

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
Thursday, March 7, 2024
8:30 A.M.

The Board of Public Works & Safety of the City of Huntingburg met in regular session on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at the hour of 8:30 A.M. in the Council Chambers of the Huntingburg City Hall. Members Elkins, Fitch, Schmett and Souders were present. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Dippel and City Attorney Schneider. Member Blessinger was absent.

Mayor Elkins called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Fitch, seconded by Souders and carried to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024 regular meeting.

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

Phil Schneider representing Huntingburg Kiwanis presented a Special Event Application for the Kiwanis Car Show scheduled for April 27, 2024 on 4th Street.

A motion was made by Souders, seconded by Schmett and carried to approve the Special Event Application for the Huntingburg Kiwanis car show as presented.

Joe Myers, representing Southern Indiana Volks Force, presented a Special Event Application for the SIVF 15th Annual Car Show on August 10, 2024 on 4th Street.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Souders and carried to approve the Special Event Application for the SIVF 15th Annual car show as presented.

The Mayor informed the Board that Dustin Schmett has submitted a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for the Utility Board/Common Council, Huntingburg Board of Public Works and Safety and the Huntingburg Park & Recreation Board. Schmett's Disclosure Statement is for jobs that may require welding or fabrication for the City of Huntingburg.

Attorney Schneider presented a certification of unpaid cost for abatement of unsafe building ordinance violation for Joshua J. McBride, 410 N. Washington Street, Huntingburg, IN the certified costs are \$12,634.26.

A motion was made by Souders, seconded by Fitch and carried to approve the certified costs incurred totaling \$12,634.26.

Street Superintendent Stamm was absent. Kelly Allen, Street Lead Person, presented the monthly Street Department report. The Mayor noted that the City will be

working with Universal Design for a bid package for roof replacement of the Street Department building.

Allen requested permission to get quotes for the removal of limbs from the limb yard.

A motion was made by Fitch, seconded by Souders and carried to approve getting quotes for the clearing of the limb yard.

Wastewater Superintendent Coomer presented his monthly report. He reminded the Board of the upcoming bid opening for the construction of the wastewater plant and interceptor improvements on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. He noted that a bid opening committee will need to be established.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Souders and carried to appoint Mayor Elkins, Clerk-Treasurer Dippel and Wastewater Superintendent Coomer to the Board of Public Works Bid Opening Committee.

Coomer informed the Board that the pump at 19th Street lift station is being rebuilt at a cost of approximately \$15,000.00. He noted the pump at CR 750 will be pulled and rebuilt in house at a cost of approximately \$5,000-\$7,000.

Coomer noted that approximately 600 feet of main will need to be replaced on Clay Street. Clay Street is scheduled as a Community Crossing Matching Grant project so the sewer work will need to be done prior to the road work. He estimates the cost to be \$25,000.00-\$27,000.00 by doing the work in house.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Souders and carried to go ahead (with the sewer work).

It was noted that the bid opening was delayed for the wastewater improvements project until March 14, 2024 due to more bidders being sought. The time frame of the project has also been extended from 16 to 24 months.

Police Chief Parks presented the monthly police report. He asked permission to start the K9 program back up. He presented a cost quote from Vohne Liche Kennels, Inc. for the purchase of the K9 and training costs in the amount of \$19,940.00. He noted that Officer Jorge Dubon will be the handler and will train for 6 weeks. It was noted that the funding will come from the narcotics fund (Law Enforcement Aid Fund), \$8,000.00; Grant (from AKC REUNITE A K-9 COP MATCHING GRANT), \$6,750.00 and EDIT (LIT-ED), \$5,190.00.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Fitch and carried to move forward (with the startup of the K9 program and K9 purchase as presented).

Parks noted that the previous officer recruit did not work out. Tyler Ward was introduced and Parks requested the Board offer Ward a conditional offer of employment contingent upon Ward passing the Police PERF physical and psychological tests.

A motion was made by Souders, seconded by Fitch and carried to accept Tyler into our training (offer Tyler Ward a conditional offer of employment contingent upon Ward passing the required Police PERF physical and psychological tests).

Fire Chief Heim presented his monthly report. He requested that Fox Trot Ct. be closed, with property owners consent, on March 20, 2024 for a maximum of 2 hours for department training.

A motion was made by Fitch, seconded by Souders and carried to close the street for a maximum of 2 hours determinate upon the approval of the residents there.

Heim informed the Board that he is looking to do an open house on Saturday, May 18, 2024. He would like to do it at the Teen Outback area and would have firetrucks in the activities.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Souders and carried to approve continued efforts toward the open house activities as noted above.

Hein informed the Board the department has a pump that is not used, and he would like to have it declared surplus and be authorized to donate the pump to Pike Central High School Vocational Coop to be used for training in their Fire Fighting 1, 2 curriculum.

A motion was made by Souders, seconded by Schmett to declare the portable pump noted above surplus and authorize Heim to donate the pump to Pike Central High School Vocational Coop.

Heim would like to create a Citizen Academy consisting of an 8-10 week course to show what emergency services do, how they train and perform rescues. He would like to do this next year and requested permission to proceed if the Board agrees.

A motion was made by Schmett, seconded by Souders and carried to grant Heim permission to proceed with the creation of a "Citizen Academy" as described above.

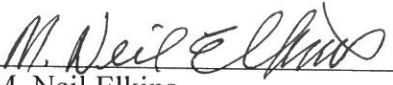
A proposed ordinance was presented to amend the current structure of the Volunteer Fire Department's leadership. The ordinance would allow for 1 Chief, 1 Assistant Chief and other subordinate officers as the Chief deems necessary.

A motion was made by Fitch, seconded by Schmett and carried to recommend the proposed ordinance for passage to the Common Council.

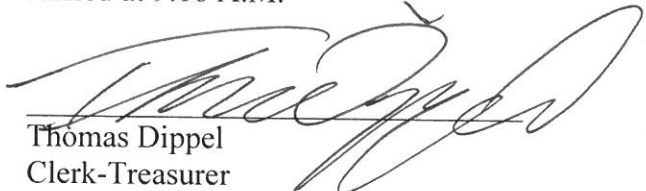
Planning Director Lake presented his monthly reports.

Safety Director Brown presented her monthly report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Souders, seconded by Fitch and carried at 9:16 A.M.



M. Neil Elkins
Mayor



Thomas Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer