

City of Tipton Common Council meeting held on February 8, 2021 at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Mayor Dolezal, Councilwoman Hufford, Councilmen Ehman, Chandler, Kring and Rippy and Clerk-Treasurer Clark.

Others: Lindsey Ogden, Jeffrey Ogden, Justin Webster, Justin Anderson, Jordan Crane, Joe Bitner, Jeff Stout, Kegan Schmicker, Laura Sottong, Gwen Barker, Daryn Hendeshot, Vicky Boyd with Tipton Tribune and Steve Niblick.

Mayor Dolezal opened the February 8, 2021 Council meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the January 25, 2021 Council minutes without amendment, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported from the February 8, 2021 BOW meeting. Councilwoman Hufford asked about the Food Truck, operating on City Street or Parking Lot. Councilman Kring reported it is during Farmers Market. If it's on private property that is between them and the property owner, if it is on public property, we might need to look at charging a nominal fee. He also reported we advised them to get a Street Closure Form from Public Works Manager Terry.

Cemetery Board: Councilman Rippy reported we met two weeks ago. He also reported there were four burials, four lot sales and had sales of \$2,800.

Park Board: Councilman Rippy reported they met on February 1, 2021 in the Council Chambers. He also reported three concerts have been scheduled and we need to schedule two more. The Baseball League signed the contract. Councilman Rippy reported the Five-Year Plan has been updated and a copy has given to Park Board President for any additional changes.

Utility Board: Councilman Chandler reported February 1, 2021 Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He also reported claims were approved. Mayor Dolezal was present to submit his recommendation to the Board for his appointment to the position of TMU General Manager due to the pending retirement of current Manager Boyer. The Board will schedule an Executive Session prior to next regular meeting. Councilman Chandler reported additional information will be presented to the Board concerning the topic of opting out of the IURC. It appears that it needs to be presented to the voters of the City of Tipton at the next regular City Election. Board member Klein has been in contact with a Utility Attorney who will discuss the process with the Utility Board at the next meeting. Councilman Chandler reported the AMI project is moving forward at a slow pace, we are waiting on Keystone and Tantalus to work it out. He also reported that the Collections Department employees are in the process of moving into their new facility. Councilman Chandler reported Phase III project is about 99% complete and the underground work

should be finished this week. He also reported the cause of the power outage on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The Duke transmission lines in the area began to “gallop” because of the unique weather condition and we had to switch our primary feed to Noblesville. Councilman Chandler reported the East Wastewater Plant backup generator had an oil leak that they repaired but may need to replace the 40-year-old generator. Councilman Kring asked Councilman Chandler if it was Utility Manager Boyer’s opinion about the referendum or a fact. Councilman Chandler reported he believes it to be a fact, but we will discuss with the attorney.

Mayor Dolezal reported the RDC met on January 28<sup>th</sup> and discussed six City properties where individuals could build new homes. They are also working on a tax abatement score card. He also reported the RDC will meet again on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

New Business:

Department Updates – Chief Stout and Chief Bitner: Mayor Dolezal reported this is regarding employment efforts and status issues of concern. Chief Stout handed out documents to reference. He thanked the Council and reported he was here to ask the Council to increase the Officers pay, they are underpaid, other Departments are being paid more and they are offered better benefits. There was a brief discussion on his thoughts. He also reported there were 10 applicants and only three people showed up for the testing. The seven applicants that didn’t show up might have another job, or maybe another process. Mayor Dolezal asked for him to follow up with them to see why they didn’t show up. Chief Stout reported we can reach out, but they don’t have to give an answer. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the request and the budget process. Chief Bitner thanked the Council and presented his information regarding pay, longevity, number of firefighters who left (either retired, went to other Fire Dept. or out of fire service), rate of pay and clothing allowance. He also stated the Police have take home cars, so raise the longevity for Fire by \$7,500 which will add to the pension base. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the request, along with discussing the ambulance, overtime, and the requirements on the application process. Chief Bitner reported everybody (other Departments) are being proactive and we are being reactive. A few of the firemen answered the Council’s questions and voiced their thoughts and stated they love Tipton, but they are thinking of their family. Mayor Dolezal reported we will schedule a special meeting or executive session. Clerk-Treasurer Clark reported she would have to check to see if it would fall under an executive session or if it needs to be a special meeting. Mayor Dolezal reported he would let them know when the meeting will be. He also thanked them for all they do.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Mayor’s Report: Nothing to report.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Ordinance 2021-01 – An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The City Of Tipton, Indiana, Amending The City Of Tipton Zoning Ordinance 2010-03, As Amended Five (5)  
Miscellaneous Provisions: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-01 on second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Chandler, with all in favor.

Resolution 2021-02 – A Resolution Of The City Of Tipton Common Council To Create An Ad Hoc Public Building And Infrastructure Advisory Committee: Mayor Dolezal reported this was a discussion item at the last Council meeting, it allows us to look at facilities the City owns. Councilwoman Hufford asked about the changes. Councilman Kring reported he revised the lines that was discussed at the last meeting. Councilman Chandler made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-02, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor. Councilman Kring reported there are appointments that we can make at any point, but he would like to be on the Committee.

Claims: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve the claims 167721-167835 in the amount of \$3,741,612.46, seconded by Councilman Ehman. The claims passed with all in favor and Councilman Kring abstained.

Petitions, Complaints, Comments and Memorials:

Ms. Laura Stottong thanked the Fire and Police for their service and everything. We are a small town, and we look after each other. She then stated her other issue is Canterbury Court Apartments. There was a lengthy discussion on the ordinance we passed and what the next steps are and where we are in the process. Mayor Dolezal reported he would discuss this out of the City meeting, there are a lot of civil matters issues. You need to get a hold of Area Five, there are a lot of resources in the community. Councilwoman Hufford reported she spoke with the Regional Director and she feels it is very favorable they will be doing something. It was also reported that there are other agencies that can do something, it is not always a Zoning and Planning issue.

Chamber Director, Schmicker reported the steering committee got together and they organized a leader, the Co-Chairs will be Schmicker with Chamber of Commerce and Lindsey Ogden with Main Street. Schmicker reported OCRA made changes to the Main Street planning grant. He also reported there is a tiered system, and we are working towards being accredited to Indiana Main Street, but it will be three years before we can qualify for the big grant. We are going to look at the façade to make substantial changes immediately to making that progress. The Mayor and Council thanked Schmicker for this work.

Adjournment: With no further business, Councilman Kring made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.



Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer

  
Council President