BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
Thursday, September 3, 2026
8:30 A.M.

The Board of Public Works & Safety of the City of Huntingburg met in regular session on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at the hour of 8:30 A.M. in the Council Chambers of the Huntingburg City Hall. 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. Members Elkins, Fitch, Blessinger, Souders and Schmett were present. Also present were Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Stevens and City Attorney Schneider.

Mayor Elkins called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Fitch, seconded by Souders and carried to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2026 meeting as presented.

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

Kathryn Wilder, representing the Huntingburg Merchants Association, presented a Special Events Application for the 41st Annual Christmas Stroll to be held November 13th to 15th, 2026.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Fitch and carried to approve the Special Events Application for the Christmas Stroll noted above, with setup on November 12th.

Mayor Elkins presented recommendations for approval on exceptions to amending the existing Bicycle Ordinance, which will include the use of E-bikes, Scooters, and Other Mobile Devices. The proposed amended ordinance being considered will prohibit devices from most sidewalks. Elkins noted the Park Board recently recommended exceptions for areas within the City Parks. He recommended the updated ordinance include exceptions for the use of bicycles along 19th Street from Chestnut Street heading West to the entrance of Northside Park; sidewalk along US Highway 231 from Chestnut Street heading South to the intersection of US Highway 231 and Sunset Drive; and the sidewalk along Chestnut Street heading North from the intersection of Fourth Street heading into Niehaus Park.

City Attorney Schneider noted the ordinance would clarify that bicycles must be in the far-right hand side, in their travel lane, in the direction they are going; groups riding no more than two abreast; and can't ride on sidewalks anywhere in the city, with exceptions designated by the boards (Park Board, and Board of Public Works and Safety) for this provision.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Blessinger and carried to approve the recommendations presented to the Council.

Mayor Elkins shared a letter from the Indiana Department of Environment Management notifying the City of Huntingburg being designated as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) due to the recently revised MS4 definitions. He presented Task Order No. 2026-03 with Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. to develop and submit a waiver letter from the program, since our current population is below 10,000, with compensation of services not to exceed $5,000.00.

A motion was made by Souders, seconded by Blessinger and carried to approve the task order presented with Commonwealth Engineers, Inc., not to exceed $5,000.00.

Wastewater Superintendent Coomer presented his monthly report. He presented Change Order No. 7 for an increase in the amount of $10,309.20 for the contract with Reynolds Construction, LLC for the Division "A" Wastewater Treatment Plant to add rip rap to the ditch being washed out from the discharge unit.

A motion was made by Elkins, seconded by Schmett and carried to approve Change Order No. 7 as presented.

Coomer noted that Commonwealth Engineers has the demolition package complete and requested approval to advertise for bids. He noted there will be a base bid, with several alternates depending on the buildings and structures.

A motion was made by Blessinger, seconded by Souders and carried to proceed with advertising for bids.

Coomer requested a change in the current procedure for the Excavation Permits being received and issued. He noted incidents where contractors aren't submitting the permit application two (2) working days before beginning their excavation. He suggested the contractors submit the application online, which then will be sent for approval to the Street and Wastewater Superintendents. After approval, the application then would be sent to the Clerk-Treasurer's Office to proceed with the application fee being collected. Violation fines were discussed.

A motion was made by Blessinger, seconded by Elkins and carried to approve the procedure Coomer proposed.

Street Superintendent Stamm presented his monthly report. He noted a temporary fix was completed on 8th Street and Van Buren Street until the repaving is completed by Calcar Paving in November 2026. He also updated the Board on the paving issues with J.H. Rudolph on the recent repaving of streets that are part of our Community Crossing Grant projects will be completed later in September 2026.

Stamm informed the Board of receiving the Railroads Safety Implementation Reimbursement Grant that was recently applied for, but nothing has been committed at this point. He noted the grant ended up being a 50/50 split, making the City's match around $42,000.00. Stamm indicated he reached out to both TrainFo and Norfolk

Southern, to see if they can help lower the cost of the Rail Crossing Information System, or the annual fee.

Stamm requested quotes from seven contractors for cleanup of the limb yard, and only received one. Stamm recommending waiting until the pile is larger before proceeding with the cleanup. Alternative methods were discussed, and will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Stamm informed the Board of Fall Clean-up beginning October 8, 2026. The schedule for the clean-up is:

Thursday, October 8, 2026	1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Friday, October 9, 2026	1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Saturday, October 10, 2026	8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Elkins, seconded by Schmett and carried to approve the dates and times of the Fall Clean-up.

Stamm recommended the disposal prices remain the same as the 2026 Spring Clean-up, with a couple of noted increases. He suggested increasing the 'Car Tires w/Rims' from $6.00/Tire to $8.00/Tire; and increasing the 'Big Tires, Tractor Tires, etc.' from $20.00/Tire to $50.00/Tire to cover the cost of the City's disposal.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Blessinger and carried to approve the recommended revised Fall Clean-up prices.

Police Chief Kramer was absent. Officer Dubon presented his monthly report. Kramer requested quotes for a 2026 Dodge Durango police car, in stock, as a replacement for the 2018 Dodge Charger that was totaled in a recent incident. Washington Chrysler was the only dealer that had the vehicle and equipment requested, in stock. The quote presented was in the amount of $44,869.00.

A motion was made by Blessinger, seconded by Fitch and carried to approve the quote presented from Washington Chrysler, contingent upon appropriation of funds by the Council.

Dubon noted the Police Department recently applied for, and was awarded, a grant from Norfolk Southern in the amount of $5,000.00. The grant funds will be used for the operation of the departments K-9 Teams, maintenance and events for the Firearms Range, and general vehicle expenses.

Fire Chief Heim presented his monthly report.

Planning Director Lake presented his monthly reports. He presented an Encroachment License Request for Federal Express Company, occupant, at 100 E Pheonix Drive, and introduced Amos Rieber, representing Denham-Blythe Company, Inc. The request also included permission to widen the existing width of the driveway by 8 feet to the West.

A motion was made by Blessinger, seconded by Schmett and carried to approve the request to widen the existing driveway.

The second part of their request is to encroach by 2.5 feet for a metal chain link fence on the North boundary of their property, within an existing public utility and drainage easement, which currently isn't being utilized. City Attorney Schneider noted the property is currently owned by a trust, and the license agreement would have to be approved by the landowner and the occupant of the land.

A motion was made by Souders, seconded by Fitch and carried to approve the encroachment license agreement requested, contingent upon the landowner also approving. Schneider will prepare a draft of the license agreement.

Safety Director Brown was absent. Mayor Elkins presented her monthly report.

Dave Schipp and Nick Wagner, representing Huntingburg St. Mary's Catholic Church, addressed the Board requesting a 2-Hour Parking Limit, 7 days a week, in front of their Church, due to parking issues. City Attorney Schneider noted that the current parking restrictions in that area are outdated and in need of an amended parking ordinance. Options were discussed, and will be reviewed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Blessinger, seconded by Souders and carried at 10:08 A.M.

M. Neil Elkins
Mayor

Amy M. Stevens
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer