

City of Tipton Common Council meeting held on September 22, 2025, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Mike Bollman, Abby Ripberger, Matt Quigley, Rob Cochrane III, Rick Chandler, Holly Golden, Jenny Frodge, Nate Stout, Bob Edinger, Elsa Smith.

Mayor Schmicker opened the September 22, 2025, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025, Council Workshop, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor. Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025, Council minutes, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the September 22, 2025, BOW meeting.

GAC: Councilman VanBibber stated they didn't meet.

Solid Waste District Board: Mayor Schmicker commented that Director Shelton updated the Board on the budget and what will be presented to the County Council. It was also reported that the yard debris has been cleaned up, and they don't want to be in the yard waste business.

Street, Alley & Sidewalk Committee: Nothing to report.

Plan Commission: Councilman Vautaw stated there was no meeting.

Utility Board: Councilman Rippy commented that the minutes of the September 15, 2025, Utility Board meeting are enclosed. He also highlighted a few items from the minutes. Mayor Schmicker stated that there are some delinquent trash bills. Councilman Kring stated Municipal Services Superintendent Dietrick presented delinquent trash bills with authority to remove trash cans for nonpayment. Mayor Schmicker noted that we will send certified letters.

Youth Council: Mayor Schmicker stated there are 13 participants, all THS students. We hope Tri-Central will engage with the Youth Council.

Councilman Kring stated that we are having an SBOA exit conference. The audit is thorough and overwhelmingly positive; he will share the outcome when it is available.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Schmicker commented that we will be discussing budgets, ordinances, and resolutions during tonight's meeting.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Resolution 2025-16 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The General Fund The Following Appropriations – Golf Grounds Budget: Mayor Schmicker stated this is to transfer \$2,000 from Gasoline to Contractual. Councilman Richards made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-16, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-17 – A Resolution To Transfer Within The General Fund The Following Appropriations – Pool Budget: Mayor Schmicker stated this is decreasing paint and increasing repair parts. Councilman Rippey made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-17, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-18 – A Resolution To Make A Reduction In The 2025 Appropriations For The General Fund: Mayor Schmicker commented these next Resolutions and Ordinances are related to the budget process. He also commented to reduce the Clerk-Treasurer's budget \$8,638, Council budget \$354,287, Plan/Bldg budget \$20,000, Police budget \$5,000, Street budget \$124,951, Sanitation budget \$7,700, Cemetery budget \$28,193, Park budget \$47,907, Pool budget \$2,862 for a total in General Fund of \$599,538, and the. Councilman Kring stated that we are not spending "X" amount of dollars so that we can reduce the budget this year. Councilman Vautaw noted this is an 18-month budget process. He also said he commends the Department. Heads for finding the reductions. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-18, seconded by Councilman Vautaw. There was a brief discussion regarding the 2025 process and the opportunity for additional appropriations. Resolution 2025-18 was passed with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-19 – A Resolution To Make A Reduction In The 2025 Appropriations For The Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-19, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-20 – A Resolution To Make A Reduction In The 2025 Appropriations For The Old SR 28 Fund: Councilman Richards asked if this is the Old SR 28 Fund. There was a brief discussion where Structure Point communicated an update. The current timeline spans from late 2027 to the summer of 2028. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-20, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-21 – A Resolution To Make A Reduction In The 2025 Appropriations For The Opioid Restricted Fund: Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-

21, seconded by Councilman Rippy. A question was asked about the future of the fund. Mayor Schmicker stated that other communities are doing a statewide assessment. We are working with local health care providers regarding substance abuse. He also noted that the Unrestricted funds could be used for park improvements, street projects, and other purposes. The restricted fund addresses the opioid issues. Resolution 2025-21 was passed with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-22 – A Resolution To Make A Reduction In The 2025 Appropriations For The Opioid Unrestricted Fund: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-22, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Councilman Richards stated that this money still exists in the fund. Councilman Kring noted that nothing is planned for it, so it should stay in the fund. Resolution 2025-22 was passed with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-23 – A Resolution To Make A Reduction In The 2025 Appropriations For The Unsafe Building Fund: Councilman Richards made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-23, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2025-11 – An Ordinance For Form 4 Adopting The 2026 Budget: Mayor Schmicker stated this is \$300K less than the 2025 budget and \$144K less in revenue. Job description of promoting Tricia to PT/HR and improving efficiency with time and attendance. The Mayor's budget includes a Special Project Director who will manage requests for proposals in various areas, including health insurance, property and casualty, RDC management, legal personnel, financial advisory services, economic development, downtown residential development, and historic renovation. The fiscal budget created doesn't decrease services. The Planning & Zoning will be going to the City Planning Commission, based on an assessment from HWC, in which we will hire a zoning administrator to manage GIS. The Community Service Officer and Code Enforcement will be within that department to continue these efforts. Mayor Schmicker commended each Department for its help in the budget process. Park Superintendent Tomlinson will be moved to the Park Budget, as most of her efforts are dedicated to the park. We have reduced the contractual line for the concerts in the Park; we will work with businesses to provide this entertainment. The golf course is being viewed as a team aspect. The budget was \$730K, and we wanted it closer to \$600K. Golf Pro Voorhis and Superintendent Beaver reduced it to \$ 590K. We have removed equipment, and we are using the Golf Capital Improvement Fund for some of the expenditures. Mayor Schmicker stated Bond 2 is the annual payment for the baseball project. The MVH fund was reduced because the CCMG application process changed, and we were unable to apply for the 2026 work. The Edit fund was reduced from \$1.7 million to \$852K. Councilman VanBibber asked about the certified shares. Mayor Schmicker stated that they are estimates and the NAVs have not been certified. He also noted that the non-profit contributions remain in 2026 in the Council and Edit, but there could be a risk in the future for these contributions. There was a lengthy discussion on some other budget items and the budget process. Councilman Richards stated that he hadn't had a chance to review the budget, as he received it on Friday, so he probably won't vote. Councilman Kring stated that we will be tightening the

