

REGULAR MEETING COMMON COUNCIL – March 25, 2025

The Common Council of the City of Huntington met on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in accordance with all applicable requirements and notice.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Shalimar Holderly, Trinity United Methodist 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, PJ Felton, Dave Funk, Todd Johnson, Paul Pike, and Andrew Rensberger. Absent: Charles Chapman.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Council Member Brautigam moved to approve Council's March 11, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Johnson. Motion passed 6-0. Minutes signed.

Council Member Chapman arrived at the meeting.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS:** No reports were given.

**PETITIONS OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:** Mayor Strick explained that Council would hear from both the City's engineering firm Lochmueller Group and financial consultants Baker Tilly concerning the construction and funding of the City's **South Water Plant Replacement Project**. Anthony Goodnight and Phillip Morton of Lochmueller Group will explain the history of the plant and wells and the options available and considered. Jeff Rowe and Ian Stull of Baker Tilly will explain the City's funding history and options.

Anthony Goodnight explained that the project will include a new south water plant, new wells, and associated processes necessary to produce clean safe drinking water to City water customers. Mr. Goodnight discussed the history of the plant and alternatives that were studied in the City's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). Mr. Goodnight presented Council with the recommended option. The PER was submitted to the State Revolving Loan Fund for financing. Mr. Goodnight answered Council's questions.

Jeff Rowe presented the results of the water cost of service study. The total project, which includes the south well field, south treatment plant, and lead service line replacements, is estimated at \$46.8 million and will be constructed in two phases. The funding is expected to come from a combination of SRF grant and low interest loan money. The estimated rate impact will vary by customer class and is estimated to be in the average range of 55% for residential, 75% for commercial and 200% for industrial. This results in a total monthly dollar increase of approximately \$10.78 for a minimum residential bill and approximately \$22.61 for an average residential customer using 535 cubic feet. The increases are proposed to be implemented in three phases with Phase I to be effective June 2025, Phase II in June 2026 and Phase III in June 2027. Phases I and II will be adopted concurrently and Phase III will not be adopted until after the project has been bid and the final SRF funding package is known. Mr. Rowe answered Council's questions.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Council Member Felton made a motion to approve on **second and final reading Ordinance 4-C-25: “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 156 of the City of Huntington Code of Ordinances,”** seconded by Council Member Brautigam. Director Keplinger was available for questions. Motion passed 7-0. Ordinance signed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Introduction of Ordinance 7-C-25: “An Ordinance Amending Section 50.10 of the City of Huntington, Indiana’s Code of Ordinances” (water rates and charges). City Attorney Hartburg briefly summarized the ordinance and noted that there will be a public hearing on April 8, 2025. After the public hearing, Council will be able to consider the ordinance for adoption. Notice of the public hearing will be published in the paper, mailed to utility customers who live outside of the City, and posted at the City Building. Additionally, the City will post the public hearing notice on its website.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member Felton moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 7-0.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
As Mayor  
Richard Strick

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As Member  
Dwight Brautigam

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As Council  
Charles Chapman  
President

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As Member  
Dave Funk

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As Member  
PJ Felton

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As Member  
Todd Johnson

\_\_\_\_\_  
As Member  
Andrew Rensberger

\_\_\_\_\_  
As Member  
Paul Pike

Attest:

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As Clerk-Treasurer  
Christi A. McElhaney

*A signed copy of these approved minutes is available by request in the City Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at 300 Cherry St., Huntington, IN 46750.*