

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on April 14, 2025, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Rob Cochrane III, Dylan Dietrick, Mike Bollman, Elsie Smith, Joe VanBibber, Don McElfresh, Megan Phifer, and Judy Coker.

Mayor Schmicker opened the April 14, 2025, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve the March 24, 2025, Council minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Councilman Kring made a motion to amend the agenda under Old Business to add Public Safety Building appointments, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the April 14, 2025, BOW meeting.

Cemetery Board: Councilman Vautaw stated that the Board met on March 18, 2025, and they need a volunteer for the Cemetery Board. It can be a City or County resident, but they must own a plot at the Cemetery. He also stated there were nine burials, one cremation, and fifteen lots sold. Councilman Vautaw read the numbers for the 2024 year-end report. Councilman Ehman stated there were 59 burials last year. Is that about the trend? It was stated that there are 367 lots for sale, divided by 60. Councilman Vautaw commented that in 5 years, they will run out of lots.

Park Board: Councilman Ehman commented that the Board met. He shared the information that Superintendent Tomlinson shared at the BOW meeting.

Utility Board: Councilman Rippy stated that the April 7, 2025, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He also highlighted a few items from the meeting.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Public Safety Building Committee – Appointments: Councilman Kring nominated Evan Piske, Building Inspector, to the Committee, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor. It was stated that Rich Vautaw was once on the Committee as the County Building Inspector. Councilman Kring nominated Councilman Vautaw to the Committee, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Schmicker commented that the vendor for the fireworks stated that the current vendor stated that there were tariffs in China, one of the largest manufacturers in the world, which makes it challenging. We are going to prepay for the entirety of the fireworks show. It will be another claim for the next meeting. He also commented that the State Statute requires the community to redistrict. We will be looking at redistricting in the middle of 2025. Mayor Schmicker stated they ensure none of the four districts deviate more than 10%. Councilman Kring stated this is required by State law. Mayor Schmicker commented the Electric Dept is doing the hanging flower pots. He also commented that the Arts Commission, the Library, and himself are composing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the crosswalk, including who is responsible for the maintenance, etc. Mayor Schmicker stated the Indiana Destination Development Corp. has funding available to communities across the State. He will meet with a small group of Mayors and U.S. Senator Todd Young regarding tariffs and their impacts. The grant program, back in November, is still in limbo. Mayor Schmicker commented that the Indiana Farm Bureau and Ag Industry provide as part of an ongoing effort for communication. He also commented that he spoke at the Howard Co. Builders Association, which relates to housing but has some good contacts. Mayor Schmicker stated Municipal Services Superintendent Dietrick's crew will put up stop signs in a week or two. Tragger Concrete core drilled the holes; they are two feet deep. He also stated Dick Klein will be retiring as IMPA Commissioner, and Jim Ankrum was recommended to be his replacement.

#### Resolutions and Ordinances:

Ordinance 2025-04 – An Ordinance Of The City Of Tipton Providing That The Text Of The Zoning Ordinance Be Amended, Ordinance 2010-03 Article Two – Definitions – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: This is for clarification of language. Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-04 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Rippey, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2025-05 – An Ordinance Amending The Motor Vehicle And Traffic Code Of The City Of Tipton To Allow The Limited Operation Of Golf Carts On City Streets – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Councilman Vautaw made a motion to remove the time limit restrictions, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor. Councilman Vautaw made a motion to remove the annual inspection of golf carts; if it's a new golf cart, it needs to be inspected. Clerk-Treasurer Clark asked if they wanted to remove it from being registered yearly or just for inspection. Councilman Ehman stated that if it were damaged, they would take it off after being inspected. Councilman Vautaw indicated that it would be a violation of the ordinance. Councilman Ehman stated he feels it still needs to be inspected. Mayor Schmicker stated Councilman Vautaw has a motion to amend the subsection on annual inspections. Is there a second? The motion dies for a lack of a second. Mayor Schmicker stated Subsection J is removed, and Section 5 is with the correct version. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05 on the first reading, seconded by Councilman Richards. Ordinance 2025-05 was passed on first reading with Councilman Ehman, Richards, Kring, and Rippey in favor. Councilman Vautaw voted against it.

Claims: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 178628-179184 for \$4,822,391.25, seconded by Councilman Vautaw. The claims were approved by Councilman Vautaw, Ehman, Richards, and Rippy. Councilman Kring abstained.

Petitions, Comments, and Memorials:

Councilman Kring reported an update Midwest: the pavement downtown and the north and south areas on Independence and Main Street will be extended at the intersections.

Councilman Kring thanked Councilman Ehman for his years of public service; he is a great mentor. He was a member of the Boys & Girls Club, on the School Board and the City Council. Councilman Ehman replied thank you.

Mr. Rob Cochrane III, Tipton Main Street President, gave an update on Project Rosebud, the construction, operation agreement, and sponsorship. Councilman Ehman asked about doing something with The Alley; it still has the original artwork. Mr. Cochrane stated that Main Street will clean up to make it look nice and that they are working with the Arts Commission. Councilman Kring noted that people will donate to this. Mr. Cochrane stated that we are looking to update artwork and mural opportunities. He also thanked the Council for approving the project. Mr. Cochrane thanked Councilman Ehman for his service.

Councilman Richards stated that on April 25<sup>th</sup>, the FOP is having their big fundraiser at the 4-H Building, starting at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. There are door prizes and dinner. They raise money, so kids and cops go shopping together.

Councilman Ehman congratulated Elle Huffhand for receiving the Youth of the Year award for the Boys & Girls Club. This is a great honor. She had to do multiple essays and interviews. The Judges were established people. Congratulations.

Mayor Schmicker stated the Republican Party will have a caucus to appoint a replacement for Councilman Ehman. We are pushing the Republican Party because we can't be with just four Council members, but it is out of our hands.

Adjournment: Councilman Ehman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.



Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer

  
Council President