

REGULAR MEETING COMMON COUNCIL – September 30, 2025

The Common Council of the City of Huntington met on the 30th day of September 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in accordance with all applicable requirements and notice.

INVOCATION: Rev. Chris Lantz, Evangelical United Methodist 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: Dwight Brautigam, Charles Chapman, PJ Felton, Dave Funk, Todd Johnson, Paul Pike, and Andrew Rensberger.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Strick opened the public hearing on Ordinance 19-C-25: “An Ordinance for 2026 Budget Appropriations”. With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Strick closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Council Member Johnson moved to approve Council’s September 9, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes signed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS: Council Member Johnson reported that Huntington County United Economic Development Executive Director Mark Wickersham has retired. He did a great job bringing businesses to our community promoting economic growth, the HCUED Board is hoping it can find someone to take over Mark’s roll. No other reports were given.

Clerk-Treasurer McElhaney swore in the That Viking Thing members for the 2025-2026 committee year. Graden Fields will be president, and he will be attending the Council meetings representing the committee. The other members sworn in were Jacklyn Ellet, Alice Friesen, and Libby Couch.

Heidi Amspaugh and Tim Foster, Baker Tilly, presented an opportunity for the City to capture the increased assessed valuation by issuing a general obligation bond to fund certain City projects. Council Members’ questions were asked and answered.

PETITIONS OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Chapman moved to **approve on first reading Ordinance 17-C-25: “2026 Salary Ordinance,”** seconded by Council Member Brautigam. Council Members had a few questions that were asked and answered. Motion passed 7-0.

Council Member Pike moved to **approve on first reading Ordinance 18-C-25: “2026 Elected Official Salary Ordinance,”** seconded by Council Member Felton. Motion passed 7-0.

Council Member Felton moved to **approve on first reading Ordinance 19-C-25: “2026 Budget Appropriation Ordinance,”** seconded by Council Member Brautigam. Motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Strick asked Council Members to discuss the possibility of issuing a general obligation bond to capture the increased assessed valuation to help fund certain City projects. Council Members and Mayor Strick discussed what projects this money would fund and if it would negatively impact taxpayers and/or other taxing units within Huntington County. After some good discussion, Council Member Brautigam made a motion to **direct the City administration to move forward with drafting the general obligation bond materials for further review by Council,** seconded by Council Member Felton. Motion passed 7-0.

MISCELLANEOUS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Johnson moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Felton. Motion passed 7-0.

APPROVED:

Richard Strick As Mayor

Dwight Brautigam As Member

Charles Chapman As 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