

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on February 12, 2024, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Steve Raber, Dick Parker, Debbie Bowlby, Benny Frazier, Roberta Heinzmann, Mike Bollman, Elsie Smith, Robert Cochrane II, Robert Cochrane III, Dick Klein, Tom Dolezal, Andi Pumphrey, Christine Hoover, Abbi Hoover and Jenny Frodge.

Mayor Schmicker opened the February 12, 2024, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve the January 22, 2024, Council minutes, without amendment, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the February 12, 2024, BOW meeting.

Cemetery: Councilman Rippy commented there were eight burials, and two lots sold for \$1,400.

Park Board: Councilman Ehman stated he was not able to attend. Park Superintendent Tomlinson reported to the BOW that the playground equipment is in and will be installed this spring. All five bands have been scheduled for the summer concerts. The School Eclipse Celebration will be on April 8th in the Tipton High School parking lot. The basketball courts should be completed by the end of May, and she is pricing new goals and posts. Councilman Ehman commented he would let the Mayor address the baseball fields in his report.

Utility Board: Councilman Rippy commented on February 5, 2024, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He also highlighted some of the items discussed at the meeting.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Baseball Renovation Update: Mayor Schmicker commented that Clerk-Treasurer Clark and himself met with Reedy Financial to come up with a funding mechanism for this project. He also commented the project was 1.4 million based on the December bid package. We have reorganized the fencing project to be done last after getting some of the other construction done. The feedback on the elevation looks good but there are a couple of other items like granular data, etc. being reviewed. The total cost of the project could be between 1.5 to 2 million before it is done.

Public Safety Building: Mayor Schmicker stated he executed the feasibility study, and there will be three parts. The first part is a comprehensive facility assessment identifying grades A to F regarding conditions of the building, A being good, and F needing to be addressed immediately, with dollar figures tied to them. The second piece is to discuss each department's needs based on today and the future and how we can retrofit that into this facility to meet those needs. The last piece is on a larger-scale project. Option A is a building expansion if necessary on the current site, what is the scope and scale of that and the dollar figure proposed? Option B would be a full building rebuild. This is all informational and will be presented to the Council on what your next steps look like. The Police/Fire will be hosting several engineers and architects next Wednesday to review the facility. By the end of May, we are expecting to have a full report back on the Public Safety Building to help us identify what the next steps on this project are.

Park Board Discussion: Mayor Schmicker commented he wanted to allow the Council to add any final thoughts, questions, and comments, if not we will move on with the agenda.

Mayor's Report:

Industrial Ground Farm Lease: Mayor Schmicker stated he wanted to give an update on the Industrial Ground Farm Lease. In the paper this week and next a legal notice for an RFP. He has been working with Steve Unger with Bose, McKinney, & Evans to create both the legal notice and response form template. By the March 11th meeting we will identify the lease for that ground at the Industrial Park.

Stoplight update: Mayor Schmicker commented on the stop light at Madison and Main, the consensus is we can remove that stop light. We are still trying to assess the stop lights at Independence and West Street. As part of the LPA grant, American Structure Point as part of their scope of work is to provide us with an assessment of those intersections and what they would look like long term. We will be working with them on that schedule for those intersections.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

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 stated this Ordinance is for second and final reading. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-01 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Richards, with all in favor.

Ordinance 2024-02 – An Ordinance Of The City Of Tipton, Indiana, Annexing Territory To The City Of Tipton, Placing The Same Within The Corporate Boundaries Thereof, And Making The Same A Part Of The City Of Tipton – DeLong II Super-Voluntary Annexation: Mayor Schmicker commented we had a continuation of work that started last year, this is for the annexation of the DeLong II Super-Voluntary Annexation. He also commented we received final confirmation from Steve Unger, with Bose, McKinney, and Evans, that the first annexation was properly executed and completed. Mayor Schmicker

stated Ordinance 2024-02 is for first reading. Councilman Ehman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-02 on first reading, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Resolution 2024-01 – A Resolution Adopting The 2024 Tipton Golf Course Fees: Mayor Schmicker stated this is the final version, we updated the formal version to 2024. Councilman Ehman stated we are still competitive with the courses around. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated the GAC and Park Board have recommended the proposed fee schedule for the 2024 season. Councilman Ehman made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Claims: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 175681-175830 for \$4,107,386.76, seconded by Councilman Richards. The motion was passed with Councilmen Vautaw, Ehman, Richards, and Rippy in favor, and Councilman Kring abstained.

Petitions, Comments, and Memorials:

Councilman Kring commented we met with Fire Chief Bitner, Assistant Fire Chief Ogden, Clerk-Treasurer Clark, and Mayor Schmicker and looked at the vacation benefits and the way it was written, similar to how we looked at and rewrote that for the Civil side last year, the draft is circulating. The initial feedback from Chief Bitner is that it looks fine, he hopes that we get that in front of the BOW by the next Council meeting. Councilman Kring stated then we would work on the Police after that. We are working on some of the handbook items.

Councilman Ehman asked if there are any names for board appointments that are still open. Councilman Kring stated we are waiting on the Mayor for the two appointments for Goodwill. The Tree Advisory fulfills the minimum requirements, we will let Mike and Diana finish their term and look at replacing them. Someone from the Council should meet with them at their first meeting and urge them to set goals. Councilman Kring stated we added Rob Myers, who is our new member. He also stated we have one RDC appointment and he has not been getting a lot of yeses, like I work during the day.

Clerk-Treasurer Clark commented we are looking at our Short Term Disability and Life Insurance Policies with a different vendor. It is a cheaper rate and with the STD it is a better payout policy. If everything works out, we should be with the new vendor on March 1. Mayor Schmicker added the reason for pursuing another vendor was not the price, but the other vendor was in a different time zone which caused an issue of getting in touch with them on the phone which prompted the search so just by chance we are getting a better product but at a reduce rate. Councilman Kring asked if we go through a broker for this. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated a broker, Doug Heath, and has provided the information for both vendors.

Ms. Roberta Heinzman, Tipton stated she is glad the baseball renovation stuff is getting cleared up. There were a lot of questions from a lot of people who were not very happy. Like, in

the trail project, there was a breakdown of where the money came from and where it's going. Is there anything like that for the baseball project? Mayor Schmicker stated currently there is not but when we get the funding mechanism from Reedy Financial and when we announce the formal project, hopefully before summer, that information will be made public.

Ms. Roberta Heinzmann asked who is doing the feasibility study for the Public Safety Building. Mayor Schmicker stated Etica Group is out of Indianapolis. They do a lot of work in the state with municipalities.

Ms. Roberta Heinzmann stated she walked in on the last of the information discussed regarding the Park Board. Mayor Schmicker stated yes, our position with this is the Clerk-Treasurer and I need to identify the operations and how it will potentially look and continue to move forward with a statutory Park Board.

Ms. Roberta Heinzmann commented that you passed the Ordinance on the ADUs, is that paperwork and guidelines about the stipulations already at the Planning Office? Mayor Schmicker stated yes.

Ms. Roberta Heinzmann asked what the address is for the DeLong II voluntary annexation. Mayor Schmicker stated it is on E. Jefferson Street at that intersection with 25 W.

Ms. Roberta Heinzmann stated last year there was a concern with the care and upkeep of the golf grasses, was that all settled? Do we have adequate and competent people hired to handle that this year? Mayor Schmicker commented we are working through some negotiations at the moment and we hope to have that secured by the next Council meeting.

Ms. Andi Pumphrey, Rosie Street, Tipton, commented about the plaza, we have a great movie theater and when the plaza was built there it took away parking spots and there are no available exits out of that parking lot except for the alley on the other side of Church and Church. Who decided to put the dumpsters in the thoroughfare? Councilman Kring stated where they used to put the dumpster it was on their property. Ms. Pumphrey asked if we could look into it. It was stated we would check with Public Works Manager Terry. Ms. Pumphrey stated it is hard to get out of there.

Councilman Rippey stated we secured the Atlanta Fields and signed the contract with the Town Board. Mayor Schmicker stated yes, the Atlanta Town Board. Councilman Rippey also stated as soon as the weather is fit, we will work on those fields. Ms. Roberta Heinzmann asked about the money. It was stated that was separate money and volunteer work.

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

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.



Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer



Council President