

City of Tipton Common Council meeting held on October 13, 2025, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Mike Bollman, Rob Cochrane III, Bob Edinger, Elsa Smith, Riley Harden, Dylan Dietrick, Steve Unger with Bose, McKinney & Evans, Matt Quigley, Justin Chang with Reedy Financial, and Abby Ripberger.

Mayor Schmicker opened the October 13, 2025, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve the September 22, 2025, Council minutes, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the October 13, 2025, BOW meeting.

Cemetery: Councilman Vautaw stated the Cemetery Board was canceled, but Diana's report shows two burials, three cremations and one lot sold for \$1,200. Councilman VanBibber stated he doesn't need to see who the occupants are, we don't need that report.

Park: Mayor Schmicker commented that Member Sophia Phifer resigned, and Sadie Lundy has been appointed to that capacity. Lundy had interest in the Park Board. He also commented they are going to reorganize next month, and Gena Massey will be the Vice President, and Lundy will be the Secretary. Mayor Schmicker stated the Park Board approved the action on the appropriation resolution for the Park District Board.

Utility Board: Councilman Rippy stated that the minutes of the October 6, 2025, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He also highlighted a few items from the minutes.

New Business:

Halloween Hours: Mayor Schmicker commented that traditionally we had two nights for Halloween, October 30th and 31st from 5-8 p.m. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Trick or Treat Hours, on October 30th and 31st from 5 to 8 p.m., seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor. Councilman Richards stated they are doing something downtown also. Ms. Abby Ripberger stated Tipton Main Street, the Public Library, and the Chamber are having something downtown with the businesses.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Schmicker gave an update on the baseball project regarding the DNR application and the development design, getting quotes and estimates so we are ready for

construction in March. He also stated the PSB had their kickoff meeting last Monday, and they hope to have the project finished by the end of April. They are prioritizing the outside work. All of this will depend on the weather.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Resolution 2025-24 – A Resolution To Transfer Within the General Fund The Following Appropriations – Sanitation Budget: Mayor Schmicker stated this is to transfer \$5,000 from Gasoline to Repair Equipment. Councilman Richards made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-24, seconded by Councilman Rippey, with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-25 – A Resolution To Transfer Within the General Fund The Following Appropriations – Fire Budget: Mayor Schmicker stated this will help with the additional wages needed for overtime. We were able to pay off the fire truck with the Fire Truck Reserve Fund so this transfer will be for \$39,771 from Fire Truck Lease Payment to Firefighter Wages. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-25, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-26 – A Resolution To Transfer Within the General Fund The Following Appropriations – Golf Grounds Budget: Mayor Schmicker stated this will transfer from Pt. Wages to Repair Parts in the amount of \$5,000 and Gravel/Sand to Other Equipment in the amount of \$3,179.04. This will help finish out the year and get additional equipment and repair equipment. Councilman Richards made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-26, seconded by Councilman Rippey, with all in favor.

Resolution 2025-27 – A Resolution Approving The Issuance Of Bonds Of The City Of Tipton Redevelopment District: Mr. Steve Unger with Bose, McKinney stated we work a lot with Reedy and Baird to fund capital project, with tax levy and rates. We work to find the most efficient ways to fund these types of projects. He also stated other debt is rolling off so this allows the additional bonds. The bonds are for Park projects such as paving the parking lots, trails, etc. and for the Redevelopment Commission for the infrastructure of a road. This will run parallel; there is one bond but two series. On October 27th there will be the final approval, the RDC and Park Board will hold a public hearing on the 27th before the Council meeting. The RDC bond is \$1.4 million, and the Park Board bond is \$750,000. The total is \$2.15 million for 20 years at 6 %. The current rate is 4.25%, with underwriters will work with the banks to get quotes and authorize them for more flexibility. Mr. Justin Chang with Reedy handed out a property tax bond analysis and explained the numbers are like a mortgage payment with principal and interest. He also stated these are two smaller bonds which is beneficial to the City. Chang reviewed the handout with the Council on the debt rate and levies. With a level levy and AVs higher than expected, the tax rate decreased. The interest rate is probably higher, but we just wanted to make sure to cover ourselves. The council asked a few questions to Unger and Chang regarding the bond debt. Councilman Richards stated the potential business at the Industrial Park how many jobs will that create. Mayor Schmicker stated currently it would be about 15 new jobs. Councilman Richards stated they are coming. Mayor

Schmicker commented he felt strong enough to do this debt, but we don't have to build the road if they don't. Schmicker also stated there is not only one, but we do also have others. There have been several conversations. We will work westward with expansion in the empty space with additional prospects. Mr. Justin Chang also explained how much debt the City was allowed. Mr. Steve Unger explained you have to treat all the debt differently. Councilman VanBibber asked about authorizing the Redevelopment Commission. The responsibility will be satisfied through the tax rate. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-27, seconded by Councilman Vautaw. Resolution 2025-27 passed with Councilman Vautaw, VanBibber, Kring, and Rippy in favor. Councilman Richards abstained and stated he didn't have enough time to go through.

