

REGULAR MEETING COMMON COUNCIL – April 8, 2025

The Common Council of the City of Huntington met on the 8th day of April 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in accordance with all applicable requirements and notice.

INVOCATION: Pastor Chris Hayden, Central Christian Church, gave the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Strick called the regular meeting of the Common Council to order.

ROLL CALL: Common Council Members present: Charles Chapman, PJ Felton, Dave Funk, Todd Johnson, and Andrew Rensberger. Absent: Dwight Brautigam and Paul Pike.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Strick opened the public hearing for [Ordinance 5-C-25: An Additional Appropriation Ordinance for MVH Fund](#). With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Strick closed the public hearing.

Mayor Strick opened the public hearing for [Ordinance 6-C-25: An Additional Appropriation Ordinance for Opioid Funds](#). With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Strick closed the public hearing.

Mayor Strick opened the public hearing for [Ordinance 7-C-25: Water Rate Increase](#). Several citizens expressed concern for the increase and asked if any alternatives were considered by the administration before rates needed increased significantly. Steve Fickle offered options and asked if the City considered tapping into Fort Wayne water at a cheaper cost than what is being proposed with new wells and a new South Water Plant. John Boyle questioned the high utility bill currently, before the increase, compared to Lafayette, where he is from originally. Sharon Bartrom questioned government spending and when are we going to tighten our belts like the citizens must in order to survive. Lastly, Aaron Carl, whose family owns the farms that some of the South Well fields are located currently, asked if there could be a more calculated way to show how much each household will actually increase instead of using an average household, since most households' usage is more than the average. He also asked if we had a count of the number of lead lines that need to be replaced. With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Strick closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Council Member Johnson moved to approve Council's March 25, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 5-0. Minutes signed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS: Council Member Johnson reported from HCUED Board meeting, that in 2025 there are 6 projects in the works with \$25 million in private investment. Emma Working reported on behalf of That Viking Thing that they are working on a business plan and budget to make their ideas come to fruition. They will be going on a site visit to the park to get a plan together. No other reports were given.

Director of Operations, Annette Carroll, Utility Superintendent, Nate Goetz, and Director of Public Works and Engineering, Adam Cuttriss presented answers to the questions that were raised at the last meeting regarding Non-revenue Water (NRW). The City currently performs leak detection on half the City each year and then the Water Department repairs the leaks. The City also is in the process of switching out meters that are more than 10 years old because they start to fail. They are working to make the water resource more efficient. Other questions were asked and answered.

PETITIONS OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Council Member Felton made a motion to approve on **first reading [Ordinance 5-C-25](#)**: “**An Additional Appropriation Ordinance- MVH fund,**” seconded by Council Member Johnson. Street Superintendent, Tim Bischoff explained what capital items would be purchased with this additional appropriation. Motion passed 5-0.

Council Member Rensberger made a motion to approve on **first reading [Ordinance 6-C-25](#)**: “**An Additional Appropriation Ordinance - Opioid funds,**” seconded by Council Member Chapman. Clerk-Treasurer McElhaney explained that as the money comes in from the Opioid Settlement we need to appropriate the money before we disburse it the Huntington County Community Foundation to the Substance Abuse Fund. Motion passed 5-0.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve on **first reading [Ordinance 7-C-25](#)**: “**An Ordinance Amending Section 50.10 of the City of Huntington, Indiana’s Code of Ordinances**” (water rates and charges), seconded by Council Member Chapman. Anthony Goodnight, **Lochmueller Group** explained the project again and what went into the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). He explained the different options Lochmueller reviewed and that the proposal that was presented at the last meeting was the best option moving forward. Ian Stull, **Baker Tilly** recapped the financial piece of the Water Rate Ordinance and the Bond Ordinance. He explained the process the financial advisors went through to give the best option to the City for financing the project. Council Members’ additional questions were asked and answered. Motion passed 4-1. Ayes: Chapman, Felton, Funk, and Rensberger. Nays: Johnson.

Council Member Felton made a motion to approve on **first reading [Ordinance 8-C-25](#)**: “**An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Huntington, Indiana Authorizing the Acquisition, Construction and Installation of Certain Improvements for the Waterworks System of the City of Huntington, Indiana, the Issuance of Revenue Bonds to Provide the Cost Thereof, the Collection, Segregation and Distribution of the Revenues of Such System, the Safeguarding of the Interests of the Owners of Such Revenue Bonds and Other Matters Connected Therewith, Including the Issuance of Notes in Anticipation of Such Bonds, and Repealing Ordinances Inconsistent Herewith**” (Bond Ordinance), seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 4-1. Ayes: Chapman, Felton, Funk and Rensberger. Nays: Johnson.

A Compliance Statement of Benefits (CF-1/RE) for Park Lofts was presented for review and approval. This is the last filing for the 10-year abatement for this company. Council Member

Johnson made a motion to approve and authorize Council President Chapman to sign the form, seconded by Council Member Rensberger. Motion passed 5-0. Council President Chapman signed the form.

MISCELLANEOUS: Clerk-Treasurer McElhaney presented the monthly budget reports for March to the Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Johnson moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 5-0.

APPROVED:

Richard Strick As Mayor

Dwight Brautigam As Member

Charles Chapman As Council President

Dave Funk As Member

PJ Felton As Member

Todd Johnson As Member

Andrew Rensberger As Member

Paul Pike As Member

Attest:

Christi A. McElhaney As Clerk-Treasurer

These minutes were approved on April 9, 2025. A signed physical copy is available by request in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 300 Cherry St.