancelled to allow for more analytical time since this budget deals with variables posed by COVID-19 uncertainties. He suggested the meetings be held on August 21, 2020 at 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to set two special public meetings of the Common Council to review the City 2021 budget; one at 9:00 A.M. and one at 1:00P.M. on August 21, 2020.

Water Superintendent Meyerholtz informed the Board that a sodium hypochlorite generator burned a cell out. He noted that sodium hypochlorite is used as a disinfectant. He noted a new cell only, would cost \$27,480.00 to replace. He noted that a new generator would cost \$54,530.00. He noted that with not knowing what caused the burn

out, and knowing the regular recommended acid washing maintenance procedures had not been followed due to the supplier indicating the unit was maintenance free, he recommended the purchase of a new generator. He informed the Board that the old unit would be kept for parts for future repair. He indicated that there is contingency money in the water upgrade project. He had planned to add as a change order to the Reynolds Contract. There was a question of whether Reynolds would charge the customary 10% of cost to purchase and install. He noted he will ask Midwestern Engineers if the City buys the unit, if it will save the 10% upcharge. There was no objection to Meyerholtz's recommendation.

City Attorney Schneider explained that the City applied for funds to eliminate blight in the area commonly known as Dairyland on Main Street from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). He noted that program funding has been put on pause due to finance issues due to COVID but is expected to be refunded in the next year or the following year. He noted that in order to keep moving forward with the program the City will need to acquire the property. He stated that Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission recommended moving forward with obtaining an option to acquire the property. He noted that in order to purchase the property the City would need to obtain two appraisals of the property. He presented a proposed resolution indicating the City's interest in acquiring the property and authorizing two appraisals. He noted that once the appraisals are obtained the City can negotiate obtaining an option of the acquisition of the property.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by McPherron and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-20 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA DETERMINING AN INTEREST IN THE
PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE**

Attorney Schneider presented a proposed resolution concerning lots at the southwest corner of 14th Street and Main Street intersection. He noted that a developer has approached the City indicating an interest in doing a commercial development on that lot. He reminded the Council that that property is included in the Main Street Economic Development Area. He explained that since this would be an economic development project in this area two appraisals are needed and then the City may negotiate a sales price. The resolution would authorize the Mayor to get two appraisals, and enter into negotiations to sell the property.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-21 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION DETERMINING AN INTEREST IN THE SALE OF
REAL ESTATE, AND AUTHORIZING THE APPRAISAL THEREOF**

With the Governor's prohibition moratorium to utility shutoffs ending on August 14, 2020 the process of continuing and notifying customers who are delinquent in paying their utilities was discussed. It was noted that utilities subject to rules of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) are required to offer six month payment plans for delinquent accounts. It was noted that the City of Huntingburg is not subject to the IURC's rules.

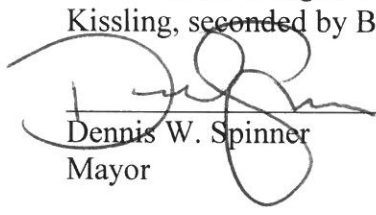
A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by McPherron and carried to offer a six month utility bill amortization agreement to all those effected by the COVID-19 moratorium for one billing cycle.

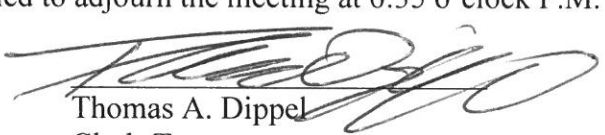
A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to notify all delinquent account customers of the end of the moratorium and the opportunity to enter into an amortization agreement.

There was discussion on who can obtain utilities in their name for a rental unit. It was discussed to only allow a person who is named on the lease agreement to obtain

utilities in their name. Landlord information and verifications were also discussed. No decisions were made and options are to be looked into.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 o'clock P.M.



Dennis W. Spinner
Mayor
Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer