

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on November 12, 2024, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Roberta Heinzmann, Bob Edinger, Matt Quigley, Elsa Smith, Dylan Dietrick, Joe VanBibber, Rick Chandler, Rob Cochrane III, Andi Pumphrey, and Megan Phifer.

Mayor Schmicker opened the November 12, 2024, Council meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve the October 28, 2024, Council minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the November 12, 2024, BOW meeting.

Cemetery Board: Councilman Vautaw stated the report was in the packets, but the meeting was canceled.

Park Board: Councilman Ehman commented there was a short meeting. He also commented that Park Superintendent Tomlinson gave an update on the pool issues, the pool parking lot was being paved, and was looking into funding the benches, and lighting for the trail. Councilman Ehman stated they started the discussion on the 5-Year Plan.

Utility Board: Councilman Rippy stated November 4, 2024, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He also gave a summary of some of the items in the minutes. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated there will be a celebration for Utility Board member Barb Cardwell at the next Utility Board meeting for her long service with the City of Tipton and Utility Board, everyone is welcome.

New Business:

Mayor Schmicker stated we are transitioning to PERF so we are changing the 4% match contribution to Empower. We will be stopping that contribution after the first of the year and we need approval that Clerk-Treasurer Clark can make the necessary changes to the 457 Plan. Councilman Richards made a motion to allow Clerk-Treasurer Clark to make the necessary changes to the 457 Plan, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Mayor Schmicker stated this is for full-time, not in Public Safety. Councilman Kring asked about the Utility being on board. Mayor Schmicker stated the Utilities information got lost in PERF's papers when we sent the information earlier so we just got their purchase calculator back two weeks ago. Mayor Schmicker stated the PERF would be for Civilian full-time employees, at City Offices, Streets, Police (2), Golf, and Park/Cemetery. The motion was passed with all in favor.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Schmicker commented that he suggests that we do a code of conduct for government meetings regarding public comments since we are not having any issues. He also commented he would share thoughts with the Council and would take any advice through an email thread. Mayor Schmicker stated that regarding the Public Safety Building and ETICA Group's critical improvement list, the Chiefs and himself set down and are trying to prioritize the million dollars and there is not much money in the GO Bond. We will prioritize the bid packet. He also stated we are looking at going out for bids at the start of the new year. Councilman Richards asked how much the GO Bond was the last Council passed. Mayor Schmicker stated 1.1 or 1.2 million. There was a brief discussion regarding the stop signs, stop bars, parking stripes, the center line on Jefferson Street, and the electrical boxes. Mayor Schmicker introduced Dylan Dietrick as the new Municipal Services Superintendent (Public Works Manager). Superintendent Dietrick stated he is looking at a short-term solution for the old bases and is looking to get a quote from a contractor to remove them. Mayor Schmicker commented that the ATC approved the DORA. We will be having a promotion on this on December 7<sup>th</sup>, we didn't want the first event to be Tis The Season. So, we are doing it with Ticket to Tipton, spearheaded by Horton's, there will be window clings and the installation of signs. Mayor Schmicker stated the Arts Commission in 2025, will report to the BOW. He also stated December 9<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting) the Council President will lead that meeting.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Resolution 2024-34 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The General Fund The Following Appropriations – Mayor Budget: Mayor Schmicker stated this is to transfer from Legal to Training and Instruction. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-34, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2024-15 (Amending Ord. 2024-09) – An Ordinance Amending The Maximum Salaries, Wages, And Other Compensation For Police Officers, Firefighters, And All Other Employees Of The City Of Tipton For The Year 2024: Mayor Schmicker stated this is on first reading. This makes two adjustments, one for the Interim position that Mark Clark served in for the Street Department and the second is a concession consideration for Phil Beaver who is filling in as the Interim Director of Golf. This defines the compensation for serving in that interim. The compensation as proposed is \$925 per pay. Both will be based on how many weeks they served in that capacity, and they get paid accordingly. Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-15 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2024-16 – An Ordinance Establishing A Department Of Parks And Recreation Board And Repeal Of All Ordinances In Conflict Therewith: Mayor Schmicker stated this is on first reading. Councilman Richards stated he knows they could be a taxing entity, but would they have to come in front of the Council to establish a tax? Mayor Schmicker

