

Hancock County Council Minutes April 12, 2023

The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana met in the County Commissioner & Council Meeting Room in the Courthouse Annex located at 111 American Legion Place Greenfield, Indiana 46140 on the 12th day of April 2023 at the hour of 8:30 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Councilmembers James Shelby, Mary Noe, Jeannine Gray, Kent Fisk, Robin Lowder, Scott Wooldridge, Auditor Debra Carnes, Financial Administrator Mary Bowmer and County Attorney Scott Benkie were present. Councilmember Keely Butrum was not present.

President Gray opened the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance” followed by a moment of silence.

Fortville Vernon Township Public Library

Melissa Loiselle presented the 2022 annual report for the Fortville Vernon Township Public Library. They have increased spending on their collection, purchased new bookshelves, and replaced a server. Programs have increased and circulation numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels. They have hired krM Architecture to complete a feasibility study and are exploring potential site options. Councilmembers thanked Melissa for the update.

Budget Meeting Update

Councilmember Shelby said fund balances were reviewed and there are still questions regarding the medical funds, salary study was discussed, the Prosecutor and Judge Davis were asking for new employees.

Minutes

Councilmember Wooldridge made a motion to approve the minutes for March 8, 2023. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Council Business

Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve a budget transfer for the Behavioral Health Court for \$1,000 from Other Services to Supplies. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Auditor Debra Carnes explained the many factors that caused the increase to the liability Insurance. Councilmembers thanked Auditor Carnes for the explanation.

Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Management District’s request to use Fund 7201 for the re-issue of a check that was lost in the mail last year. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Community Corrections

Director Wade Kennedy presented the 2022 Annual Report for review. Councilmembers thanked Wade for his report.

Public Hearings / Additional Appropriations

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:00 am for an additional appropriation of \$10,000 for Fund 1001 County General/IT. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; no comments; the public hearing closed at 9:00 am. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$10,000 for Fund 1001 County General/IT. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:01 am for an additional appropriation of \$100,000 for Fund 1135 Cumulative Bridge. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comments, the public hearing closed at 9:02 am. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$100,000 for Fund 1135 Cumulative Bridge. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:02 am for an additional appropriation of \$150,000 for Fund 1176 MVH. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comments, the public hearing closed at 9:03 am. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$150,000 for Fund 1176 MVH. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:03 am for an additional appropriation of \$5,000 for Fund 1235 LIT PSAP. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comments, the public hearing closed at 9:04 am. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$5,000 for Fund 1235 LIT PSAP. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:04 am for an additional appropriation of \$515.45 for Fund 4021 Solid Waste. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comments, the public hearing closed at 9:05 am. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$515.45 for Fund 4021 Solid Waste. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:05 am for an additional appropriation of \$15,257.32 for Fund 4619 RDC Capital. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comments, the public hearing closed at 9:06 am. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$15,257.32 for Fund 4619 RDC Capital. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

TIF Report

Councilmembers reviewed the TIF Report prepared by Bakertilly for Gateway.

CF-1 Approvals

Nicole Byerley presented CF-1's for 2023pay2024. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the CF-1 for Walmart Fulfilment Services. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the CF-1 for Buck Creek Commerce LLC. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmembers had discussion and agreed that CF Mount Comfort (Amazon) would be present

at the next council meeting to discuss the differences between the SB-1 and CF-1.

Hancock Economic Development Council

Director Randy Sorrell updated councilmembers on changes at HEDC. They are becoming more proactive, hired two new employees, doing more community projects, working on READI grant, and their newest employee, Mitchell Kirk, begins Monday, April 17th. Councilmembers had discussion and thanked Randy for the update.

Building Department

Scott Williams discussed the need to create a fire ordinance. He requested \$11,600 for the writing of the ordinance. The reason for the high cost is that it must go to the state for approval. He stated this could be an additional appropriation or he could do a budget transfer. Councilmembers recommended a budget transfer, and he could come later in the year to request more money if needed.

Auditor

Debra Carnes discussed the need to shore up the PERF account in the amount of \$11,702.92. Councilmember Noe made a motion to pay \$11,702.92 from the Food & Beverage Fund. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Debra explained that the Economic Development Administrative Assistant position is moving back to her office, and she will need to advertise an additional appropriation of \$48,003 in her budget and a reduction appropriation of \$48,003 in the Commissioner's budget. She is also requested \$11,000 to cover additional duties being added to two employees. Councilmember Noe made a motion to update the salary ordinance moving the position from the Commissioner to the Auditor and advertise the additional appropriation and reduction appropriation. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.** Councilmember Noe made a motion to pay the \$11,000 from the Food & Beverage Fund for 2023, then add to regular budget for 2024. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

CT Logistics

Matt Price, representing CT Logistics, requested a tax abatement. They have made changes to the buildings. Councilmembers had discussion and recommended they go back to the Commissioners and have a conversation on the project. Matt asked to table this project for now. Councilmember Gray recommended that council and commissioners have one meeting to discuss this project.

Hancock Innovation and Education Center

Tim Jensen and Alaina Shonkwiler presented an update on the proposed building location and the organizations that are interested in this project. They would like to create a 501c3 to receive money from the READI Grant. Councilmembers had discussion.

Salary Ordinance Amendment

Councilmember Wooldridge made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-4C amending the salary ordinance for the Exemption/Mobile Home Deputy. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Adjourned 11:13 AM

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Approved this day:

COUNCIL

James Shelby

Robin Lowder

Absent
Keely Butrum

Kent Fisk

Mary Noe

Scott Wooldridge

Jeannine Gray

Attest: _____

Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor