

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on January 22, 2024, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Mayor Schmicker, Councilmen Vautaw, Richards, Kring, and Rippy, and Clerk-Treasurer Clark. Councilman Ehman was not present.

Others: Benny Frazier, Debbie Bowlby, Jeff Stout, Dan McFalls, Abbie Smith – Community Development Director, Andi Pumphrey, Dick Klein, Steve Niblick, Mike Bollman, Elsie Smith, Joe VanBibber, Brent Tragesser, Kendra Tragesser and Gary Johnson.

Mayor Schmicker opened the January 22, 2024, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve January 8, 2024, Council minutes without amendment, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the January 22, 2024, BOW meeting.

GAC: No meeting.

Goodwill: Mayor Schmicker stated he is looking at creating a change in the structure with local officials, City, County, and Townships. He also stated he would like more inclusive individuals throughout but doesn't want to violate any quorum issue. This would allow more individuals to be engaged. Councilman Kring commented they won't make the two appointments to this committee.

DSW: It will be the next meeting.

Street, Alley, & Sidewalk Committee: It was reported last week's meeting was canceled.

Planning: Councilman Vautaw stated it was a short meeting and they made appointments. The President was reappointed, and Emily Nasser (BOW appointment) was appointed as Vice President.

Utility Board: Mayor Schmicker commented on January 16, 2024, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He also highlighted some of the items discussed at the meeting.

Youth Council: Mayor Schmicker stated this will be in the Mayor's report.

New Business:

Statutory Duties Review: Mayor Schmicker commented he received a lot of information from the Elected Official Training. The Mayor exercises the executive authority of the city and is primarily concerned with its day-to-day operations. This authority is most often

exercised through the Board of Works and Safety, city departments, and Department Heads. The Council is the legislative and fiscal body of the city for a Third-Class City. They exercise their powers by passing ordinances and appropriating monies. They also set the annual salaries of elected officials and the annual salaries of members of the city's police and fire departments. The council may reduce, but not increase, any other item in the city budget as submitted by the mayor for approval. The Clerk-Treasurer in a Class 3 City is the head of the Dept. of Finance. This includes all daily financial responsibilities to ensure business is conducted correctly. The Clerk-Treasurer also serves as the secretary and record keeper for the Board of Works and Common Council.

Old Business:

Mayor's Appointments:

Utility Board – Rick Rippy

DSW – Tim Richards

Finance – Nathan Kring, Tammy Clark, Kegan Schmicker

Ordinance – Rick Rippy, Tim Richards, Nathan Kring

Building Maintenance – Rich Vautaw, Ken Ehman

Park Advisory Board – Ken Ehman – Council, Holly Melby (Competitive softball player and an expecting mother who will bring a great perspective to the park board), and Scott Roan (Works in the parks and recreation industry, because he has a differently abled grandson, he has an eye for ADA compliance)

Council Appointments: Councilman Kring stated we will take nominations, first, second, and then vote. Councilman Kring commented we have one appointment to the BZA. He also commented he spoke to Roberta Heinzmann, she attends the meeting and is a conscious thinker, and he would like to see her reappointed. Councilman Kring made a motion to appoint Roberta Heinzmann to the BZA, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor. This is a four-year term. The two Health Insurance appointments are Councilman Ehman and Kring. Councilman Kring stated the City RDC has two appointments, and he has one name, Jason Armes works with Carmel Street Dept., has kids in school, and has adopted children. He is a strategic thinker. Councilman Kring made a motion to nominate Jason Armes to the City RDC, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor. There was only one nomination and appointment. Mayor Schmicker stated there is no active meeting scheduled for the City RDC, but the member can't serve on any other Boards and has to be a City resident. It was also reported there is a woman who has a business in town and volunteers on Main Street that might be interested. Councilman Kring commented we have four appointments to the Tree Advisory one name mentioned is Rob Myers. He also commented he would like to remove Diana Tomlinson, Park Superintendent, and Mike Terry, Public Works Manager because they are super busy and would like to see that taken off their plate. It was also mentioned that Sadie Lundy would like to continue. Councilman Kring made a motion to appoint Tim Richards to the EMAC, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor. Councilman Kring commented we have one more appointment to the RDC.

Park Board Next Steps: Mayor Schmicker stated his office is working with DNR to schedule a Public Works session to dive deeper into the conversation of establishing a park board. He also stated we don't want this session to be a quorum issue, we hope to host this for elected officials and the community. Mayor Schmicker stated he spoke with other Mayors (Warsaw, Elkhart, and Sullivan) and they strongly recommend a park board. Councilman Kring stated this would require adoption of an ordinance by the Council.

Downtown Intersections: Mayor Schmicker commented he had a great conversation with INDOT on Friday. He addressed his concerns with them on the traffic flow at the intersections of Jefferson/East and Jefferson/Conde. INDOT doesn't have the intersections anymore but will offer guidance and feedback. He also commented we will be working towards a comprehensive Master Plan for Jefferson Street between Ash Street and County Road 300W. StructurePoint is the design engineer for our LPA rebuilt project in 2028 from Independence to Buck Creek but hopes to save some money by expanding that scope to include the other areas. Councilman Kring stated you talked about the CCG, the improvement by LPA grant, the fiscal plan, and the financing. Mayor Schmicker stated that INDOT has increased the total project from 1 million to 1.5 million. There was a brief discussion regarding Jefferson St., and what the LPA grant can be used for. Councilman Richards asked about the stop lights at Madison and Main. Mayor Schmicker stated Public Works Manager Terry has an aged quote and we need to get an updated one for that intersection.

Baseball Renovation Project: Mayor Schmicker stated on February 6th Clerk-Treasurer Clark and himself will be meeting with Reedy Financial and one of the discussion points is this project and where the funds can be pulled from. He also stated the baseball fence bid was approved and that work shall begin soon. Mayor Schmicker commented he would be adding Tipton Baseball League representation and two park board members to the project team, to help improve communication.

Public Safety Building Update: Mayor Schmicker commented Chief Bitner, Chief Stout, and himself will be meeting with a consultant on Wednesday regarding a feasibility study along with getting answers to key questions, the improvements we need today, and what tomorrow looks like. Clerk-Treasurer Clark asked if the feasibility study was an old or new one. Mayor Schmicker stated it would be a new one.

Skatepark Project update: Hunger Skateparks reached out on January 2nd for an assessment of the project. They were advised it was put on a temporary hold until we determine the funding capabilities since we committed 150K.

Mayor's Report:

Area Plan Update: Mayor Schmicker stated it is unofficially on hold, Kempton and Windfall are not interested due to funding and Sharpsville had interest but because of the on-hold status they removed it from the 2024 funding in their budget. He also stated partnering

with others on Comprehensive Planning such as Sharpsville and Windfall and working with County officials.

Community Plan: Mayor Schmicker commented he would like to have 5-10 focus groups within the community to have a strategic plan for the community called a Community Plan, which would identify specific projects to be executed within 3-5 years. This plan will include intense community outreach efforts as we seek to identify those projects.

Marketing & Branding Projects: Mayor Schmicker stated this is a community-wide vision plan to promote ourselves as a fantastic place to live and visit. He also stated he wants a team to influence this with a graphic design or market plan.

Mayor’s Youth Council Reboot: Mayor Schmicker commented he had discussions with Shafer Leadership Academy about rebooting the Mayor’s Youth Council. He would like to partner with the Youth Leadership Role programs with THS and Tri-Central, to bring this to the Mayor’s Youth Program that will not only share leadership development thoughts, theories, and best practices but also challenge them to identify an opportunity in the area they want to address.

Mayor Schmicker stated there is expected freezing participation this evening and the Street Dept. has put salt down on the major thoroughfares and intersections. The roads could be slippery so be cautious.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Ordinance 2024-01 – Ordinance 2024-01 – An Ordinance Of The City Of Tipton Providing That The Text Of The Zoning Ordinance Be Amended As It Pertains To Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs): Mayor Schmicker commented this is on first reading. Building Commissioner Niblick gave a summary of ADUs and the process that was done to get to this point. Mayor Schmicker read the permitted uses and requirements from Attachment A of Ordinance 2024-01. Councilman Richards made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-01 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor. Mayor Schmicker stated at the next meeting the Ordinance will be considered for a second and final reading.

Claims: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 175480-175680 for \$528,766.58, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Petitions, Comments, and Memorials:

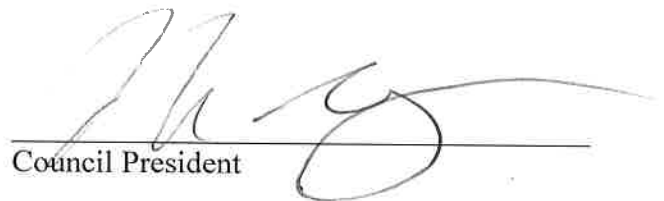
Ms. Andi Pumphrey, Rosie Street, Tipton stated she didn’t know if she needed to talk to Councilman Vautaw or who regarding a love seat on Wilson Street near Rosie Street. She didn’t know whose responsibility that was Mike’s, Planning or who? Councilman Vautaw stated to call the Planning Dept. to advise them of the issue so it can be addressed.

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

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.



Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer



Council President