

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on September 11, 2023, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Adrian Carillo, Ryan Spear, Jordan Crane, Matthew Nead, Jordan Davis, Doug Carmack, Joe Bitner, Jeff Stout, Benny Frazier, Danielle Ward, Abygael Ward, Brock Turner, Theresa Reisig, Taylor Turner, Dawn Snyder, Lindsey Ogden, Aaron Hill, Debbie Bowlby, Darbi Wamner, JL Wampner, Sally Schmitt, Lindsay Schmitt, Penny Russell, Lacey Bitner, Savanah Morris, Joe Bitner, Dick Klein, Christine Hoover, Abi Hoover, Troy Hoover, Abby Ripberger, Tim Horton, Kendra Tragesser, Lorelai Tragesser, Lylli Tragesser, Ethan Stanley, Steven Thompson, Julianna Hoover, Abbie Smith-Community Development Director, Jen Stanley, Jeff Hogwood, Meg Hogwood, Bob Edinger, Mark Baird, Brad Robbins, Jared Tragesser, and Tim Richards.

Mayor Dolezal opened the September 11, 2023, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve the August 28, 2023, Council minutes without amendment, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Mayor Dolezal amended the agenda to express our deepest appreciation that on July 26<sup>th</sup>, twenty-one members of the community here demonstrated the true spirit of the Tipton Community. He read a proclamation regarding the life-saving event that took place at the Tipton City Pool on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Dolezal called forward the twenty-one individuals and recognized them and they were thanked by the Mayor and Council who all stood when their names were called. Lindsay Schmitt, Savana Morris, Abi Hoover, Lilly Tragesser, Samantha Morris, Amelia Servies, Anna Morre, Juliana Hoover, Chloe Lacey Bitner, Lorlei Tragesser, Taylor Turner, Ethan Stanley, Steven Thompson, Troy Rambas, Eli Crane, Adrian Carrillo, Jason Anderson, Joe Bitner, Michael Firks, Brad Robbins

Public Hearing: 2024 Budget, Councilman Rippy made a motion to open the public hearing regarding the 2024 budget @ 5:44 p.m., seconded by Councilman Kring with all in favor. Clerk-Treasurer Clark explained to the Council the budget estimates for the 2024 year. These are high numbers. Through the budget process, we reduce them down to a balanced budget. The estimated maximum levy is \$4,539,225.00. Our property tax cap credit estimate is \$1,187,00.00. Our public hearing is today and the adoption meeting is October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. There will be some reduction resolutions in the 2023 budget to help offset the budget that we are trying to adopt in 2024. Everything is on Gateway, we do not have to advertise in the paper anymore. Mayor Dolezal asked if there was any comment for or against it. Councilman Kring asked if all the stuff they had been working on was published. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated no, we only have to upload to Gateway. Councilman Kring asked if some of the items that they had been working on could be

highlighted for the public. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated some 2023 appropriations in the general fund have been reduced. We will also be reducing some in the Ambulance Fund, Local Road & Bridge Fund. Councilman Kring stated that tons of work was put in by Tammy, the Mayor & all the Department Heads looking at the current budget to see what they could cut to make us balance as well as what they submitted for next year. Next year we are going to put a bid in to have an ambulance service run by the City instead of Seals so we are adding paramedics to the City services. We are adding two new full-time Firefighters tentatively, 6% raises to our workers (compared to 0% or 3% in some of the other Cities that we've seen). That brings us back to 6% because of inflation, which brings us back to where we need to be. We are still going forward with the vehicle rotation at the Police Dept. We are fulfilling that. We are going to re-pave the basketball courts. We are going to re-pave the parking lot at the Pool. All of this at a balanced budget. Kudos to Tammy, the Mayor, and the Department Heads for making all that happen. I think that all the Department Heads are happy with what they got in their budgets and thanks to the Council over the last three years for getting us back on fiscal track and investing in the infrastructure and the people in our community and the departments. We only work 12-15 hours every summer on this budget but Tammy, the Mayor, and the Department Heads work dozens and dozens of hours on it, thank you. I am happy with the fiscal health of the City. Rick Chander made a motion to close the public hearing seconded by Rick Rippy with all in favor. Public hearing closed at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor Dolezal thanked Tammy and her department for their hard work along with the Council and Department Heads. It is his last budget process and he feels good about things.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the September 11th, 2023, BOW meeting. Councilwoman Hufford asked regarding the changes to the intersections that have new four-way stops downtown, is there a tentative date for the changes? Councilman Kring stated he does not know a date, Public Works Manager Terry would keep us in the loop. Councilwoman Hufford stated that at the last meeting, they wanted to make sure that we fast-track that to be done. Councilman Kring stated he would guess that Terry would have something for us at the next meeting. He seemed very urgent about it. Councilwoman Hufford asked if we need bids to take off the turn lane. Councilman Kring stated he thinks the City will be doing that. Councilwoman Hufford stated she thought that's what they were going to do. Councilman Chandler asked if it was going to be done before the ordinance was actually adopted or if he would wait until the ordinance was actually adopted. Mayor Dolezal stated that an ordinance would need to be passed regarding the turn lanes. Councilman Kring asked what our vote was the last time. Councilwoman Hufford stated it was 4 to 1. Councilman Kring asked to keep the stop signs "as is"? Mayor Dolezal stated correct. Councilman Kring asked then why would we include something about changing the pedestrian four-way stops. Mayor Dolezal stated it is clear we want to include that as our next step. If we are being told that we cannot do that until an ordinance is passed then we cannot do it until the ordinance is passed. Mayor Dolezal stated correct. Councilman Kring asked if we needed to get with City Attorney Quigley. Mayor Dolezal stated yes.

