

## REGULAR MEETING COMMON COUNCIL – July 8, 2025

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

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Scott Rainey, Huntington First Church of the Nazarene.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Council Member Johnson moved to approve Council's June 10, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 6-0. Minutes signed.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS:** Council Member Chapman reported on the Combined Dispatch meeting. They have hired a new dispatcher; they also have updated some equipment. No other reports were given.

**PETITIONS OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Director Bryn Keplinger **updated Council on the HK Porter demolition project.** The City's Board of Public Works and Safety opened nine (9) bids at its meeting on Monday July 7, 2025. The bids are being reviewed by the Department and the City's engineering consultant, SES. The bids **ranked from \$2,178,800 to \$629,997.** The plan is to have the site demolition completed by the end of the year.

Clerk-Treasurer McElhaney presented the June 2025 monthly budget reports. June Settlement has been received and included in the numbers. Council Members had no questions.

Mayor Strick reopened discussion from the previous meeting of the presentation made by Eric Doden, PAGO USA, concerning a plan to revitalize and rehabilitate buildings in downtown. A nonprofit corporation, **Flint Creek Redevelopment LLC**, has been established and the initial Board of Directors are area citizens Joel Buzzard, Rick Baker, Sonya Foraker, Jim Scheiber, and Matt Wilcox. In summary, Flint Creek Redevelopment, LLC would contract with PAGO USA and PAGO USA would purchase and rehabilitate the properties and assist with rental or sale. Mayor Strick would like the City to loan Flint Creek Redevelopment, LLC \$2 Million dollars so the project can commence. The procedure that allows the City to do so is outlined in IC 36-7-12. The City's Economic Development Commission (EDC) would notice and hold a public hearing concerning the proposed project. After that hearing, the EDC would make a recommendation to Council. Upon receipt of that recommendation, Council may consider and adopt a loan ordinance.

The terms of the loan are up to Council. Mayor Strick asked Council for input on the terms of such a loan including repayment or no, any interest rate, and what repayment terms might be considered. Many ideas were voiced by Council Members including requiring repayment and charging some rate of interest, but that could be below open market rates. Mayor Strick said he will put those ideas into a proposal to bring back to Council formally. By consensus, Council would like to move forward with the project.

Mayor Strick introduced **Reedy Financial to present a power point explaining the impact on the City of the recently adopted legislation, SEA-1.** In summary, because of a seeming shift from real property taxes to income taxes, the City stands to lose close to \$1 million per year. Beginning in 2028 the current local income tax (LIT) will be eliminated and will need to be replaced with the implementation of a City income tax, as well as a County Fire/ EMS income tax, to help maintain the City's budget obligations. After the presentation, Council Members' questions were asked and answered.

**Fire Chief Johnson and Director of the Department of Engineering Services Cuttriss updated Council on the new fire station building. Weigand Construction is the CMc (construction manager as contractor).** Weigand reports that if ground can be broken in August, instead of October, close to \$1 million dollars could be saved. The bids will be split into two phases: Phase 1 to include site and concrete work. Phase 2 to include the remainder of the building construction. Accordingly, the building should be completed by November 2026. Mayor Strick explained to Council that for the funding of the initial phase he plans to bring a \$2 to \$3 million dollar additional appropriation out of the General Fund for consideration and approval. He proposes to pay off the Riverfork West loan with authorized Redevelopment Commission funds in order to free up additional funds for the bond payment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member Johnson moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Pike. Motion passed 6-0.

APPROVED:

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Richard Strick As Mayor

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Dwight Brautigam As Member

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Charles Chapman As Council President

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Dave Funk As Member

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PJ Felton As Member

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Todd Johnson As Member

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Andrew Rensberger As Member

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Paul Pike As Member

Attest:

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Christi A. McElhaney As Clerk-Treasurer