Ordinance 2025-11 – An Ordinance For Form 4 Adopting The 2026 Budget: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-11 on second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Councilman Richards asked about the General Form 4 B. Councilman VanBibber stated he has no problem with the budget just the process. Ordinance 2025-11 passed with Councilman VanBibber, Kring and Rippy in favor. Councilman Vautaw abstained and Councilman Richards against.

Ordinance 2025-12 – An Ordinance Setting Salaries For Elected Officials For The Year 2026 As Required by IC 36-4-7-2: Councilman Rippy made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-12 on second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Kring, 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 second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Rippy, 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: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-14 on second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2025-15 – An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Tipton, Indiana, Approving The Issuance and Sale Of Special Taxing District Bonds By The City, For And On Behalf Of The Park And Recreation District Of The City, To Provide For The Financing Of Certain Improvements To Park Facilities: Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-15 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Councilman Richards stated he thought the Park Board was established for grants with DNR and won't this go against our tax rate. Councilman Kring stated no we are issuing debt with the City. This will be on our debt level this is not Park Tax. Mr. Steve Unger with Bose, McKinney stated you don't have to make a tax impact statement. If it was a property tax rate it would have to be reviewed by the Council. This bond falls under

Bond #3, to issue a tax it would need Council approval. Ordinance 2025-15 was passed with all in favor.

Claims: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 180505-180666 for \$5,613,172.38, seconded by Councilman Vautaw. The claims were passed with Councilman Vautaw, VanBibber, Richards, and Rippy in favor. Councilman Kring abstained.

Petition, Comments, and Memorials:

Ms. Abby Ripberger, Tipton asked questions regarding the Planning Commission. She stated at the last meeting you said the reason to separate is the City/County area plan. Mayor Schmicker stated that it is one reason, but we are prepared for if and when this could happen. Ripberger asked some questions regarding the Community Service Officer/Enforcement Officer. Mayor Schmicker addressed her questions. Ms. Ripberger asked some questions about the bonds. It was explained that we retired old debt, and we are using that for the new debt. Ripberger then stated we went to a statutory Park Board so we could get more grants, how many grants have we received. Schmicker stated this is part of the application piece on federal grant money, this is focused statewide, there is more competition, and they are focusing on trails. There was a brief discussion regarding there used to be a Park Board that disbanded to a Park Advisory board several years ago.

Councilman Richards stated he heard we purchased a Christmas tree for 45-65K, can you confirm. Mayor Schmicker stated the tree was \$30K. It will be used during the holiday season. Councilman Kring stated this will be in the green space. Mayor Schmicker stated we are working on the details.


Mr. Bob Edinger, Tipton, asked how long we had the CDs. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated it was before she was Clerk-Treasurer. Mayor Schmicker stated he thought the original investment was in the 90's. There were some questions regarding the budget and cash balance. Mayor Schmicker stated they recommend you have a reserve based off a percentage of the total budget for emergencies. When doing the budgets with Reedy, he thinks 50% was recommended. Mr. Steve Unger stated they suggest having a reserve of six months' expenditure, because of the risk of not collecting property taxes, but you still have the expenditure. Mr. Edinger stated at the last meeting the City Planning Commission didn't meet this month, there was no cancellation on the website. Edinger stated the calendar on the County's site doesn't serve the public well. Councilman VanBibber stated that is the responsibility of the chair, unless the chair gets to the meeting and there is no quorum. Councilman Vautaw stated he received an email the meeting was canceled because there was not business. Mr. Edinger stated he would appreciate this information. Mr. Edinger stated there were a couple of people abstaining, what are the rules for abstaining. An abstained is a no vote. Councilman VanBibber the stated the rule for abstaining is if there is fiduciary interest. Councilman Kring stated he abstained on the claims docket because his company had a claim on the docket. Councilman Richards stated he didn't abstain he voted no. Councilman Vautaw stated he abstained because he didn't feel comfortable to vote no or yes, either one. Councilman

Richards stated he voted no because he didn't know he if he agreed with the cuts. Mr. Edinger stated the City and County Planning has been a long time, short of 20 years. He encourages people to come to the meeting and ask questions. Councilman Richards thanked Mr. Edinger.

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

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.


Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer


~~Council President~~
MEMBER 