Councilwoman Hufford asked if Quigley has already been working on it since we talked about it two weeks ago. Mayor Dolezal stated Attorney Quigley knows that's what we are moving to. He will move forward when we know what will be gone and changed. He has not asked him to do that yet. Councilwoman Hufford asked if he could get on that. Mayor Dolezal stated yes.

Cemetery: Councilman Rick Rippy reported from last week's Cemetery Board meeting. There were 3 burials, 3 cremations, and we sold 10 lots at \$7,000.00. Work is still going on in the mapping of the North field.

Park Advisory Board: Councilman Rick Rippy reported from the Park Advisory Board. The Hospital likes to contribute to the Park every year and they are going to purchase several new trees to be planted in the park.

Utility Board: Councilman Chandler reported from the September 5<sup>th</sup> Utility Board meeting. They are continuing to work on the purchase of the Assembly of God property purchase. They hope to have that wrapped up by the end of September. IPEP personnel will be returning to Tipton to finish the building inspections on the City and Utility properties. TMU has updated its website. Two Water Department Utility employees, Brayton Lacy and Konnor Tilley both received \$1,000.00 scholarships from the Indiana Section of the American Water Works Associations that will go towards tuition, books, and meals that will go toward those two as they work for their Water Distribution License for early 2024. A lot of communities only have one employee who holds that license. We have several. The TMU and Wessler will be meeting for the 60 % water tower design review.

New Business: None

Old Business: Councilman Kring stated the current problem is we have properties that don't mow their grass. We believe it is cheaper for those owners to have the City mow the properties because we don't charge enough. Right now there is a \$100.00 administrative fee plus a minimal charge for Diana's crew to go out and mow these properties. It is beginning to wear on the department. It should not be their responsibility so what we discussed at the Board Of Works is to have the Council put a clause in the Ordinance that says that the City hire a contractor to pass those costs off to the property owner. We heard from a Corporate property owner that they weren't going to do it. Either way, they are not going to mow their property. We would want to use discretion, maybe not an elderly person who fell behind. If you look at the grass violation list it just keeps getting longer and longer. Councilman Chandler asked about the fees is there going to be any penalty added on top of the charge that the lawn service would charge us? Councilman Kring stated it needs to be punitive and the punitive nature would be the \$100.00 administrative fee. We could discuss adding to the administrative fee if it is not enough. It is not changing the behavior that we need to change. It is too cheap. It's taking a wear and tear on the City's infrastructure, our assets, and mowers. It's not a good use of Diana's time, she's a couple of employees short. She has been doing a lot herself. I just

don't think we want our Parks Dept. mowing other people's grass. Are we all okay or is the majority okay with having City Attorney Quigley create some language stating we will have a third-party contractor to pass those costs on accordingly? Councilman Chandler stated he is fine with that and thinks it's a great idea. Councilman Ehman stated the grass report just gets longer and longer. Mayor Dolezal stated the expectation is that the contract price is going to be higher than what we have been. I foresee this as being something that these are services that we don't want to ask Diana to do anymore and then get contract bids at one time from different companies so there is a list of services that they would be willing to do whether it be grass mowing or cleanup. Mayor Dolezal stated the recourse for not paying the fee is we lien the property. We will have to decide if we accommodate those outside bids and where will the funds come from if the property owner doesn't pay the fees. Councilman Kring stated we can change the admin. Fee as well, Judy said it is one of the lowest she has seen. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated if we are going to do this then it needs to be included in the budget somewhere. Councilman Kring stated in reality we would incur the cost as it is. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated we take that out of Payroll. Councilman Kring stated we would have to ask Diana for some type of projection of how much time, money and resources is she spending doing that.

Councilwoman Hufford asked if we were any closer to having signs up for No Trucks through our area here. Mayor Dolezal stated there is a sign on the East side of town. She stated, yes, those are small ones. Are there going to be bigger ones that the City will be putting up? She also asked about the enforcement of the Ordinance that was in place and that she heard that Chief Stout said he wasn't going to ticket people. She asked why not if it's in the Ordinance and it is a breaking of an Ordinance. Mayor Dolezal stated he has had a follow-up discussion with him on that and how we need to enforce it. The truck that took down the light at Jefferson and Main was a good opportunity to ticket the driver. The Ordinance was in place, yet it wasn't done. I'm wondering why we are not doing that. Mayor Dolezal stated we had a good follow-up so I will bring back what the policy is going to be. We had early discussions about local trucks having some type of tag or sticker so still expect some of it to be addressed like that.

Mayor Dolezal stated he expected Bldg. Commissioner Niblick to bring the Ordinance regarding tattoo parlors and limitations downtown to the next meeting. Sophie will be able to share at the next meeting. Councilwoman Hufford stated that will be this Thursday at 6 pm.

Mayors Report: Mike Terry is working on Phase 2 of the LPA funding for improvements along Jefferson which would go from the bridge out to 300. That would be a 2028 project as far as funding. The RDC is scheduled for a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We expect to see at that time to see some information about 210/212 and we have potential purchasers on the other two residential lots. Our preference is an owner-occupied purchase, someone ready to confirm what they were going to construct. One of them would be owner-occupied and the other may be a request to construct and make available to the public. They both know they need detailed plans to construct.

Ordinances & Resolutions: None

Claims: Councilman Rippy moved to approve claims 174464 to 174684 for \$4,176,117.19. seconded by Councilman Ehman, The claims were passed with Councilwoman Hufford, Councilmen Ehman, Chandler, and Rippy in favor. Councilman Kring abstained.

Petitions, Comments & Memorials: Mr. Tim Horton of Horton's Home and Garden spoke to the Council regarding the four-way stops. He acknowledged the Council's hard work and sacrifice but stated it was a huge mistake to "run" the four-way stop ordinance through so fast. He stated the four-way flashers need to remain up for at least six months. He stated that once they come down, they will not go back up. If they are taken down they need taken down carefully and stored somewhere so that if down the road they want to put them back up they can. Standing in my greenhouse at Jefferson and Main Streets half the people roll right through. Semis get impatient with people who don't wait their turn. When there were stoplights these guys obeyed them most of the time. We have young kids on bikes trying to get across. Everyone tries to decide whose turn it is. He feels we are messing with danger. People don't want to stop at the stop signs and whip through our parking lot. We have people coming out of the store that are going to get hit. We put chains across there before we open because kids before school whip through our parking lot before. You guys have a job to do but please take your time. Don't rush this through. I don't know what the hot fire hurry is. Mayor Dolezal asked him if he had seen folks run the red lights at the intersection. Mr. Horton stated yes. Mayor Dolezal asked did you see folks run the red lights before they were stoplights. Mr. Horton stated he wasn't out there, he had no reason to be out there. Mayor Dolezal stated he also had a concern when they were stoplights with the semis and folks running red lights. Mr. Horton stated INDOT stated there are 700,000 accidents at stop signs, there are more accidents at stop signs than stoplights. Councilman Kring asked what are the stats on the severity. Mr. Horton stated he doesn't know but he feels it is way too fast to make these changes. Councilwoman Hufford stated if we don't get it changed, we have the relinquishment. Now these road costs this being worn down by the truck traffic, the way you get trucks out is by stop signs. Mr. Horton stated, but we cut the speed rate to 20. Councilwoman Hufford stated there can be an argument either way about it. Mr. Horton agreed. Councilwoman Hufford stated the truck traffic has decreased because of the change and the ebb and flow North and South across Jefferson has improved. People know the rules of engagement when it comes to traffic flow. We will always have people run stop signs, run stoplights, do rolling things, and that is the nature and character of an individual which none of us have any control over that. I'm in fact in support and can see that with myself what I've done at different times throughout the day. You are paying attention right now because it is very personal therefore you see this. Mr. Horton stated it's completely different than stop signs though. Councilwoman Hufford agreed and it's intended to be. Councilman Rippy stated we did do the traffic study. This is not just a three-week thing. This has been going on for six months. Mr. Horton stated he thinks it's an extremely bad idea. Councilman Kring asked to remove them now, to have them period? Mr. Horton stated he felt they were bad to have them period. Councilwoman

