

Hancock County Council Minutes February 8, 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 8th day of February 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 Butrum was not present.

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

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Marciann Miller requested to advertise and appropriate the remainder of her 2022 budget in Fund 1213. Councilmembers agreed to advertise next month.

Buck Creek Township

Micki Simunek, Buck Creek Township Trustee, requested money for air packs. Micki stated they were approved by the Commissioners and the next step was to go to the RDC meeting. Councilmembers had discussion.

Planning

Teri Sweet presented the final invoice for GRW in the amount of \$7,186.25 Councilmember Shelby made a motion to pay from the Food & Beverage fund. Councilmember Noe seconded.
Motion carried 6-0.

Prosecutor

Brent Eaton requested \$9,545.69 to be advertised to cover the lease payments for the new vehicle. Councilmembers agreed to advertise next month in the CCD Fund 1138.

Drug Court

Beth Ingle requested \$9,545.69 to be advertised to cover the lease payments for the new vehicle. Councilmembers agreed to advertise next month in the CCD Fund 1138.

Beth also requested to advertise the remaining \$3,000.44 in her Problem Solving Grant. Councilmembers agreed to advertise next month in Fund 8891.

Councilmembers recommended the Auditor send out a memo at the end of the year reminding departments to advertise their grants for the next year.

Budget Meeting Update

Councilmember Shelby stated that cash balances were reviewed. Greg Guerretaz is looking into a way to unlock growth. Councilmember Butrum chaired a meeting to discuss an opioid matching grant.

Minutes

Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve the minutes for January 11, 2023. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Council Business

Councilmember Noe made a motion to appoint Jenny Greiner to the New Palestine Economic Development Commission for a one-year term. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmembers discussed a process for additional appropriation requests for the RDC. Councilmember Shelby suggested we use the same structure we use for CCD budgets, sending them through Commissioners then to Council in July. Councilmembers had discussion.

Councilmember Gray discussed meeting quarterly with the Commissioners in a night meeting to discuss issues. She will talk with Commissioner Spalding and confirm dates and times. Councilmember Noe made a motion to have additional meetings with BOC on the evenings of May 30th, August 29th, October 17th, and December 19th. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Green Township

Stephanie Jones, Green Township Trustee, requested \$130,000 for a down payment on a new fire truck. Their current fire truck is from 1999 and needs to be replaced. Councilmembers had discussion and recommended she go to the RDC meeting tomorrow.

Public Hearings / Additional Appropriations

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:52 am for an additional appropriation of \$19,457 for Fund 1001 County General. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; no comments; the public hearing closed at 9:52 am. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$19,457 for Fund 1001 County General. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:53 am for an additional appropriation of \$75,000 for Fund 1001 County General. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; no comments; the public hearing closed at 9:53 am. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$75,000 for Fund 1001 County General. Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:54 am for an additional appropriation of \$1M for Fund 1112 LIT Economic Development. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; no comments; the public hearing closed at 9:55 am. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$1M for Fund 1112 LIT Economic Development. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:55 am for an additional appropriation of \$64,796 for Fund 1229 LOIT Special Distribution. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; no comments; the public hearing closed at 9:55 am. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$64,796 for Fund 1229 LOIT Special Distribution. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:56 am for an additional appropriation of \$6,400 for Fund 8892 Title IV-E. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; no comments; the public hearing closed at 9:56 am. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$6,400 for Fund 8892 Title IV-E. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:57 am for an additional appropriation of \$480,000 for Fund 8916 Hancock Public Transportation. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; no comments; the public hearing closed at 9:57 am. Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$480,000 for Fund 8916 Hancock Public Transportation. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Gray opened the public hearing at 9:58 am for an additional appropriation of \$853.84 for Fund 8948 Jail Intervention Program. Councilmember Gray asked for any comments; public asked what intervention was, Josh Sipes explained this was part of their mental health initiative and this grant covers materials that are allowed in the jail. The public hearing closed at 10:00 am. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$853.84 for Fund 8948 Jail Intervention Program. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Behavioral Health Court

Kevin Minnick requested appropriation of \$6,800 for the Problem Solving Court Grant. Councilmembers agreed to advertise next month.

Association of Indiana Counties Update (AIC)

Councilmember Noe, Council Appointee, gave an update on numerous bills presented at the statehouse. Councilmembers had discussion.

Salary Ordinance Amendments

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve a salary ordinance amendment for the BOC to correct salary from \$46,947 to \$48,003. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Lowder made a motion to approve a salary ordinance amendment for the Clerk/Election from \$43,225 to \$43,255. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve salary ordinance amendments for Planning to change the Deputy Director \$68,000 to Assistant Planner \$61,831 and to change the Zoning Assistant \$43,831 to Zoning Compliance Assistant \$50,000. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Burkhart gave an update on the jail. He stated that the number of inmates is down, and he believes several factors are involved. He also believes the Jail Navigators are helping and so far, they've had good results.

Adjourned 10:22 AM

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

Approved this day:

James Shelby

Robin Lowder

Not Present

Keely Butrum

Kent Fisk

Mary Noe

Scott Wooldridge

Jeannine Gray

Attest: _____

Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor