

UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

5:30 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session on Tuesday, November 12, 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. Members Kissling, McPherron, Wehr, Bounds and Bolte 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 Elkins, City Attorney Schneider and Clerk-Treasurer Dippel.

Mayor Elkins called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2024 regular meeting.

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

The Mayor indicated that the Board of Public Works and Safety approved the addition of 3 firefighters. The proposed firefighters are Christian Calderon, Santiago Nunez and Justin Martin.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Bolte and carried to accept Christian Calderon, Santiago Nunez and Justin Martin into the Huntingburg Volunteer Fire Department.

The proposed 2025 Officials salary ordinance was presented for adoption consideration. Ordinance No. 2024-22 was introduced at the last meeting.

A motion was made by Kissling, seconded by McPherron and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-22 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGBURG, INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2025

Upon call of roll for the adoption or rejection of Ordinance No. 2024-22 the vote being 5 ayes, 0 nays, in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-22 was duly passed and adopted this date at the hour of 5:40 P.M.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel informed the Council of the need to appoint two people to the Huntingburg Redevelopment Commission. Appointments to the Commission are one year term appointments beginning January 1, 2025 and expiring December 31, 2025. He noted that he has contacted Nick Stevens and Jayme Rasche about their willingness to serve on the commission again, and they are both willing to serve.

A motion was made by Wehr, seconded by Bolte and carried to appoint Nick Stevens and Jayme Rasche to the Huntingburg Redevelopment Commission for 1 year terms expiring December 31, 2025.

Dippel also noted that Council appointee to the Huntingburg Board of Zoning Appeals, Riley Schumacher, has moved out of the City and an appointment will need to be made to serve the remainder of Schumacher's term that expires December 31, 2025. The Board meets as needed.

John Songer, representing his siblings, addressed the Council asking for consideration of an ordinance amendment allowing burning on properties in the City limits, if the owners own a certain amount of acreage. He noted his family owns 14.65 acres around the 917 Shelby Street area and occasionally has trees and brush that need to be removed. He would like to be able to burn the debris on site rather than have to spend money to have it hauled away.

Attorney Schneider will look into the City's options considering state regulations. Ideas were discussed.

Songer also indicated that in the early 1990s the property was zoned agricultural, but under the Nass administration, somehow, the property got rezoned. He brought up the possibility of cattle being put on that property. He also indicated the possibility of having an Airbnb at the cabin on the property. He indicated that an easement was given on the property to the City to run a water line along the east side of Cherry Street. He indicated that he cannot find any paperwork on this. He indicated that he was told that they would be able to get a sewer tap for the cabin free of charge.

Attorney Schneider noted the zoning change requirements such as public hearings and property owner notifications.


The Mayor noted that Attorney Schneider will look into what IDEM will allow and present findings to the Council for consideration. The Mayor indicated that he will notify Songer when the information is obtained.

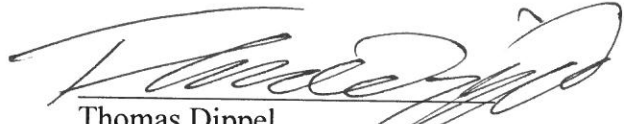
Malia Dearing, President of the Mayor Youth Council, updated the Council on the Youth Council activities.

Clerk-Treasurer Dippel asked the Council to appoint a bid opening committee for the bid opening of the sale of the surplus transit van.

A motion was made by McPherron, seconded by Wehr and carried to appoint Clerk-Treasurer Dippel and Transit Director Blessinger to the Council's Bid Opening Committee for the sale of the surplus transit van.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Bolte, seconded by Wehr and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 o'clock P.M.


M. Neil Elkins
Mayor


Thomas Dippel
Clerk-Treasurer