

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 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, McPherron and Bounds 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. Member Wehr was absent.

Mayor Schwinghamer called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 regular meeting.

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

The Mayor informed the Council that someone is interested in purchasing the China Wok building (317 E. 4th Street) from the City. The Mayor recommended the sale of the property and designated the Common Council to hold a public hearing on whether or not to sell the property.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Dubon and carried to set a public hearing for the sale of the China Wok building (317 E. 4th Street) for 5:30 P.M. on November 9, 2021 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the Gas Utility monthly report. He informed the Board of the department's activities during the month. He informed the Board of new natural gas hedges for November 2021 through April 2022. He noted the price of natural gas is 44% higher this October over last October. He told the Board that this could be an expensive winter, depending on the temperature.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He reported that lead times for the transformers ordered in May were expected to be received in September/October are now expected to be delivered in January/February 2022 for 3 Phase and July/August 2022 for residential. He requested approval for emergency purchases of transformers in addition to the ones already ordered, due to lack of availability.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve authorization to spend up to \$15,000.00 for transformers.

Reutepohler informed the Board that he will be receiving 12 Sensus electric meters to install and evaluate how they work in the City's system. Once tested he is proposing to order 500 meters and eventually a total of 3,500 meters over 5 years. He noted that quoted prices are good for approximately 1 year. He will report to the Board how the test meters worked.

Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report. He reported the activity of the Water Department. He noted the equipment for the replacement of the Hickory Drive water main has been received.

A revised 2022 Employee Salary ordinance was presented. The revisions were for additional pay to police officers to help retain the officers. He noted the increase was 5% for police officers in addition to changes to the longevity pay to make it more attractive to stay. It was noted that with the change of pay the cost is still within the approved 2022 budget.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to amend Ordinance No. 2021-36 to change the police longevity pay as presented. Ordinance No. 2021-36 is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES FOR THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2022

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to adopt Ordinance No 2021-36 as amended.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2021-36 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2021-36 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:12 P.M.

The Mayor informed the Council of discussion with the City's health insurance administrator, Dunn & Associates, concerning the City's insurance including the Huntingburg Housing Authority even though they are not City employees. The cost of the provided insurance is paid to the City's Plan by the Huntingburg Housing Authority. He noted that due to long term liability exposure, Dunn & Associates recommended, for the protection of the City and the Citizens of the City, taking the Huntingburg Housing Authority employee off of the City's group insurance and having the Huntingburg Housing Authority obtain its own health insurance policy for employees.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Dubon and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-37 entitled:

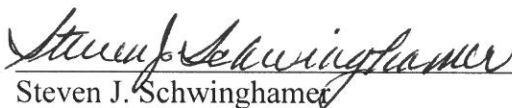
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2005-30 REGARDING BENEFITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS, APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY

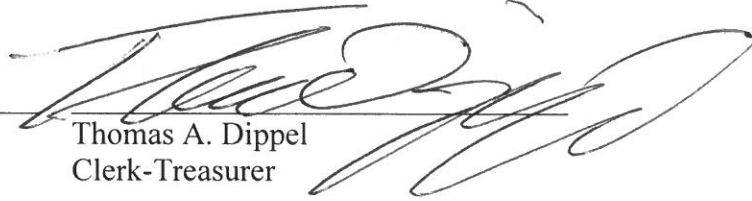
A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2021-37 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Dubon and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-37.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2021-37 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Wehr), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2021-37 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:24 P.M.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 P.M.


Steven J. Schwinghamer
Mayor


Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer