

Hancock County Council Minutes October 11, 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 11th day of October 2023 at the hour of 8:30 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

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

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

2024 Budgets

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to adopt the 2024 Hancock County Budget. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Lowder made a motion to adopt the 2024 Hancock County Solid Waste Management District Budget. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Public Hearing / General Obligation Bond

Councilmember President Gray opened the public hearing at 8:34 am for an additional appropriation of \$5,500,000 for a new general obligation bond. Councilmember Gray read Exhibit A into the minutes:

EXHIBIT A

THE PROJECTS

The Projects shall consist of all or any portion of the following independent and separate capital projects or related improvements, equipment, and incidental expenses, the total costs of which are projected to cost the County under \$5,500,000:

- Equipment for the Hancock County Sheriff’s Department to include motor vehicles, tasers, cameras.
- Equipment for the Hancock County Prosecutor’s Office including motor vehicles.
- Equipment for vehicles and building improvements and maintenance, including an animal control truck for the Hancock County Board of Commissioners.
- Computer equipment, including servers, phone systems, software and copiers, and a motor vehicle for the Hancock County Drug Court
- Furniture and equipment for the Hancock County Probation Department.
- Equipment for GIS and E911.
- Equipment for the Hancock County Highway Department, and public safety radios,
- Costs of Acquisition of Land.

Councilmembers had discussion on purchasing a truck for animal control and agreed it will be owned by the city. County Attorney Scott Benkie confirmed that we won’t need a resolution for reimbursement of the Food & Beverage Fund used to purchase the Borgmann property.

Councilmember President Gray asked for any comments, public comment was made against the bond due to it possibly increasing property taxes, the public hearing closed at 8:41.

Councilmember Noe made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-10C Issuance of Bonds. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Noe made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt on the same day as introduction. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Noe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-10C. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Public Defender

Jeremy Teipen requested an additional \$80,000 to cover the cost of Attorney Services. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember Noe made a motion to transfer \$80,000 in Food & Beverage to the Attorney Services line. Councilmember Butrum seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Superior Court I

Judge Davis requested a salary amendment to his 2024 budget. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to amend the 2024 Form 144 for Superior Court I. Councilmember Butrum seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Public Hearings/Additional Appropriations

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:02 am for an additional appropriation of \$9,000 for Fund 1213 CASA. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comment, the public hearing closed at 9:02 am. Councilmember Butrum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$9,000 for Fund 1213 CASA. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:03 am for an additional appropriation of \$250,000 for Fund 1233 LIT Correctional Facility. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comment, the public hearing closed at 9:03 am. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$250,000 for Fund 1233 LIT Correctional Facility. Councilmember Butrum seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:04 am for an additional appropriation of \$2,425 for Fund 9112 ARDC Grant. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments, no comment, the public hearing closed at 9:04 am. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$2,425 for Fund 9112 ARDC Grant. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Sheriff

Sheriff Brad Burkhart requested approved of a budget transfer for \$70,000 from a Supplies Line to Other Services. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve the budget transfer for \$70,000 from Supplies to Other Services. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Highway

Ann Sheidler discussed current and future projects at the Highway Department. A request was also made to advertise for the following additional appropriations: \$600,000 in Fund 1173 for paving, \$80,000 in Fund 1176 for equipment repairs, and \$2,000 in Fund 1176 for office supplies. Councilmembers agreed to advertise next month.

Budget Meeting Update

Councilmember Shelby stated that cash balances were reviewed, discussion was had on the 2023 general obligation bond, levy increase, and Fortville Vernon Township Library.

Minutes

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the minutes from August 29, 2023. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 5-0.** Councilmember Butrum abstained.

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the minutes from September 13, 2023. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Auditor Business

Auditor Debra Carnes discussed the meeting dates on the proposed 2024 calendar. Discussion was had. Councilmembers agreed to eliminate the July 3rd Budget Meeting; move the April 3rd Budget Meeting to April 10th; and move the April 10th Council Meeting to April 17th.

Council Business

Councilmember Butrum made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-10D, a salary amendment for the Community Corrections Director. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-10-5 for an appeal to our maximum levy. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-10E for the sale of the old Prosecutor's office. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Fisk discussed the Highway Report received earlier in the meeting. We have one of the lowest accident rates compared to other counties. Councilmembers had discussion.

Adjourned 9:30 AM

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

Approved this day:

COUNCIL

Jeannine Gray, President

Mary Noe, Vice President

James Shelby, Councilmember

Kent Fisk, Councilmember

Keely Butrum, Councilmember

Robin Lowder, Councilmember

Not Present

Scott Wooldridge, Councilmember

Attest: _____

Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor