

City of Tipton Common Council meeting was held on January 28, 2026, at Tipton City Hall Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Collin Huffines, Matt Quigley, Andi Pumphrey, Mike Bollman, Bob Edinger.

Mayor Schmicker opened the January 28, 2026, Council meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve the December 8, 2025, Council minutes, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Councilman Kring made a motion to insert council appointments under new business, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

BOW: Councilman Kring reported on the January 28, 2026, BOW meeting.

GAC: Nothing to report.

Tipton Partnership Initiative: Nothing to report.

Solid Waste District Board: Mayor Schmicker commented that it was regular business. Continuing to work toward a solution with yard waste and trying to get out of depositing it at the solid waste facility. An IDEM permit is required when composting.

Street, Alley & Sidewalk Committee: Nothing to report.

Planning Commission: Nothing to report.

Utility Board: Councilman Rippy commented that the January 19, 2026, Utility Board minutes are enclosed. He stated that the meeting was very short and that the few projects underway are progressing well.

Youth Council: Mayor Schmicker stated the meeting was canceled due to the weather and will be rescheduled. The spring semester will see the execution of the projects presented last semester.

New Business:

Humane Society – A representative for the Humane Society was unable to attend due to the rescheduling but provided a comprehensive and helpful report. Reach out to them with any questions.

Council Appointments – Councilman Kring nominated Damian Mendenhall to be the council’s appointment to the RDC, seconded by Councilman Vautaw, with all in favor.

Planning Commission Appointments – Mayor Schmicker stated that the statutory requirements are that the council make three appointments: an elected official, an appointed official, or a staff member from city operations or utilities. He recommended Councilman Vautaw continue his service on the planning commission, along with recommending Dylan Dietrick from public works and Scott Reecer from utilities. Councilman Richards made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor. Mayor Schmicker stated Dylan Dietrick currently serves on the Park Board but will step down, and he will appoint another citizen to fill the spot.

Old Business: Nothing to report

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Schmicker reported that the windows on the fire side have been completed. The police department side will be completed as the weather warms up. Work in front of the police department will begin next week, weather permitting. This will be a pretty significant visual improvement. This project will align with the paving work on East, Jackson, and Independence Streets. Part of the plan was to resurface the parking lot areas at the facility. The windows above the fire department’s apparatus bays were fixed and made a visual improvement to the building. The police and fire departments remain complementary to the team working on the building, and communication has been excellent. Kudos to the street department, which worked two 16-hour shifts to get roads cleaned up for Monday’s commute. Also, for continued cleanup and working jointly with the utilities to address the large piles of snow. The fire department has been extremely busy over the past 10 days, with mutual aid and operations in severe conditions. The police department has been on site during the snowfall, helping citizens free their cars.

Final report SEA1 on the impacts of the state's tax structure has been a complex topic. This is a short session for the legislature. Hope to get some adjustments to this law. Mayor Schmicker stated he has had a couple of conversations with Councilman Vanbibber about it in their council meeting. The city of Tipton ranks 14th among Indiana cities, worst to best, with populations greater than 3500, based on the most affected by the new LIT local income tax. The City of Tipton is among the most affected in the state. He has been working aggressively with AIM to protect the city's fiscal future. If all goes according to plan, the city will see an 18% adjustment, totaling \$1.8- \$1.9 million. That is more than the police and the parks department combined. While it is doom and gloom, we are working aggressively at the state house to appeal the one-size-fits-all approach, which doesn’t make sense. Some legislators at the state house are being receptive to that.

Resolutions & Ordinances:

Resolution 2026-02 – A Resolution to Transfer from EDIT Fund to Safe Streets and Roads for All SS4A. This is for a grant match. It is a federal grant, so a separate fund is created. Transferring out of the EDIT grant match line item to the newly created line, but the purpose is the same for a grant match. It is a formality to get the funds in the right place. Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve resolution 2026-02, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Resolution 2026-03 – A Resolution transferring certain real property to the city of Tipton RDC. The property is the Northgate Industrial Park. Councilman Vautaw made a motion to approve resolution 2026-03, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

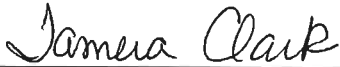
Claims: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve claims 181432-181533 for \$992,882.31, seconded by Councilman Vautaw. Councilman Vanbibber asked if police comp and vacation time were carried over from 2025. Councilman Kring stated that he had a conversation with Chief Stout, who explained that, under state statute, K-9s are required to accrue a certain number of comp hours. He wasn't sure of the amount, maybe 6 hours per pay period. Councilman Kring stated that we are looking into front-loading them, as we do with vacation days, so they can be used more effectively throughout the year. We need to remind Chief Stout that we cannot afford to continue paying out at year-end. The police department should be fully staffed by April. Councilman Vanbibber asked about claims on page 4. Is it common practice for the city to pay firefighters' union dues? Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated that it is deducted from their paychecks, and then we pay the union. Councilman Vanbibber asked what voluntary life insurance was. Clerk-Treasurer Clark states that any full-time employee who wishes to purchase additional life insurance may do so through Sun Life. It is paid the same way as the dues. Councilman Vanbibber asked whether the city would help offset the cost of the group life insurance. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated we already have two life insurance policies for the city. One is \$15,000 and decreases with age; the other is a one-time salary. Councilman Vanbibber asked if the CCD expenditure on page seven was for an upgrade or new security cameras. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated it was an upgrade. The claims passed unanimously.

Petitions, Comments, and Memorials: Bob Edinger assumed that everything related to getting Northgate back from the county went through. Mayor Schmicker confirmed it did. Mr. Edinger asked whether that would make it easier and opened it up to do something out there, and asked whether the mayor could tell us what is going on with it. Mayor Schmicker replied that the RDCs have become the modern vehicle for achieving economic development. Our pipeline of economic development prospects over the last 30 to 45 days has become much fuller. We are now determining the best way to manage these 43 acres. In a strong position right now with what the pipeline looks like. The plan is to get the maximum price presented to the council at the next meeting. We'll have BW present this guaranteed maximum price. Continue having productive conversations with local donors. From the DNR perspective, we are nearing a point where the public announcement. I think we see the light at the

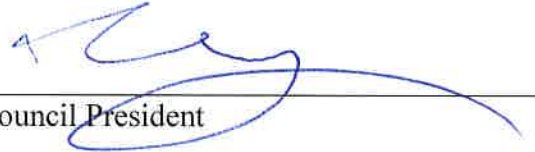
end of the tunnel. We are at a point in the project where we are beginning to discuss the groundbreaking details.

Adjournment: Councilman Richards motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer



Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer



Council President