

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on January 8, 2024, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Dan McFalls, Roberta Heinzmann, Rob Wimborough, Mike Spurlock, Dick Klein, Rob Cochrane II, Benny Frazier, Debbie Bowlby, Andi Pumphrey, Jenny Frodge, Josh Frodge, Emmitt Wallace with Leap, Steve Niblick, Abbie Smith – Community Development Director, Dick Parker, Mike Bollman, Diana Tomlinson, Steve Raber, and Joe VanBibber.

Mayor Schmicker opened the January 8, 2024, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve December 27, 2023, Council minutes without amendment, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the January 8, 2024, BOW meeting.

Cemetery Board: Councilman Kring covered in the BOW report.

Park Board: Councilman Kring re-capped the BOW report.

New Business:

City Council Reorganization: Mayor Schmicker asked for nominations for Council President. Councilman Ehman made a motion to nominate Councilman Kring as President, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Mayor Schmicker asked if there were any other nominations, but there were none. The motion was passed with all in favor of Councilman Kring to be Council President. Congratulations Councilman Kring.

Mayor's Appointments: Mayor Schmicker stated he was going to save his appointments for the next meeting in two weeks. He also stated he appointed Councilmen Kring and Ehman to the BOW.

Council Appointments: Councilman Kring stated if anyone is interested to let him know, we have the City Council Appointments, City BZA appointment which Roberta Heinzmann served, and has done a great job and has great attendance. The Planning Board has poor attendance, we also have the 911 Board, Health Insurance, City Planning Commission, CW Mount Board in which Dr. Harper has expressed interest, and the 911 Board. Councilman Kring made a motion to appoint, Councilman Rippy to the 911 Board, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor. Councilman Kring stated the City Planning Commission, Councilman Vautaw has been involved with before when he was the Inspector. Councilman Kring nominated Councilman Vautaw, seconded by

Councilman Rippy, with all in favor. The City RDC has appointments and the DSW. Councilman Kring stated he has been on the DSW Board for four years and he would like to pass it off to someone else. Councilman Kring nominated Councilman Richards and stated Angela Heron does a fantastic job. The nomination was seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor. Councilman Kring commented about Dr. Harper's willingness to continue on the CW Mount Board, he will nominate Dr. Harper, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor. Health Insurance Councilman Kring stated he would stay on the Committee and commented we have been able to add dental, vision, and lower costs. Councilman Ehman stated he would be interested in that Committee. Councilman Rippy nominated Councilman Kring and Ehman to the Health Insurance Committee, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor. Councilman Kring stated we still have the City BZA, two City RDC members, several Tree Advisory, the EMAC, and two for the Goodwill Committee. Mayor Schmicker stated Rob Myers is interested in the Tree Committee and is agreeable if nominated. He also stated Sadie Lundy was engaged and had a passion for the Tree Committee. It was stated the rest of the appointments we will try to provide at the next meeting.

Encumbrances 2023 to 2024: Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated the total encumbrances from the General Fund, EDIT Fund, CCI Fund, ARPA Fund, and GO Bond is \$1,330,656.88. Councilman Kring asked what the orange meant on the spreadsheet. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated those are claims that are encumbered and paid. Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve the 2023 to 20024 Encumbrances, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Park Board: Mayor Schmicker stated it is a statutory Park Board and it is a topic he wanted to introduce. There have been several individuals including his transition team that have mentioned this item and we want the best practice for the community. It is a requirement to be a Park Board to apply for DNR Water and Land grants. Federal Park and Recreation has offered larger dollar amounts for larger grants. He also stated he would like to host a meeting and have DNR, the Council, Clerk-Treasurer, and Park Superintendent Tomlinson to hear the nuts and bolts of this option. Mayor Schmicker commented Tipton used to be a Statutory Park Board, but it was disbanded because they couldn't pay for the obligation. We can levy a tax but not proposing it. A Park Advisory Board was established back in the 80s and this was kicked around for years. Hope to get information from DNR themselves regarding a Park Board.

Public Safety Feasibility Study: Mayor Schmicker commented he would like to pursue a totality of the current challenges/needs/ and plan for future use of the facility. He also commented he has two to three vendors who specify in feasibility studies of public safety, and he is looking at one that is the lower one of the three at \$10,000. It will take about 6-8 weeks, hopefully in the first quarter. This is the first step guide, and we will have a strategic plan for those actions.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Schmicker stated the Baseball Project budget has grown and we need to assess the funding and get a plan in place. He is meeting with the Baseball Board this week and see what the plan is and then meet with the Clerk-Treasurer, City Council, and Municipal Advisory – Reedy Financial. He also stated the Street Dept. has removed the pedestrian signs in the center of the streets. They have taken considerable abuse and are not intended for the center of the street. We are getting a quote to remove the stop lights at Main and Madison, he feels it functions better as a four-way stop. We are testing the magnetic loops at Independence and Jefferson and West and Jefferson. He also stated the temporary light at Main and Jefferson, Tammy's office, Lynn Ramsey has helped make some progress on the light being replaced in January. The parts were back-ordered, and they should arrive shortly. Mayor Schmicker commented he is looking at an electronic way his Administrative Assistant Jenny Frodge can capture constituent concerns. He also commented he is exploring a marketing and branding campaign to promote the City of Tipton amenities, such as the Parks Department. Mayor Schmicker stated he wants a more strategic plan to rebuild Jefferson Street.

Resolutions & Ordinances: Nothing to report.

Claims: Councilman Rippey made a motion to approve claims 175486-175589 for \$4,479,346.43, seconded by Councilman Vautaw. Mayor Schmicker asked if there were any questions. Councilman Kring asked what the all-terrain vehicle was. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated it is the brine equipment for the Street Dept. Mayor Schmicker stated this will help with the snow removal on the sidewalks from Jefferson to the school. The claims were approved with Councilman Vautaw, Ehman, Richards, and Rippey in favor. Councilman Kring abstained.

Petitions, Comments, and Memorials:

Building Commissioner Niblick gave a brief explanation that the County is looking to update the Comprehensive Master Plan and wanted to give a heads-up to the City since it has been 10 years since it was last updated and we could update both of them together. He also stated the County Council was in favor but would like solid numbers. Councilman Rippey gave kudos to Park Superintendent Tomlinson for the Park looking great.

Ms. Roberta Heinzmann asked if the public could attend the DNR meeting about the viable Park Board. Mayor Schmicker stated yes, they could attend. Heinzmann asked about the baseball presentation, being concerned about the numbers. Schmicker stated he would like to offer a city-wide financial update in the first quarter, one being the baseball component.

Ms. Roberta Heinzmann stated it has been going on two years now, on the north end – the Dezerland property, can you provide an update? Mayor Schmicker stated they are still cleaning up, but he will follow up and get an update.


Councilman Rippy commented on the baseball games, the Baseball Board checked with the Town of Atlanta and they are going to play there this year. Councilman Kring stated it might not be possible because it was going to cost between 30 and 40K. Park Superintendent Tomlinson stated a public member offered the diamonds at the High School for them. They are not Cal Ripken but the softball field could be used.

Councilman Kring commented it would be ideal for a Park Board. It is another tax. But who controls it, collects, and uses it? There was a brief discussion regarding the Park Board, the tax is only collected by City residents but County residents use it too. Maybe the County could participate to help with the baseball project, they have six million in revenues. We will try to make it work but even the Pool/Golf Course it all ties together.

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

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.


Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer


Council President, Nathan Kring