stated the Council is the fiscal body for the City of Tipton, so they are the approving authority of the tax rate. Council Richards asked about the library. Mayor Schmicker commented that the County Council has approving authority over the Library, he may lean on County Council VanBibber in the audience if that is not correct. Again, the fiscal body of this agency or board is a City-specific board. Councilman Richards asked after the Council got the Park Board established and assigned a superintendent, is that like a role Tomlinson would stay in or how does that work? Mayor Schmicker stated within the State Statute 36-10-3 that there is an actual clause that makes a special delineation for cities if this position, the park superintendent, is an appointed position it will remain an appointed position. In towns and counties, the Park Board would have that authority. Councilman Ehman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-16 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

Claims: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 177436-177952 for \$5,066,186.37, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Petitions, Comments, and Memorials:

Mr. Bob Edinger stated he wanted to discuss the baseball fields and funding. If there is funding, where is it, how much and how does the City plan on paying for it? Mayor Schmicker stated from my review, and not to put anybody else in the spot, that there is no special designated funding within the 2024 budget specific to baseball. Mr. Edinger commented that it would be the case if someone said the funding went somewhere else, that just wouldn't be true. Mayor Schmicker stated correct, that there could be available funding through CCD or other capital monies, and the Park Budget but there are no monies that were specified for the baseball project. Councilman Kring stated he would shed some light but doesn't feel it's fair to criticize either Mayor. He believes there was funding that Mayor Dolezal had in Edit and he knows that Mayor Dolezal wanted to request some movement of funds from the Council but elections have consequences and Councilman Kring stated he didn't feel comfortable about doing that. If he wanted to move money from the General Fund or maybe ARPA, we probably could have done it but it would have strapped some funds very thin.

Mr. Rick Chandler, Oak Street, Tipton, addressed his concerns with the trucks downtown. He feels we are not providing adequate enforcement of the truck ordinance, and he understands the Police Department has limited resources and they can be stretched at their limit. Mr. Chandler stated he has some ideas and would be happy to share, and he would help this Administration be successful and help work for our citizens.

Ms. Roberta Heinzman stated regarding the Park Board is there a 5-Year Plan now. Mayor Schmicker stated that there is one being worked on to turn in by November 15<sup>th</sup> for draft and the final version has to be done by April 15, 2025. Ms. Heinzmann asked if the 5-Year Plan covers the ADA issues. Mayor Schmicker stated correct, as a piece of that 5-Year Plan DNR has requested an ADA transition plan be a part of that. Ms. Heinzmann asked if there was an update between the City and the County on the old Chrysler

building. The mayor stated the property has been purchased, and it has moved through closing, but there's still yet to be any formal notification on who purchased the property and that's all he is allowed to speak on at this moment. Ms. Heinzmann asked about the new owners of Needlers have they come to him? Mayor Schmicker stated he reached out to them but hasn't received a response, he sent an email and extended an open invitation to have a meeting. There was a brief discussion about the store.

Mayor Schmicker introduced Dylan Dietrick to the Council as the new superintendent of Municipal Services. He was most recently employed with INDOT and brings with him a plethora of contacts through INDOT both at the State in Greenfield and the local substation with INDOT. We are excited to have him. Mayor Schmicker thanked Dylan for being here and welcomed him to the Tipton Family.


Councilman Richards stated that the F.O.P. will be collecting toys for their event in front of Tim's 1 at the Tis the Season event.

Councilman Ehman commented the Council needs to go electronic for our packets to transfer documents. You might think about it.

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

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.

  
Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer

  
Council ~~President~~  
Member