

REGULAR MEETING COMMON COUNCIL – September 24, 2024

The Common Council of the City of Huntington met on the 24th day of September 2024, at 7:00 p.m., for its regular meeting in accordance with all applicable requirements and notice.

INVOCATION: Pastor Tom Bergler, Risen Savior Church, gave the invocation.

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

ROLL CALL: Common Council Members present: Dwight Brautigam, Charles Chapman, PJ Felton, Dave Funk, Todd Johnson, and Andrew Rensberger. Absent: Paul Pike

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Strick opened the public hearing for an unimproved right-of-way vacation at Hannah Street and Tracy Street. With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Strick closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Council Member Brautigam moved to approve Council's September 10, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 6-0. Minutes signed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS: Council Member Rensberger reported that the RDC met and reviewed its budget. No other reports were given.

PETITION OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Several citizens commented on Ordinance 9-C-24 - Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area. An email from Glenda Giggy against the ordinance was received for the record. An email from Lori Plasterer and Rick Amieva in favor of the Ordinance, also the Visitors Bureau Director emailed in favor of the Ordinance. All emails were read and received for the record. Ann Bostel read a letter from Dr. Geders, who had a previous commitment, commented that he wished Council would wait on the vote to research how other communities handle DORA. He is not in favor of the Ordinance for DORA. Sharon Metzger and Sabrina Newcomb both spoke in favor of DORA and thought it would bring a nice opportunity for activity and growth to Huntington's downtown.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council Member Chapman moved to approve on first reading **Ordinance 9-C-24: "An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Huntington, Indiana, Establishing A Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area" (DORA)**, seconded by Council Member Felton. Director Keplinger presented the map with the boundaries for the area, which were clarified that the boundary ends on the east side of Cherry Street. Police Chief Boxell answered questions from Council regarding police presence at events, he responded that it depends on the size of the event and the special event application requires police presence when alcohol is present at an event. General discussion included that there are procedures included that require approval for the actual events that would activate the DORA, even if the Ordinance is approved. After some additional discussion, Motion passed 5-1. Ayes: Brautigam, Chapman, Felton, Johnson, and Rensberger. Nays: Funk

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Johnson made a motion to **approve on first reading Ordinance 17-C-24: An Ordinance Approving an Unimproved Right of Way" (Hannah Street and Tracy Street)**, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 6-0.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Council reopened discussion on the tabled 2025 budget. Clerk Treasurer McElhaney explained the different scenarios that are being presented to utilize the maximum levy rate increase of 4%. After much discussion, Council Member Rensberger made a motion to keep a 5% salary increase, reduce the health insurance line item by \$2,000 per employee in each department, and to reduce the Park Department capital line items to the current 2024 budget and move the increases to the capital line items to CEDIT- Parks and Trails, seconded by Council Member Funk. Motion passed 4-2. Ayes: Chapman, Felton, Funk, and Rensberger. Nays: Brautigam and Johnson.

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

APPROVED:

Richard Strick As Mayor

Dwight Brautigam As Member

Charles Chapman As Council
President

Dave Funk As Member

PJ Felton As Member

Todd Johnson As Member

Andrew Rensberger As Member

Paul Pike As Member

Attest:

Christi A. McElhaney As Clerk-Treasurer