

**UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL  
JOINT MEETING WITH HUNTINGBURG BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND  
SAFETY AND HUNTINGBURG UTILITY RATE ADVISORY BOARD  
Tuesday, April 23, 2024  
5:30 P.M.**

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, April 23, 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. Council Members Kissling, Wehr, Bolte, Bounds and McPherron were physically present. Board of Public Works and Safety members Elkins, Schmett, Blessinger and Fitch were present; member Souders was absent. Utility Rate Advisory Board members Young, Blessinger, Bowman and Painter were 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 Elkins, City Attorney Schneider and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel.

Mayor Elkins called the Council meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bounds and carried to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024 regular meeting.

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

This is a joint meeting with the Huntingburg Board of Public Works and Safety and the Huntingburg Utility Rate Advisory Board for discussion and actions concerning matters of the new wastewater plant and systems upgrades.

The Mayor called the Huntingburg Board of Public Works and Safety to order.

The Mayor, in the absence of a chairperson, called the Huntingburg Utility Rate Advisory Board to order. A motion was made by Young, seconded by Blessinger and carried to appoint member, Sandra Bowman, Chairperson of the Huntingburg Utility Rate Advisory Board.

Eric Parsley, representing Commonwealth Engineers, the City's engineer on this project, presented a history, purpose of need and costs for the wastewater upgrades.

Buzz Krohn, representing O.W. Krohn and Associates, the City's financial advisor, presented financial information of the Wastewater Utility and the various grants, notes and bonds needed to finance this project. The total cost of the project with estimated refinancing of current debt at lower rates is estimated to be \$51,150,491.00. Federal Grants (EDA \$3,184,491.00; SRF/SWIF \$5,000,000.00) of approximately \$8,200,000.00 will be received. The Indiana Bond Bank will provide interim financing through the construction period. Bonds are to be issued for approximately \$40,700,000.00 through the USDA Rural Development once the project is complete. He presented two proposed rate increases; Phase I, effective, June 1, 2024; 17.5% and Phase II, effective January 1, 2025; 10%.

Attorney Schneider noted that the Board of Public Works and Safety needs to consider making a tentative award of the collection portion of the project, as rebid for Division B (non-plant items), to Cooper Rail Service Inc. in the amount of \$3,591,533.00.

A motion was made by Board of Public Works and Safety member Schmett, seconded by Blessinger and carried to accept the construction bid (for Division B) from Cooper Rail Service, Inc. in the amount of \$3,591,533.00.

A proposed Huntingburg Board of Public Works and Safety Resolution (No. BOPWS No. 2024-01) to recommend to the Common Council the new rates and charges was presented for adoption.

A motion was made by Blessinger, seconded by Fitch and carried to adopt Resolution (BOPWS No. 2024-01) entitled:

**RESOLUTION OF THE HUNTINGBURG BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY REGARDING WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES**

A proposed Huntingburg Utility Rate Advisory Board Resolution (No. URAB No. 2024-01) to recommend to the Common Council the new rates and charges was presented for adoption.

A motion was made by Bowman, seconded by Young and carried to adopt Resolution (URAB 2024-01) entitled:

**RESOLUTION OF THE HUNTINGBURG UTILITY RATE ADVISORY BOARD REGARDING WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES**

The Huntingburg Board of Public Works and Safety and the Huntingburg Utility Rate Advisory Board meetings were adjourned.

The Common Council meeting continued.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Bounds and carried to introduce and number Ordinance No. 2024-07 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-22 ESTABLISHING A NEW SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR USE OF AND SERVICES RENDERD BY THE MUNICIPALLY OWNED SEWAGE WORKS OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA, AND MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH**

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to set a public hearing on the proposed new Sewage Works rates and charges for May 14, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Huntingburg City Hall.

Attorney Schneider noted that an amended bond ordinance will need to be considered. A bond ordinance was passed in 2020, but because of cost overruns the bond ordinance will need to be amended. The original bond ordinance called for the bonds not to exceed \$25,000,000.00 and the amendment will call for the bonds not to exceed \$50,000,000.00. He noted the expected bond issue is estimated to be \$40,722,000.00.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bolte and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-08 entitled:

**AN AMENDED AND RESTATED ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE CURRENT REFUNDING BY THE CITY OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING BOND AND LOAN OBLIGATIONS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWAGE WORK OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA, THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS TO APPLY ON THE COST THEREOF, THE COLLECTION, SEGREGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES OF SAID WORKS, THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTEREST OF THE OWNERS OF SAID REVENUE BONDS, OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH, INCLUDING THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF BONDS, AND REPEALING ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH**

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-08 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Kissling and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-08.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2024-08 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-08 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 7:27 P.M.

The Mayor noted the requirement to have an ordinance for allowable promotional and economic development expenditures. A proposed ordinance was presented.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-09 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AND CIVIC INTERESTS IN THE CITY**

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bolte and carried with unanimous consent to suspend the rules and consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-09 at the same meeting it was introduced.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Bolte and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-09.

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2024-09 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-09 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 7:30 P.M.

Energy Superintendent Reutepohler presented the monthly Gas Utility report. He presented an invoice from Groebner for four, 6" line stoppers in the amount of \$22,456.48. He noted the continued price increases. He ask for approval to purchase the line stoppers.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Kissling and carried to approve the invoice from Groebner in the amount of \$22,456.48.

Reutepohler presented the monthly Electric Utility report. He informed the Board of the installation of temporary poles and lines at the area of 19<sup>th</sup> Street and North Van Buren Street while permanent poles and lines are being installed.

Water Superintendent Austin presented his monthly report.

Planning Director Lake presented "Compliance with Statement of Benefits" (CF-1) for 2024 pay 2025 property tax abatement for Wagon Works LP. Wagon Works LP representative, Gary Ritz, was not present at this meeting. Lake noted the Council will need to determine if the property owner is or is not in substantial compliance with original Statement of Benefits (SB-1).

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried finding that the Wagon Works LP was in substantial compliance with the Statement of Benefits.

Transit Director, April Blessinger, requested permission to apply for the annual 5311 Federal operating grant for the Transit Department.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to allow Blessinger to apply for the 5311 Federal operating grant.

Blessinger asked for permission to move forward with plans to purchase a new 10 passenger van to replace the 2008 van and apply for a Federal grant. She noted the cost would be \$139,575.00 with a grant paying \$111,660.00 and the local share would be \$27,915.00. She noted the van would likely not be purchased until 2025.


A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Bolte and carried to allow Blessinger to move forward with the van purchase plan and apply for grant funding.

Eric Parsley, with Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. presented a proposed contract amendment No. 1 to their Engineering contract for extra design and construction inspection services for the wastewater plant and systems upgrade. The extra services total \$460,000.00; bringing the total engineering contract price to \$3,712,200.00.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Wehr and carried to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. contract noted above in the amount of \$460,000.00.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Bolte, seconded by Bounds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

  
M. Neil Elkins  
Mayor

  
Thomas A. Dippel  
Clerk-Treasurer