

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on October 14, 2024, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Mayor Schmicker, Clerk-Treasurer Clark, Councilmen Vautaw, Ehman, Richards, Kring, and Rippy.

Others: Rob Cochrane III, Bob Edinger, Steve Unger with Bose McKinney, Mark Baird, Elsa Smith, Matt Frische with Reedy, and Matt Quigley.

Mayor Schmicker opened the October 14, 2024, Council meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve the September 23, 2024, Council minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Councilman Kring made a motion to add Utility Board appointment consideration, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the October 14, 2024, BOW meeting.

Cemetery Board: Councilman Vautaw stated he missed the last meeting, but there were three burials, two cremations, and zero graves sold.

Park Advisory Board: Councilman Ehman commented Park Superintendent Tomlinson purchased new playground equipment with grant money. This will replace the orange unit that sits right in the middle, and the new piece is ADA compliant. Great job in the Park. He also commented they are doing some maintenance at the Pool. They are repairing the windows in the bathhouse. Councilman Ehman stated that Golf is in an application process for the Pro. He also stated the asphalt is all down for the trail, there were a few hiccups, but it's done.

Utility Board: Councilman Rippy stated the October 7, 2024, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He highlighted a few items from the minutes.

New Business:

Council Utility Board Appointment: Councilman Kring stated this wasn't taken lightly, Ms. Cardwell has served on this Board and the Council as well. We are training more leaders so he asked Parker Woods if he would be interested, and he agreed. Councilman Kring made a motion to appoint Parker Woods to the Utility Board, he would start December 1st, seconded by Councilman Richards. Mayor Schmicker asked if there was any discussion. Councilman Ehman stated good choice. The motion was passed with all in favor. Councilman Kring stated we can't thank Ms. Barb Cardwell enough for her dedication.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Schmicker stated he spent part of the week at the AIM Summit, which is the largest municipal conference in the State of Indiana. He also stated for 2025 some of our fiscal focuses for the City of Tipton will be the Golf Course. It has never been profitable as far back as he can get information, so there will be increased focus and pressures for that mostly from the perspective of last year we came within 100k. That is without any new ideas or efforts. Mayor Schmicker commented that the reality is there we can make the golf course profitable, which then makes our job easier when we get into the budgeting process. He also commented that we are hiring a new Director of Golf which is going to be important in trying to solicit some of those thoughts, ideas, and strategies. Mayor Schmicker stated we have a Superintendent now who's got the course in great condition. He also stated another thing is the fiscal performance of the EMS services as Council Kring alluded to or mentioned in the work session were new to this EMS Services game so as we get closer to the end of the year how did that perform and what are some of the focuses, strategies, thoughts as we move forward to make sure this remains a vital service offering from the City of Tipton. Mayor Schmicker commented that the last one is capitalizing on additional grants, having continued conversations with the grant writer to see if we can get a continuous agreement with them so we can make grants available not only to just one department but all departments. Thinking of the long term, there may be some opportunities we provide this grant writer to other organizations that may be able to benefit. He also commented lastly Clerk-Treasurer Clark and himself have started some conversations with Invest in Indiana some of the interest rates have come up from this Council, previously with the budget we put those conversations on hold so we can get through the budgeting process but those will get renewed hopefully after tonight. Mayor Schmicker stated we have generated \$400k in interest year to date, it's not that we're not getting any but just being prudent with those funds or opportunities for additional funds analyzing that interest rate. He also stated Jefferson Street has already been mentioned but it has kicked off and should conclude within the next two weeks, it should move rather quickly. The Trail project has already been addressed and we had some hurdles that we overcame but did want to mention specifically that, there's going to be some need to do some assessment afterward. Mayor Schmicker commented that there were some proposed Trailheads, and we don't know given the current condition today what those look like so as we move forward, we'll reassess those and make improvements in Phase 2. He also commented on the last three things. He has quarterly meetings with IU Health Tipton Hospital, Tipton Community School Corporation with Ryan Glaze, and our PR Team a separate standing meeting monthly with the school corporation and then we've started meeting with downtown business owners, getting ready to scope the downtown Jefferson Street project, they requested to meet quarterly to keep them comprised of what structural projects that may impede their business. Mayor Schmicker stated he has found a solution to the IT difficulties in this room. Between the last meeting and this meeting, he was able to get a trial on a device that we are scoping for not only this room but the Canton room and it worked better than expected. We will be moving forward with getting that device installed. He also stated the Tipton Arts Commission applied for a new grant opportunity through the Indiana Arts Commission and the Lilly Endowment Creative

Convergence, this is a new grant that was published last month and they reached out and asked if they could apply for it and he just learned tonight they were awarded the grant. Mayor Schmicker commented that they asked for a meeting so they could make sure everyone is on the same page and so that they could report out so the Council could be aware of what is going on like the Park and Cemetery Boards.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Resolution 2024-28 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The Ambulance Fund The Following Appropriations: Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-28, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Mayor Schmicker stated this is to transfer \$5,600 to the Ambulance Fund. Resolution 2024-28 was passed with all in favor.

