

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on February 13, 2023, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Vicky Boyd with Tipton Tribune, Brent Tragesser, Jane Harper, Kegan Schmicker, Andi Pumphrey, Abbie Smith, Benny Frazier, William Paul, Bob Edinger, Susie Hussong, Becky Schulenburg, Laura Beth Dunn, Kindra Tragesser, Michael Spurlock, Brian Cates, Summer Sherer, Susan Sloan, Tim Horton, Karen Horton, Holly Horton, Debbie Bowlby, Mike Bollman, Ryan Bontrager, Dick Klein, Mark Baird, Wyatt Johnson, Brad Whitman, and Abby Ripberger.

Mayor Dolezal opened the February 13, 2023, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve January 23, 2023, Council minutes, seconded by Councilman Ehman. A correction was made on page 4 the ARP Advisory Committee should be Councilmen Rippy and Ehman. The corrected January 23, 2023, Council minutes were approved with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Councilman Chandler made a motion to add Go Bond update status under Old Business, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Public Hearing on Resolutions 2023-03 Final Resolution on Property Tax Abatement for Tipton Wilson Properties: Councilman Chandler made a motion to open the Public Hearing at 5:33 p.m., seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor. Mayor Dolezal stated Mr. Kirchner was here at the last meeting on the tax abatement. Mayor Dolezal asked if anyone from the public is here in favor or opposition. Mr. Bob Edinger asked for details. Mrs. Abbie Smith, Community Development Director, commented Tipton Wilson Properties (HP Alloys) is expanding the footprint to the East with an eight-year abatement according to the rubric. Mr. Edinger stated he forgot what Tipton Wilson Properties was. Ms. Andi Pumphrey, Tipton, asked if the issue with the semi-trucks had been resolved on Wilson Street. This will create more semis on Wilson. Mayor Dolezal stated you are still seeing semis. He also stated he would check the code, but we will post a couple more signs, he will get with Public Works Manager Terry. Mayor Dolezal asked if there were any more comments. Councilman Rippy made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 5:36 p.m., seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on February 13, 2023, BOW meeting. He also commented the grinding has been finished and was paid for by the DSW. There is free mulch contact the City Street Dept. if you are interested.

Cemetery: Councilman Rippy reported there were five burials and two lot sales at \$1,400.

Park: Councilman Rippey stated Park Superintendent Tomlinson gave a report the concrete floor in the Pavilion and steps at the Gazebo will be poured this spring. There are five bands scheduled, May 20th, June 24th, July 15th, August 12th, and September 16th. Tomlinson and Public Works Manager Terry will be making needed repairs to the basketball courts. The skatepark contract has been signed. Mayor Dolezal commented there are two phases to the contract, the initial phase, permitting phase, and the final phase.

Utility Board: Councilman Chandler commented February 6, 2023, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He highlighted some of the items discussed at the meeting. Councilwoman Hufford stated at the last meeting she asked about the acquisition of property out in the County, Ms. Nash had not signed anything. Councilman Chandler stated correct, she has not signed anything to complete the sale.

Planning: Councilwoman Hufford stated the Planning Commission met on February 9th, they elected officers, went over permits and codes, it was a quick meeting.

New Business:

Mr. Benny Frazier – Traffic Lights/Stop Signs: Mr. Frazier stated he had some questions and concerns about this. If it's not broken, don't fix it. SR28 that was done was legally done. Councilman Chandler stated the Council had no vote on the relinquishment. There was a brief discussion regarding INDOT study and Jane Harper works on INDOT relations for the City. Mr. Frazier asked how much it cost to get the study. Mayor Dolezal stated he signed a contract for a traffic study and parking study to be done, which is with Edit funding between 20-25k. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the relinquishment, traffic lights/4 way stops, and receiving public input. Councilman Kring stated the relinquishment is done, it is the Council's job to figure the cost and traffic pattern. Main Street is a priority, and we agree we need to get truck traffic and cars slowed down. We need to mesh with the business community. Councilwoman Hufford commented we need to address the City codes regarding trucks on City Streets. There are all kinds of stuff we have to work through.

Old Business:

Go Bond Update: Councilman Chandler stated we are looking at the Public Safety Building so when we formalized the Committee it was Councilman Rippey and Councilman Kring, but it has been switched from Councilman Rippey to Councilman Ehman. He also stated he asked a couple of others to be on the Committee and they should be meeting this month.

Councilwoman Hufford gave an update regarding Mr. Caleb Clark's information he presented at last meeting. She advised that Laura Sottong contacted her about the comment the gentlemen made regarding Canterbury. There was no eviction, Canterbury ended their contract with taking HUD applicants and ended income-based rents, which is disappointing, it's not illegal. They told all the tenants who it will effect that when their lease is up, their rents will be going to market value based. The Council thanked Councilwoman Hufford for the information. Mayor Dolezal stated he gave Mr. Clark

Area Five's information. Councilwoman Hufford stated Area Five is no longer involved if there is no contract.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Dolezal stated he would hold the report to the end.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Resolution 2023-03 – A Final Resolution Declaring An Economic Revitalization Area And Supporting A Property Tax Abatement For Tipton Wilson Properties, LLC Within The City Of Tipton Corporate Limits: Councilwoman Hufford made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Resolution 2023-03 passed with Councilwoman Hufford, Councilman Ehman, Chandler, and Rippy in favor and Councilman Kring against.

Resolution 2023-04 – A Resolution Renaming The Bridge On State Road 19 Over Cicero Creek The "Don S. Havens Memorial Bridge": Councilwoman Hufford stated there is no name on the bridge. Councilman Chandler gave an explanation for the renaming of the bridge. Councilman Chandler also read Resolution 2023-04 in its entirety. Councilman Chandler made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04, seconded by Councilman Kring. Councilman Ehman stated we were approached two and half years ago. Don Havens is not the only person that has done something for the City. It opens up the door that we don't want to go down. He also stated Don was a great guy but he suggested a plaque. Councilwoman Hufford stated it was not a unanimous vote, who was the Committee that selected the bridge? Councilman Chandler stated himself, Destry Lambert, Joe VanBibber, Tami Brown, and Sherry Lanseadel. Resolution 2023-04 passed with Councilman Chandler, Kring, and Rippy in favor and Councilwoman Hufford and Councilman Ehman against.

Resolution 2023-05 – A Resolution Adopting The 2023 Tipton Golf Fees: Ryan Bontrager, Director of Golf, stated we update the pricing without a big hit every other year about \$15. He also stated the Adult Range Pass went from \$150 to \$300. Mr. Bontrager commented the Jr. Range Pass and the Jr. School Range Pass are a little different the Jr. School Range Pass is for like your school golf teams that the kids don't play a lot of golf. Mayor Dolezal stated this was presented to the Park Board. Councilman Ehman made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05, seconded by Councilman Chandler, with all in favor.

Claims: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 172830-173137 for \$3,634,898.59, seconded by Councilman Chandler. Councilwoman Hufford asked about claim number 173101, paid out of Edit, 212 E. Jefferson, it's not the one sold. Mayor Dolezal stated that is farther East. Councilman Kring stated the Old Bottle Shop. Mayor Dolezal commented he is taking a couple of folks through that location. The claims passed, with Councilwoman Hufford, Councilman Ehman, Chandler, and Rippy in favor. Councilman Kring abstained.

Public Comments:

Mr. Tim Horton, owner of Horton's, S. Main Street. Stated he is here to speak about the signs, he was in a meeting with the Mayor and few business owners, which was a constructive meeting but he is definitely against them, it will kill the business downtown. Councilman Kring asked a quick question, do you change the traffic speed, what do you suggest. He said he didn't agree with killing all the lights but suggested the light at Madison and Main be removed.

Mr. Mike Bollman, SR 28 in Tipton, stated he was home last week and the semis are downshifting, he is going to the County about the same thing. He also stated the four-way at Park Road, individuals are cutting through the Park backwards going into the Park, and going to the other entrance, they will find a way to avoid it.

Mr. Wyatt Johnson, business owner on Market and a resident in Buttonwood, commented he was the City Engineer for Mayor Havens and Balser. He also commented the traffic study is important but before you place them you need to have an Engineer study done. Mr. Johnson gave some points regarding some Engineering information and stated regarding the relinquishment, whether correct or incorrect the public knowing the process might make it more desirable. Mr. Johnson handed out a sketch of his ideas to reduce the speed and traffic flow where you might not have to put the stop signs up, wait until the study is done.

Ms. Abbi Ripberger, a business owner on S. Independence and resident on Columbia, Tipton, stated in the business meeting with the Mayor we learned quite a bit about the signs and the possibility of removing the light at Madison & Main and West & Jefferson. She also stated as a business owner everyone should get stop signs. Ms. Ripberger commented she has one in her front yard, and it has made a huge difference, reducing the speed of the traffic. She also commented they really haven't gathered all the information. Ms. Ripberger commented big surprise she is in favor of the stop signs. It was pretty eye-opening at the meeting, when released to social media its not just like all or nothing.

Mr. Brad Whitman, Taft Street, Tipton, commented regarding stop signs and traffic speeds, Cicero has less stop signs but reduced the speed to 20 mph in the City on the main drag and people follow the speed limit because they know they will get a ticket if they don't. He also commented the ordinance should address local deliveries. Councilwoman Hufford stated it has to be updated. Councilman Chandler stated now that Jefferson Street is a City street the local deliveries will need to be updated.

Mrs. Becky Schulenburg, County Road 300 South, Tipton, stated as a bus driver all the new stop signs affect her. There was a brief discussion regarding her thoughts on the different stop signs. There was a brief discussion regarding notifications, etc.

Mrs. Kindra Tragesser, a business owner on Jefferson St, and resident on SR 28, Tipton, stated in the Downtown Revitalization Plan passed by all of you regarding making the streets

narrow. The Downtown Retail businesses owners have to fight the traffic, it affects us directly and it's not just a matter of safety and a four-way stop is not the best way.

Mrs. Jane Harper, INDOT Relations Director, the issue is smaller than people think. The light at SR 28 and SR 19 they are not removing. Some of the other lights are just proposed to figure out a way to make Tipton safer. She gave an explanation regarding the SR 28 pavement replacement, the LPA grant, the stop light maintenance, and getting semi-traffic out will buy more years on the road maintenance, but no one is suggesting local deliveries or farm traffic being restricted. Mrs. Harper stated INDOT Engineering Study has landscape and narrow streets like Mr. Johnson suggested. She also stated the four-way at Park Road was an INDOT decision. Mrs. Harper commented she found out today the Park Road roundabout with INDOT has been funded. It was stated public input is important but it's not a popularity contest, it's based on facts, and you do your due diligence.


Mr. Frazier stated he spoke to four different contractors, and they said the stop lights can be rebuilt, replaced, and retimed. Don't let the big numbers scare you. Mayor Dolezal stated he is interested in those names.

Councilman Kring commented he is encouraged by the comments, we want to get rid of semis, slow traffic down, walk access for pedestrians, and make it safe.

Adjournment: Councilwoman Hufford called for adjournment, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.


Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer


Council President