Hufford stated that the relinquishment changes the trajectory of what we are doing. Mr. Horton stated the removal of the turn lanes would back things up even more. Councilman Kring stated he feels they will make them safer as well. The timeline is important here. What happened was the truck hit the pole, and there was a traffic flow problem, I didn't agree at first, but then after he did it, it flowed better than it did before. Then we had to make a decision. While we work through the pedestrian crossings and turn lanes, we keep the stoplights up for a while, I could be swayed to do that. I feel the four-way stops are safer. I never felt safe walking downtown while some semi is trying to accelerate to beat a light, now they can't. Councilwoman Hufford stated that pedestrians have the right-of-way. Councilman Kring commented that if you look at most of the downtowns around us you will notice that they have switched to stop signs. Mr. Horton stated they do not need to immediately be ripped out. Councilwoman Hufford stated they cost money every moment they are up there. Mayor Dolezal asked if he felt the stop signs were much safer. Mr. Horton stated he felt the stop signs were much safer, he just didn't want the process to be rushed. Mr. Benny Frazier, Maple Street addressed the Council and stated he agrees with Tim in that the lights do not need to be immediately taken down. He proved many meetings ago that the lights can be maintained. To take these lights out now will be a total waste of money. You are setting this town backward instead of forwards. Ms. Kendra Tragesser with Urban Homestead stated she was shocked when the vote was taken. It wasn't on an agenda, she didn't know it was coming up. I don't understand why it was tabled for one or two weeks so we could have an opportunity to speak about how we feel. She asked where is the data to back up the decision. Councilman Rippey stated we did a traffic study. Ms. Tragesser stated she has watched pedestrians outside of her shop try to cross. Mayor Dolezal asked what her impression is, does it feel safer? The reduction of trucks? Ms. Tragesser commented that she doesn't know if she has seen a reduction in trucks. She asked if the traffic study was done one day in February or multiple days. Mayor Dolezal stated it was done in several days. Councilman Chandler stated he observed that walking along Jefferson was safer but it is still going to be difficult walking across Jefferson. He would suggest a pedestrian scramble for larger events. Councilman Kring stated that if he were to get hit downtown he would rather get hit by someone slowing down than someone speeding up to get through a light. We have to improve the pedestrian crossings, the turn lanes have to go. I feel safer with the stop signs. Ms. Tragesser stated it is layered. Councilman Kring agreed that it is a layer. Carmel and Zionsville do not have the same traffic flow going through it. She stated she would have appreciated some input as a business owner. We do not know the economic impact of this. Councilman Kring stated a future Council has the right to reverse the decision if they wanted to. Ms. Debbie Bowlby, N. Conde Street. Ms. Bowlby wanted to speak regarding the stop signs. She is not for them. She asked why the stoplight had not been replaced. Mayor Dolezal stated it is an insurance claim. Ms. Bowlby asked if it was going to be replaced. Mayor Dolezal commented that has not been decided yet. Ms. Bowlby has witnessed many people disregarding the stop signs. She stated some people have physical disabilities and she walks a lot but people are not stopping at the stop signs. Mayor Dolezal stated our goal is to mark them better and we hope to make them much safer. Mr. Bob Edinger

stated he doesn't find the stop signs safer either. He hopes that if the stoplights are left up they continue to flash. He would like the Council to look at it longer as the traffic patterns change during the year.

Councilman Chandler wanted to thank the Queens and Junior Queens for the fundraising they did. They were able to directly affect two organizations. They donated over 600 lbs of food and \$10,000.00 to the Humane Society. The Queens raised food for several food banks in the community. My wife and I have the Little Food Pantry on Oak and we received donations. Thank those contestants and organizers for those donations.

Adjournment: Councilman Ken Ehman made a motion to adjourn seconded by Councilman Chandler with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.

  
Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer

  
Council President