

**UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

**5:30 P.M.**

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 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, McPherron, Wehr and Bolte were physically present. Member Bounds was absent. 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 Elkins, City Attorney Schneider and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel.

Mayor Elkins called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2024 regular meeting.

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

Transit Director Blessinger updated the Council on the selling of the surplus van. She noted that a \$400.00 bid was the loan bid received. She has more interest in the van now, and recommends the City reject all bids and re-bid the van for sale.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bolte and carried to reject the only bid received for \$400.00 and authorize to re-advertise for sealed bids.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He requested approval to purchase 150 Sensus meters from Groebner at a total price of \$55,582.50, saving \$78.44 per meter due to price hike.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to accept the purchase from Groebner.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He presented a quote for underground wire from Brownstown Electric Supply in the amount of \$11,375.00 and requested approval to purchase. It was noted that Brownstown Electric Supply is the only supplier in this area for this wire.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bolte and carried to approve the purchase of underground wire from Brownstown Electric Supply in the amount of \$11,375.00.

Reutepohler presented a Bid Proposal from Core & Main for 3 phase electric meters. He noted the meters could be delivered at multiple intervals. He requested approval of the per unit price of the meters. There was discussion.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to accept the cost per unit price, as presented, not to exceed \$100,000.00 in total.

Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report. He updated the Board on the distribution, filter plant and metering systems.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel indicated that this was the scheduled meeting for the adoption of the 2025 City Budget. He noted no changes were made since the public hearing that was held on October 3, 2024.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-19 entitled:

**ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES (2025)**

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2024-19 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-19 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:10 P.M.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel informed the Council that this was the date, time and place advertised for a public hearing on the additional appropriation of \$472,145.00 in the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (# 2402).

The Mayor opened the public hearing. The Mayor asked for public comments. No comments were received. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bolte and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-20 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE  
2024 BUDGET YEAR  
(ARP CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND #2402 -\$472,145.00)**

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2024-20 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-20 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:12 P.M.

The 2025 Employees Salary ordinance was presented with various percent increase options. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Bolte, seconded by Kissling and carried to approve the 4% increase option provided. It was noted that the increases are to the high end of current ranges.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-21 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES FOR THE CITY OF  
HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2025**

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bolte and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-21 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Bolte, seconded by Wehr and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-21.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2024-21 the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-21 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 6:27 P.M.

The 2025 Elected Officers Salary ordinance was presented with various percent increase options. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bolte and carried to increase the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer's salary by 4% and the Council members' salary by 2.5%.


A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bolte and carried to introduce and number Ordinance No. 2024-22 entitled:


**AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE  
CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2025**

Citizen James Carter addressed the Council requesting help with his endeavor to remove an Indiana law (IC 6-9-39) called the County Option Dog Tax in order for the cities and counties within the state to have more flexibility with controlling the animals within their respective areas. He requested individuals call Representative Steve Bartels

and ask him to sponsor a bill to remove IC 6-9-39 so that the counties have more flexibility than they currently have concerning these animal issues.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Kissling and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 o'clock P.M.

  
M. Neil Elkins  
Mayor

  
Thomas Dippel  
Clerk-Treasurer