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## Financing for Odd Fellows complete

### United Brethren Odd Fellows Block to be rehabilitated

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Huntington Common Council heard Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority recommendation Tuesday for renovations to the United Brethren Odd Fellows Block Building in Huntington.

Mayor Brooks Fetters made the announcement during Tuesday's Huntington Common Council meeting that he traveled to Trine University Tuesday for a meeting where the announcement was made. "The authority approved

funding \$1.6 million of the \$8 million project to revamp the structure across from the courthouse in our downtown," Fetters said. "The building has been a blighted downtown eyesore that has been around."

The board's recommendation now goes to the Indiana Economic Development corporation for review and final approval to receive funding.

The United Brethren Block Building will attract and retain talent by partnering with Huntington University and Pathfinder Services

to develop a space that fosters a community of innovation and entrepreneurship of people of all abilities. It also includes plans for 35 apartments above the incubator space.

Bryn Keplinger, director of community development and redevelopment, said the opportunity presented itself in 2014 when the building was delinquent in taxes.

"That property for a number of years has served as a drain on the city's resources especially police and fire resources. The Redevelopment Commission acquired the property and after hearing from some people who wanted to save the building we formed a study

with Indiana Landmarks," Keplinger said.

UB IOOF funding numbers include: regional cities, \$1.6 million; local commitment city and county, \$2.9 million; historic tax credits, \$1.3 million; grants, \$400,000; and private developer, \$800,000 and private financing, \$965,897.

Keplinger explained the private developer and financing amounts.

"Anderson Partners is the private developer that will provide funds and the private financing will come from whatever loans they decide to seek out," Keplinger said.

Keplinger said work on the renovations could begin

early summer next year. In other business:

The council approved fund transfers including \$600 from travel to office supplies; \$100 from fire office supplies to fire electric; \$6,900 from fire gasoline to fire electric; \$3,200 from street gas to street gas supply; \$1,000 from city garage to city garage motor supply and \$400 from health insurance to travel.

The council approved a reduction to the general fund totaling \$224,500. This is for items budgeted that will not be spent, according to Clerk-Treasurer Christi McElhane.

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## COUNCIL

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The council approved 2017 appointment including Joe Blomeke, common council president; Charles Chapman, plan commission; Joe Blomeke and Jack Slusser, redevelopment commission; Richard Strick, Huntington County Solid Waste

Board, Blomeke, Huntington County Public Safety Dispatch, Seth Marshall, Huntington County United Economic Development, Erin Covey, Local Emergency Planning, Lime City Economic Development of Huntington County United Economic Development Corporation, Paul Pike, CEDT Advisory Committee, Steve Gray, plan commission and Monte Davis and Jessica Burnard, Historic Review Board. Adam Cuttriss was selected to serve on Plan Commission to replace Steve Gray, a firefighter with Huntington Fire Department, who will retire Jan. 20. The council will meet again on Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Huntington City Building.