

REGULAR MEETING COMMON COUNCIL – March 14, 2023

The Common Council of the City of Huntington met on the 14th day of March 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in accordance with all applicable requirements and notice.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bill Blue, The Well, gave the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Strick called the regular meeting of the Common Council to order.

ROLL CALL: Common Council Members present: Joe Blomeke, Charles Chapman, PJ Felton, Dave Funk, Todd Johnson, and Paul Pike. Absent: Seth Marshall.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Council Member Felton moved to approve Council's February 28, 2023, meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 6-0. Minutes signed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS: No reports from Council Members were given.

Police Chief Boxell addressed the recent citizen request to amend City Code Section 133.01 which prohibits discharging firearms within the City's limits. The Chief stated that allowing the discharge of firearms, even if it's only blanks, would be disruptive to the neighbors and those neighbors and surrounding citizens that hear the noise of gun fire will not know if it is blanks or live ammunition, which would cause concern either way and divert police resources from where they may be needed more. Chief Boxell recommends leaving the Ordinance as is and not to move forward with an amendment. City Attorney Hartburg indicated that this prohibition has been on the books since prior to 1975 when the City Code was codified. By consensus, Council determined to leave City Code Section 133.01 unchanged.

PETITIONS OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Chris Spoerl, Guilford Street, appreciates the City Departments and Purdue Extension and the Council working to spell out a reasonable and responsible ordinance to allow chickens and ducks in the City limits. He believes it will promote self-sustainability for families and the responsibility to properly care for animals. He agrees with the annual permit and the education certificate for anyone wanting to raise chickens or ducks for the eggs.

Megan Bonebrake, High Street, appreciates the thought and cooperation in drafting the Ordinance to allow chickens and ducks in the City. She agrees with the Humane Society inspecting and enforcing any issues with the keeping of chickens and ducks.

Katy Hudson, Humane Society Executive Director, stated that the Humane Society will handle any violations with the raising of chickens and ducks. It isn't any different than how they handle dog and cat violations and she doesn't foresee an abundance of citizens raising chickens and ducks in the City.

Ed Roriguex from LaVoz Unida (The United Voice) spoke to Council and presented his request for Council's support, by resolution, for Senate Bill 248 to be passed to allow driving privilege card to undocumented citizens. If they are unable to obtain a legal driver's license then they

currently drive illegally and that poses other problems. Council Member Chapman suggested that the Council would bring a Resolution in support of the Senate Bill 248 to the next meeting on March 28, 2023 and Council Member Felton agreed. City Attorney Hartburg will draft a Resolution for Council’s consideration at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Council Member Felton made a motion to approve on **second and final reading Amended Ordinance 37-C-22: “An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntington, Indiana by Amending Sections 91.09, 91.30, 91.31, 91.32, 91.33, and 91.60” (allowing chickens and ducks in City limits)**, seconded by Council Member Chapman. After some discussion, Council Member Funk made a motion to table Ordinance 37-C-22 until all seven Council Members were present at the March 28th meeting, seconded by Council Member Johnson. **Motion passed 4-2, in favor of tabling to the next meeting.** Ayes: Chapman, Funk, Johnson, and Pike. Nays: Blomeke and Felton.

Council Member Chapman made a motion **to approve on second and final reading Ordinance 5-C-23: “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 158 of the City of Huntington Code of Ordinances”** (livestock zoning), seconded by Council Member Pike. Motion passed 6-0. Ordinance signed.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

MISCELLANEOUS: Clerk-Treasurer McElhaney presented the February Financial Reports for Council’s review and questions. No questions were asked.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Chapman moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Felton. Motion passed 6-0.

APPROVED:

Absent As Mayor
Richard Strick

Charles Chapman As Council President

PJ Felton As Member

remote As Member
Seth Marshall

Joseph E. Blomeke As Member
Joseph E. Blomeke

Dave Funk As Member
Dave Funk

Todd Johnson As Member
Todd Johnson

Paul Pike As Member
Paul Pike

Attest:

Christi McElhaney As Clerk-Treasurer
Christi A. McElhaney