Ordinance 2024-11 – An Ordinance For Form 4 Adopting The 2025 Budget: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-11 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2024-12 An Ordinance Setting Salaries For Elected Officials For The Year 2025 As Required By IC 36-4-7-2: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-12 on second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2024-13 - An Ordinance Setting The Maximum Salaries, Wages, And Other Compensation For Police Officers, Firefighters, And All Other Employees Of The City Of Tipton For The Year 2025: Councilman Richards made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-13 on second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2024-14 – An Ordinance Establishing A Redevelopment Authority For The City Of Tipton, Indiana, Pursuant To Indiana Code 36-7-14.5 And Repealing All Ordinances Inconsistent Therewith: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-14 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor. Councilman Kring made a motion to suspend the rules to read Ordinance 2024-14 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor. Councilman Kring stated with the proposed timeline that Bose McKinney and Reedy presented, this is a tight timeline. Some of the fault is from the constraint of the newspaper. He doesn't like to do this, but we need the baseball project, and this will help fund it. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-14 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Resolution 2024-29 – A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Tipton, Indiana, Approving (1) Resolution No. 2024-4 Of The City Of Tipton Redevelopment Commission Which Amended The Declaratory Resolution And Economic Development Plan For The City Of Tipton Ford Economic Development Area To Add New Projects Thereto, And (2) The Order Of The City Of Tipton Plan Commission Related Thereto: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-29, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Resolution 2024-30 – A Resolution Of The City Of Tipton, Indiana Approving And Authorizing The Execution Of Lease Agreements Relating To Local Public Improvement Projects: Mayor Schmicker stated we have representatives here to answer any questions. Councilman Richards made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-30, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Resolution 2024-31 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The Edit Fund The Following Appropriations: Mayor Schmicker stated this is to adjust funds so the City can secure resources like Reedy and Bose for special projects. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-31, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Resolution 2024-32 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The LRS Fund The Following Appropriations: Councilman Richards made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-32, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Claims: Mayor Schmicker stated the transition between Ryan's last day and the new hire for Director of Golf we need to provide petty cash for the Golf Course. Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 177579-177764 for \$5,175,789.60, seconded by Councilman Vautaw. The claims were approved with Councilmen Vautaw, Ehman, Richards, and Rippy in favor. Councilman Kring abstained. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve a claim for petty cash not to exceed \$150 for the Golf Course, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Petition, Comments, and Memorials:

Councilman Kring stated Councilman Richards and himself are meeting again tomorrow from the Ordinance Committee we are looking at finishing trash analysis, and we'll be moving on to parking ordinances. There should be some updates coming soon regarding the C.W. Mount building.

Mr. Bob Edinger, Tipton, asked what the cost of the work on Jefferson Street was. Mayor Schmicker stated just above \$300k, which is for all the concrete work, milling, and resurfacing. Mr. Edinger asked for an update on the Public Safety Building and ball fields. Mayor Schmicker stated he has a meeting this Thursday with an individual aware of grant funding for the Public Safety Building so it's two parts there are remaining General Obligation Bond dollars that we are earmarking for the PSB those funds are roughly a half million dollars. We got a list from that feasibility study which identified what the greatest needs are for that building, so the meeting on Thursday will highlight what other areas of opportunity exist that we might be able to turn that half million dollars into 600,000 or who knows. Once we get those meetings concluded he would work with both Chiefs on what that project looks like and get ready for a request for proposal to secure a vendor. He also stated he hopes that we will see improvements to that building in 2025. There was a brief discussion regarding the County and City funding public safety, but it wasn't the City's news to share. Mr. Edinger stated the Public Safety Building is more important than the ball diamonds.

Mr. Ryan Campbell with the Baseball Board asked for an update on the baseball facility. Mayor Schmicker commented the last time we spoke we are securing the funding for the sports facility project. If you look at our timeline, we are on step 5 of 20, we need to secure the funding for the 2025 project. Mr. Campbell asked what the funding was. Mayor Schmicker stated the net assessed values grew in the City of Tipton and you're only allowed to grow by 4% and ours grew more than that so we're able to capture that additional, in a mechanism we used back in 2022 for a general obligation bond. We are just using a different methodology this time around to secure that funding. Mr. Frische with Reedy stated the assessed value for the County is growing faster than the max levy growth so we are taking that opportunity to look at funding a project with a property tax levy at a tax-neutral or tax decrease level. We are going through the process of issuing lease financing to secure property and start work on the baseball facility. This is 2.6 million to include maybe a 20-year financing but you have to include budgeted dollars for next year as the property tax levy is being spent on the repayment of the bonds within this next year's budget.

Councilman Richards stated Tims 1 gave a certificate to the Elementary kids for a free pumpkin.

Councilman Vautaw asked if there was any news on Statutory Park Board. Mayor Schmicker stated now that the budget is out of the way we'll be working on reviewing that ordinance for proposal to the Council. Councilman Vautaw stated great thank you.

Adjournment: Councilman Kring made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.


Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer


Council President