

**UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

**5:30 P.M.**

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 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, Kissling, Dubon, Bounds and Wehr 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 the City of Huntingburg's website. Also present were Mayor Schwinghamer, City Attorney Schneider, Clerk-Treasurer Dippel.

Mayor Schwinghamer called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 regular meeting.

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

There was discussion on the negotiations of a 45' x 45' tract of property north of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, along the north side of the alley, between Main Street and the north-south east of Main Street. The property is owned by the Mayor and his wife. The Council had determined an interest in purchasing the property by adopting Resolution No. 2023-06. The negotiated price was determined to be \$10,600.00. A proposed resolution was presented inserting the purchase price of \$10,600.00.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023-09 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL APPROVING PURCHASE OF  
REAL ESTATE**

The Mayor informed the Board that a strip of property where the current sidewalk is on the west side of the alley connecting 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Main Street and Jackson Street is owned by he and his wife. He indicated that they would like to donate the 4 feet by 92 feet strip to the City of Huntingburg to facilitate the current READI Alley Activation Project in the area.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Dubon and carried to accept the donation.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel explained that due to lack of time for proper notice to be published for the proposed additional appropriation originally scheduled for February 28, 2023 of the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in the amount of \$965,776.00; Opioid Settlement Unrestricted Funds in the amount of \$7,342.00 and Opioid Settlement Restricted Funds in the amount of \$17,131.00. Dippel suggested the Council set the public hearing for March 14, 2023.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to set the public hearing for the additional appropriation for March 14, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Huntingburg City Hall.

Attorney Schneider indicated that OFS Brands Holding Co. is proposing an \$18,000,000.00 expansion in the Industrial Park West economic development area and they have requested the City of Huntingburg Economic Development Commission authorize the issuance of economic development bonds (\$2,000,000.00) to assist in paying for the equipment. They have also asked that the Redevelopment Commission pledge TIF revenues from taxes generated from that piece of equipment to pay the debt service for the bonds. He noted the Economic Development Commission, Redevelopment Commission and Plan Commission have all met and approved.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bounds and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023-10 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HUNTINGBURG COMMON COUNCIL  
APPROVING AN ORDER OF THE HUNTINGBURG PLAN COMMISSION**

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-11 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG,  
INDIANA TO ISSUE ITS "TAXABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVENUE  
BONDS OF 2023, (OFS PROJECT)" AND APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING  
OTHER ACTIONS IN RESPECT THERETO**

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He requested approval to purchase 4 bottom out line stoppers for a total of \$24,456.48 for a project in Ireland at State Road 56 and in Huntingburg on Hwy 231 under the railroad tracks.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve the purchase of the bottom out line stoppers noted above.

Reutepohler presented USDI retainer fees and equipment rates for 2023.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He indicated plans for substation maintenance.

Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report. He informed the Board that he has purchased water leak detection equipment to help find leaks. He noted the need to rebuild one of two major water pumps used to pump water to the water towers; he estimated the cost to be between \$5,000.00 and \$15,000.00. He informed the Board of the new boat dock/kayak launcher at the City Lake.

Attorney Schneider noted that Huntingburg Economic Development Commission terms somehow got mixed up. When Eric Olinger was appointed to the Huntingburg Economic Development Commission by the Common Council the term should have been for 4 years ending January 31, 2026 instead of the 2 year term ending January 31, 2024.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to correct Eric Olinger's appointment to the Huntingburg Economic Development Commission to a 4 year term ending January 31, 2026.


Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented the 2022 annual report from the Huntingburg Redevelopment Commission for activity of all TIFs and related information. The report is to the City Executive, Fiscal Body and Redevelopment Authority. He noted the report will also be uploaded in the State's Gateway system as instructed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

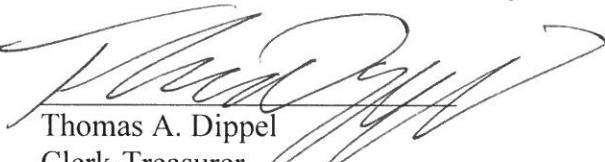
Katrina Cox, Huntingburg resident, addressed the Council about dissatisfaction of the information process and ongoing discussions, and court actions related to her and her husband building a fence in the City's easement in Hunters Crossing and the City's sewer being outside the easement. The Mayor suggested that two Council members meet with the Mayor to discuss how the City can go about taking care of the situation. Council members Bounds and Wehr will meet with the Mayor. Diagrams were reviewed. The Mayor noted that he will be in contact with the Cox's.

Attorney Schneider noted, after being asked, that viewing a project on site does not constitute a public meeting.

Member Bounds indicated that he will facilitate a meeting with the Cox's and any other Council members and City officials that want to go.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 o'clock P.M.

  
Steven J. Schwinghamer  
Mayor

  
Thomas A. Dippel  
Clerk-Treasurer