budget up more next year than this year. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-11 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Ordinance 2025-11 passed on first reading, with Councilmen Vautaw, VanBibber, Kring, and Rippy in favor. Councilman Richards abstained.

Ordinance 2025-12 – An Ordinance Setting Salaries For Elected Officials For The Year 2026 As Required by IC 36-4-7-2: Mayor Schmicker stated this represents a 2.5% increase for the City of Tipton Elected Officials and Staff. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-12 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Councilman Richards stated that the raise is 2.5% for the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer, Council, all staff, and elected officials. Ordinance 2025-12 was passed on first reading with all in favor.

Ordinance 2025-13 – 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 2026: Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-13 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2025-14 – An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Tipton, Indiana, To Amend Ordinance 94-04, Which Was Amended By Ordinance 2011-03 Golf Capital Improvement Fund: This Fund helped pay for the irrigation system. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-14 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Richards. Councilman VanBibber asked City Attorney Quigley if this fund was flexible within the Golf Course. City Attorney Quigley stated that it is correct. Ordinance 2025-14 was passed on first reading with all in favor.

Claims: It was reported that the claim for Nick Cox was corrected; it originally stated Nick Stewart. Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 180122-180504 for \$651,484.53, seconded by Councilman Kring. Councilman Richards asked if that claim was about power washing the sidewalks. Mayor Schmicker stated that this was for the downtown sidewalks, not the Pork Festival area. The claims were passed with all in favor.

Petitions, Comments, and Memorials:

Ms. Abby Ripberger, of Tipton, asked if Public Safety had been cut. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated that in 2025, the Police budget was cut \$5K, for 2026, the Police budget was cut \$170,147, and the Fire budget was cut \$101,412. She requested clarification about the Community Service Officer. Mayor Schmicker stated that she will be in charge of Animal Control and Code Enforcement. He also explained the area plan. Ms. Ripberger asked about the Special Project Manager. Mayor Schmicker explained the position again. She addressed her concerns about split services, when the budget is getting tighter, and now you are splitting off from the County. Ms. Ripberger asked about the Old SR 28 fund. It was stated that this is a non-reverting fund, and an explanation was provided regarding the LPA Grant and the CCMG grants. Ms. Ripberger inquired about bond money for pool repairs. Mayor Schmicker stated that the GO Bond ends in 2027 and is committed to the

Public Safety Building. The pool loan is paid off. He also stated that there are two other bonds: one is for the baseball bond, and the other is the bond we are currently working on. Ms. Ripberger stated she is a member of TMSA and they would be willing to help with the concerts in the park. We want to partner with you. We are a resource and are available to help, and she loves to be involved.

Councilman VanBibber asked about the debt for the pool. The Clerk-Treasurer and Mayor advised him that this had been paid off.

Mr. Rick Chandler addressed his concerns regarding the Mayor's Edit Fund. I see a lot of videos being done, and with HB1 we need to utilize every penny we can and seeing things like the Mayor learning the POS system out at the golf course is not the best use of Edit monies or time. The money could be used more effectively for other purposes. Every time we reach into our pockets it's taxpayer dollars, and they need to be spent as judiciously as possible.

Councilman Kring suggested writing their House and State Representatives regarding HB1. The City has to now think about the LIT tax and the Wheel Tax, which is upsetting.

Mr. Nate Stout, a Howard County resident, addressed his concerns about Stellantis. He also stated he has tried contacting District 38 Representative Heath VanNetter, and he doesn't return calls. There needs to be more people who speak up and get louder. Mr. Stout stated he feels 2028 will be devastating.

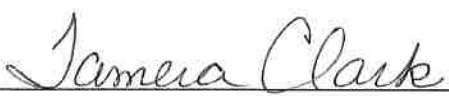
Mr. Bob Edinger stated there was no Planning Commission meeting this month. Councilman Vautaw stated there was no quorum. Mr. Edinger commented on the baseball fields. The Mayor has made an effort and done work; there was no money, and no budget item; it started with zero for them. He also commented that the videos he feels are great, and the public gets to look at them.

Councilman Richards is still looking at the baseball project for next year. Mayor Schmicker stated that a meeting was held with the DNR, and it appears that we won't have to complete the entire permitting process. It should be Spring of 2026.

Councilman Richards inquired about the Park Board's lack of a quorum and mentioned that he is a member of the 911 Emergency Management committee, which has not held a meeting in months. Mayor Schmicker stated that Adam DeWitt is the manager of those meetings. Councilman Kring asked if this is the EMAC or 911? There are two different boards. Councilman Richards stated that many boards are not meeting.

Adjournment: Councilman Kring motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.


Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer


Council President