

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on June 24th, 2024, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Mayor Schmicker, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Ramsey, Councilman Vautaw, Richards, Kring, Rippy, and Ehman

Others: Roberta Heinzmann, Andi Pumphrey, Elsie Smith, Rob Cochrane III, James Davis, Delora Sullivan Rich, and Debbie Wayland.

Mayor Schmicker opened the June 10th, 2024, Council meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve the June 10th, 2024, Council minutes, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the June 24th, 2024, BOW meeting.

Golf Advisory Committee: Councilman Ehman was unable to attend the meeting.

DSW: Councilman Richards stated it was a short meeting and there isn't anything to report.

Street, Alley & Sidewalk: Councilman Ehman stated the sidewalk program is in full force. The Community Crossings Grants are in progress. The speed limit at Golf Course was discussed and Public Works Terry and Chief Stout said there were a few other places where the speed limit needs adjusting. Public Works Manager Terry is going to place that all-in-one ordinance.

Planning Commission: Councilman Vautaw stated they approved the Bergman subdivision that the BZA had approved. It was a short meeting.

Utility Board: Councilman Rippy commented the June 17th, 2024, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He also highlighted a few items in the minutes.

New Business: Rick Chandler the Treasurer of the Tipton Humane Society spoke. He stated the contract between the Humane Society and the City has worked out very well. We've been able to truly make an impact on the community. He commented that any animal that was taken in before 1/1/2024 are expenses that are not accounted for because we were open on a part-time basis starting around August. We knew there was going to be an agreement reached so as a gesture of goodwill we were able to care for those animals that came in between 8/1/2023 and 1/1/2024 at no cost to the City. As a reminder, for each animal's expenses that aren't reclaimed, we have to prepare for adoption, and that includes spaying, neutering, flea treatment, and things like that. Those expenses are capped at \$200.00. But if you have an animal that comes in that needs a leg amputation,

serious heartworms, or other conditions, that is on the Humane Society Bill and comes out of the Humane Society's bucket, not the animal services bucket. The breakdown of expenses from January to May is in the report that was handed out. Mr. Chandler commented that the 14 cats that are on the report are domesticated cats that were dumped, abandoned or people moved away, they are not feral cats. We do have a lot of feral cats in the city. Feral cats are taken care of due to the TNR program (Trap, New to Release). That program is funded by the Humane Society through donations and small grants provided by the Tipton County Foundation. Those cats are funded completely separately and are not included in the numbers on the report. Intake numbers are unfortunately trending up and vet services are hard to come by. To get an animal in from the intake it may take four to six weeks from the moment we get them and they're eligible for adoption. Animal expenses are true to the municipality themselves. If the County has a bunch of animals coming in the City is not paying for them. If it was flip-flopped the County would not pay for the City's animals. Mr. Chandler did note that they needed an employee much sooner than they were able to hire. We were able to hire an employee and that is Cheryl Emmert. The service contract runs from January through December with a funding amount of \$28,000 and automatically renews unless one party or another wants changes to the contract or changes to the funding. Mr. Chandler's recommendation to the Council would be to keep the funding for one more year at \$28,000 so we have more data to work with when we come before you next May or June. There is a very good chance these numbers continue to trend low and we are only going to spend the money that we need to spend from our municipal partners. Whatever we do not spend at the end of the year will be returned to the Clerk-Treasurer's office so it can be re-deposited into the general fund. This is a true service contract, it's not our money to put wherever we want with whatever program we want. It is very finite to the things we dictate in the contract. Any additional funding above and beyond what was necessary to satisfy the contract will be returned to the municipality. Councilman Kring asked if we are following the animal ordinance for habitual offenders. Mr. Chandler stated we are logging them in the system but if someone is meeting us at the shelter right away and they pick up their animal, we do not log that into the system. But if they come to the shelter hours later, yes we log them in the system. Councilman Kring stated maybe we could work with Cheryl if she would notify us or the CSO that maybe a dog had been in there 5 times a month, and it had become a nuisance then we look at the ordinance and impose a fine. We want this to be a good partnership that works well in both directions and we're not being taken advantage of by a handful of people. It's an ordinance that we've prosecuted a handful of times. Mayor Schmicker asked if there was anything they needed at the moment from the public because they donate as well. Mr. Chandler stated they need pet food for the pet food pantry and cleaning supplies. He commented that anyone can go to their website at <https://humanesocietyoftiptoncounty.org/> and he believes there is an Amazon list on there and we are always appreciative of volunteers. We would like to get to the point where grants start coming in larger and more regularly where we can ask less of the City. To get sizeable grants we have to operate as a shelter for about 24 months. They want to see the track record and we just don't have that yet.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Councilman Ehman made a statement about the signage and we would need to adopt those in the sign ordinance and the speed limit issue also. Crews are working at Park Road with a gas line break. It took roughly three hours to resolve. Public Safety was on the scene to create a safe environment. Four trailers had to be evacuated on Park Road just as a safety precaution. CCMG 2023 is a Community Crossings Matching Grant and those projects are taking place now. There was confusion regarding the closed ADA ramps which were unacceptable, those should be resolved in a couple of weeks.

Resolutions & Ordinances – None

Claims-Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 176739 through 176869 for \$904,876.87, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Petitions, Comments & Memorials-Andi Pumphrey, Rosie Street, there is a retention pond in my housing addition and I think the Street Dept. put a chemical in the pond to kill the moss and algae. She asked if it could be done again.

Bob Edinger, Tipton, asked if there is any update on the public safety building. Mayor Schmicker stated they have received the feasibility study back and have passed that along to our Municipal Advisors and they are crunching the numbers on that to provide us with some funding scenarios. They offered us four scenarios. The Council-At-Large will start engaging in work sessions on what we want that project to look like moving forward and how soon. Councilman Kring stated there were five meetings with the Architects and they have been knee-deep in planning for this project. Mayor Schmicker stated that the study provided us with a list of current conditions and an assessment of the space needs, and since the construction of the building both departments have doubled in size, and also we need to look at the future needs of the building. After it is presented to the Council it will be a public document and will be available on our website for review. Mr. Edinger asked if there was any timeframe in place for certain steps. Mayor Schmicker stated unfortunately not.

Adjournment: With no further business, Councilman Ehman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Rippy with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.


Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer


Council President