

## **Hancock County Council Minutes June 14, 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 14th day of June 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 absent.

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

### **Prosecutor**

Brent Eaton requested approval of a salary ordinance amendment for a temporary part time deputy prosecutor that was recently hired to help with sex crimes cases. He has the money in his budget and will be transferring from other lines in the budget. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-6A amending the salary ordinance. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Drug Court**

Beth Ingle presented a budget for the Problem Solving Court Grant and requested to advertise \$7,000. Councilmembers agreed to advertise.

### **CF-1 Approvals**

Nicole Byerley presented a list of CF-1's for approval. Discussion was had on the following real property abatements; Indiana Becknell Investors LLC, Indiana Becknell 2011 LLC/Exeter 5940 Enterprise LLC, Exeter Mt Comfort Land LLC/Mt Comfort Buyback Becknell Industrial LLC, Ambrose/CPUS Mount Comfort Logistics II LP, CTR Logistics LLC, Opus #1/Point 70 Logistics Venture LLC, Smithfield Packaged Meats Corp, True Fabrications Inc, CMC Maxwell LLC, GDI Holdings LLC #4, and the following personal property abatements; Midwest Mole and Wake Development LLC, and Landsberg Orora. CF-1's were not turned in on the following properties; Ambrose Property Group LLC #2, Transport Enterprise Leasing LLC, Spectra, and Stanley Access Technology. The total amount collected for abatement fees for 21p22 was \$16,221.83 and the total billed for abatement fees in 22p23 is \$225,439.05.

### **Public Hearings / Additional Appropriations**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:10 am for an additional appropriation in Fund 1001 County General/Surveyor for \$17,414.03 Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; Auditor Carnes explained for the Surveyor's office; the public hearing closed at 9:13 am. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$17,414.03 for Fund 1001 County General/Surveyor. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:11 am for an additional appropriation of \$350,000 for Fund 1112 LIT Economic Development. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, Gary Pool explained this was for the purchase of right of way, the public hearing

closed at 9:13 am. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$350,000 for Fund 1112 LIT Economic Development. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:14 am for an additional appropriation of \$300,000 for Fund 1135 Cumulative Bridge. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comment, the public hearing closed at 9:14 am. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$300,000 for Fund 1135 Cumulative Bridge. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Behavioral Health Court**

Judge Davis would like Kevin Minnick to work for Behavioral Health Court and let Probation hire a new employee. He has money to cover his position this year and he could start on July 10th with an annual salary of \$68,000. We currently have 22 people in the program, one has Terminated, and one has graduated. Josh Sipes, Chief Probation Officer, supports the BHC Program. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve up to \$34,000 in 2023 for a Behavioral Health Court Coordinator. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **E911**

Greg Shamblin, Deputy Director, requested to promote supervisors until end of the year and use stipends. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve a salary ordinance amendment and bump up the pay for the rest of 2023 instead of stipends. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

A request was made to hire a new employee in 2023 instead of waiting until 2024. They don't have anyone in mind yet and would only need half of the salary for the remainder of the year. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve hiring a new employee early in 2023. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **CASA**

Marciann Miller updated councilmembers with 2020 thru 2023 program stats. There are Currently no children on the wait list and she was sworn in two new volunteers. Judge Sirk thanked CASA for all their hard work.

### **Tourism**

Treasurer Bob Mattsey would like to increase their budget and requested an additional appropriation of \$80,000 in Account 33100 Advertising and \$50,000 in Account 35800 Grant. Councilmembers agreed to advertise.

### **Cumberland Economic Development Commission**

Christine Owens requested approval of Mitchell Kirk to the Cumberland EDC for a one year term. Mitchell Kirk is a new employee of the Hancock Economic Development Commission and he lives in Hancock County. Councilmember Wooldridge made a motion to approve the appointment of Mitchell Kirk to the Cumberland EDC. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Planning**

Kayla Brooks requested a budget transfer of \$12,000 from Personal Services to Other Services to

cover the cost of legal services. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$12,000. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.** She also notified councilmembers that she has requested \$100,000 in the 2024 budget for updating the zoning ordinance. Councilmember Shelby recommended she use Food & Beverage money instead of putting it in the 2024 budget. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to pay \$100,000 for the zoning ordinance from Food & Beverage. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Recorder**

Marcia Moore presented an ordinance for approval by councilmembers to transfer \$50,000 from Fund 1217 Elected Officials Training to Fund 1189 Records Perpetuation. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance 2023-6B on the day of introduction. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.** Councilmember Noe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-6B. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.** A contract for \$154,909.25 was presented for payment. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to pay from Food & Beverage. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Minutes**

Councilmember Wooldridge made a motion to approve the minutes for May 10, 2023. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Auditor Business**

Debra Carnes discussed shortfalls in Commissioner's budget. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember Noe made a motion to transfer \$23,000 for Mowing/Snow Removal and \$34,000 for Janitorial from Food & Beverage. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Council Business**

Councilmembers agreed to advertise \$250,000 in Food & Beverage to replenish the fund.

Councilmembers discussed invoice from Network Solutions for \$12,547.18 that needs to be paid for work done at the new jail. Councilmembers agreed to advertise an additional appropriation in Fund 1233 LIT Correctional Facility.

Councilmember President Gray read Ordinance 2023-6C Recorder's Sworn Statement. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance 2023-6C on the day of introduction. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. Councilmember Noe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-6C. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Amplify Hancock County needs three appointments to the board. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to appoint Mary Noe, Debra Carnes, and Kent Fisk to the 501c3 board Amplify Hancock County. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.** Next Tuesday at 2:30 pm will be the last meeting before it's handed over to the steering committee.

Councilmember Fisk stated that MVCSC approached RDC about buying a bus. They need \$185,554 and already have \$125,000 budgeted in a line. They need approval for a budget transfer from another line in the amount of \$60,554. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve a budget transfer for \$60,554. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Budget Meeting Update**

Councilmember Shelby said cash balances were reviewed, discussed future bond strategy, purchase of county wide radios, budget issues, and health claims fund. Councilmembers had discussion.

**2024 Budget**

Councilmembers reviewed list of 2024 budget issues and had discussion on the EDA 5% payment that Hancock Economic Development Commission will receive.

At 11:19 AM Jill Jones, one of “We The People” interrupted discussion and approached the bench to present a package to councilmembers.

Councilmembers continued discussion on 2024 budget issues.

**Adjourned 11:30 AM**

Councilmember Gray made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Approved this day:**

**COUNCIL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Shelby

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Lowder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Not Present  
Keely Butrum

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent Fisk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Noe

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Wooldridge

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeannine Gray

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor