

REGULAR MEETING COMMON COUNCIL – June 11, 2024

The Common Council of the City of Huntington met on the 11th day of June 2024, at 7:00 p.m., for its regular meeting in accordance with all applicable requirements and notice.

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Council Member Felton moved to approve Council's May 28, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Johnson. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes signed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS: Council Member Chapman commented that the DORA Subcommittee has submitted a draft Ordinance to State Excise for initial review. Council Member Brautigam commented on the Lime City Committee meeting which included a tour of the County Jail. Council Member Rensberger reported on the RDC meeting, they had an overview from the last meeting, and they are working within the budget. They are still working on HK Porter and are staying in compliance with state regulations. No other reports were given.

Dave Schroeder, Andrews, owns a local business that sells and services golf carts. He attended some of the Golf Cart Subcommittee's meetings and learned a lot about the proposed Ordinance. His opinion on golf carts being allowed on City streets is that it gives families another recreational opportunity and other surrounding communities already allow golf carts, and he thinks Huntington citizens can handle this opportunity.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Felton made a motion to approve on **first reading Ordinance 6-C-24: "An Ordinance of the City of Huntington, Indiana Authorizing Golf Cart and Utility Task Vehicle Operation on City Streets"**, seconded by Council Member Funk. Police Chief Boxell commented that the Ordinance was drafted well and addressed some of his safety concerns and he appreciated being asked to participate with and provide information to the Subcommittee. His concerns are traffic on the northside of Huntington crossing the bypass, educating the public that they are not allowed on the trails, and parking concerns. He would like to see the Ordinance amended to start out smaller with specific areas in the City, for example subdivisions, instead of allowing them on all City streets. After much discussion, Council Member Funk made a **motion to table the Ordinance and send it back to the Golf Cart Subcommittee to address the Police Chief's concerns, make amendments, and bring a revised version back to Council in the next 30 days**, seconded by Council Member Pike. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mayor Strick presented Council with a completed Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement and a letter of explanation. Mayor Strick’s wife, Jenna Strick, was recently hired by the Humane Society as its new Director. Since the City has a contract for animal control with the Humane Society, Mayor Strick has appointed Charles Chapman, Council President, and Annette Carroll, City Director of Operations, to negotiate the animal control contract for 2025. Council Member Felton made a motion to accept the conflict-of-interest form and have Clerk Treasurer McElhaney submit it to Gateway, seconded by Council Member Brautigam. Motion passed 7-0.

From the last Council meeting, Director Keplinger addressed a request from Dawn Harvey (MACES - Mayors Advisory Committee on Environmental Surroundings) to reduce the 400-foot notice radius requirement for a Natural Landscaping as outlined in Chapter 98 of the City Code. Director Keplinger discussed the reason notice is required and historical naturalized landscapes and the requirements for establishing. He gave examples of the cost of notice to surrounding 400 feet neighbors and 100 feet neighbors. After some discussion, Council Member Felton made a motion for an **Ordinance to be drafted that would amend the Code to reduce the 400-foot radius to a 200-foot radius for notice for Natural Landscaping**, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 7-0.

Police Chief Boxell updated Council on body and dash cams. Since the Police Department implemented the use of body and dash cameras, requests for copies of footage have increased dramatically. He provided examples of the time commitment to prepare the footage for disclosure and he thinks that it will only increase moving forward. The Department has surveyed other communities and found some standards that would be a benefit to the Department, the City, and the public, for example, he thinks that a graduated fee schedule is fairer than a flat fee of \$150 for each request regardless of length. He will present an Ordinance for the fees associated with fulfilling these types of requests at Council’s next meeting.

Clerk Treasurer McElhaney presented the 2025 Budget Schedule and the May 2024 monthly budget reports.

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

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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