

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 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 McPherron, Wehr and Bolte were physically present. Member Kissling was present virtually. 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 McPherron, seconded by Bolte to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025 regular meeting. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Bolte to approve the claims as presented. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

The Mayor presented a new updated Medical Qualification Policy for the Huntingburg City Transit. He summarized the policy reporting requirements including for prescription and non-prescription medicines.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bolte to adopt the new updated Medical Qualification Policy for the Huntingburg City Transit. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He noted changing 41 meters to the new Sensus meters. He informed the Board of the moving of gas lines on 1st Street in front of the Police Station due to the updated infrastructure project in the area.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He presented a quote from Brownstown Electric (sole supplier in territory) in the amount of \$12,475.00 for URD Primary wire for converting overhead wiring to underground in the City Park.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr to approve the purchase from Brownstown Electric noted above. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

Reutepohler presented bids received for a small bucket truck. The low bid was from Altec in the amount of \$161,515.00, including a \$5,000.00 trade-in for the 2008 F550 with Terex TL 38. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report. He noted crews have started hydrant flushing and exercising of system valves. Backflow devices at City buildings are being checked.

There was discussion on financial alternatives, provided by O.W. Krohn of O.W. Krohn and Associates, to address the water plant filter leaks estimated to cost \$1,200,000.00. Superintendent Austin recommended the alternative that the water utility pay \$600,000.00 and the water utility borrow the remaining from the Electric Cash Reserve Fund to pay back over the next 5 years. It was noted that there would be ample funding needed for main replacements. Bid documents will need to be prepared to see

what the exact cost will be. Austin would like to bid both coating material options discussed (Obic and Warren 301-01) for the project, as both have good references and costs are estimated to be similar.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to authorize the preparation of bid documents (for the water filter leak project). Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

Attorney Schneider presented the revised Gas Rate ordinance. It was noted that the rate increase is estimated to be approximately 17% rather than the original proposed estimate of 24%. A report presented by O.W. Krohn was discussed.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bolte to introduce Ordinance No. 2025-08 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2013-36 AND
ORDINANCE NO. 2022-22 ESTABLISHING A NEW SCHEDULE OF RATES
AND CHARGES FOR NATURAL GAS AND SERVICES RENDERED BY THE
MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS UTILITY OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG,
INDIANA**

Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.


A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr to set a public hearing for the proposed rates for April 22, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.

It was noted that all utilities' connection, disconnection and reconnection fees will be adjusted so all utilities are the same. Attorney Schneider will create a proposed ordinance to address these matters.

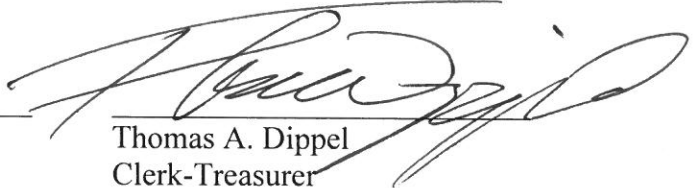
The Mayor informed the Council that new streaming software and hardware are being looked at in preparation for the State mandated meeting publication and retention requirements beginning July 1, 2025. He noted the system should be easier to administer, not requiring IT professionals to operate.

Maleah Dearing updated the Council on the Mayor's Youth Council goals and activities.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 o'clock P.M. Upon call of roll for the acceptance of the motion, the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Bounds), in favor of approving the motion, the motion carried.



M. Neil Elkins
Mayor



Thomas A. Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer