

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION January 7, 2020

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Todd Mahnensmith, Chuck King, Vicki Andrews, Mike Mossburg, Steve Huggins, Seth Whicker and Auditor Lisa McCormick. Council Member Jim Oswalt was absent.

Re-organization of Board: Auditor Lisa McCormick asked for nominations for President and Vice President of County Council for 2020. Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Seth Whicker to appoint Mike Mossburg as President. Motion carried 6-0. Motion made by Mike Mossburg, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to appoint Steve Huggins as Vice-President. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes: Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Chuck King to approve the minutes from December 3, 2019 Regular Session, December 23, 2019 Executive Session and December 23, 2019 Regular Session. Motion carried 6-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 87 inmates, of those 29 are pretrial Superior, 23 are pretrial Circuit, 5 are DOC and 8 are F6 DOC. Sheriff Holliday also provided his monthly and annual reports including report of Officer Activity for 2019 and the Commissary Fund report.

Circuit Court: Judge Kent Kiracofe discussed a retirement within his office that will be creating an opening in February. The Judge would like to modify the current job description as well as hire the new employee before the current employee retires, for training. Judge Kiracofe estimated that he would need an additional appropriation for approximately \$4,800 to make that transition. Council instructed the Judge to submit the additional appropriation paperwork.

Veterans Office: Claude McMillan, Ron Marshall (American Legion Commander) and Dewey Randall came before Council to request additional hours for Claude McMillan for 2020. Claude retired as the Veterans Service officer effective 12/31/2019. The Commissioners appointed Dewey Randall as Veterans Service Officer for 2020. McMillan would be available to help with training until mid-February which would take additional funding for 2020. Council advised that training would be a good idea and instructed the Veterans Office to submit additional appropriation paperwork.

BCS Management: Marlie Reed, program manager for BCS Management, presented a proposal to Council requesting funding for the Wells County Regional Sewer District 2020 projects. These funds would be repaid to Wells County when funding for the total project is established with the Regional Sewer District. The total amount of funding requested for the 2020 projects, \$649,469.00, would include Engineering for County Club Estates(\$118,200), Village of Murray(\$122,900), Northern Ossian(\$222,500), Financial/Legal/Admin for Engineering(\$24,500), Project Management(\$76,369), Rate & Bond counsel(\$50,000) and Local Counsel for the project(\$35,000). If a partial amount could be initially funded by a loan from Wells County, the rest could be bonded out by the Regional Sewer District or carried by the vendors until funding is secured for the total project. Council took the information under advisement to be considered at a future meeting.

Surtax/Wheel Tax Ordinance: The state increased the minimum surtax on a vehicle to \$7.50. Wells County's current rate is \$5.00 on a vehicle (Ordinance 2014-14). Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith,

seconded by Seth Whicker to approve Ordinance 2020-02 that increases the minimum surtax on a vehicle to \$7.50. Motion carried 6-0.

2020 Solid Waste Salary Contract: Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Solid Waste Salary contract for 2020. Motion carried 6-0.

Nepotism Policy: Council signed the Annual Certification of Elected Officials on Compliance with County Contract Disclosure Policy.

Board Appointments: Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Steve Huggins to re-appoint Vicki Andrews to the Chamber of Commerce Board, Steve Huggins to the Economic Development Board, Todd Mahnensmith to the EMA Advisory Board and the EMS Board, Mike Mossburg to the Regional Sewer District Board, Chuck King to the Solid Waste Board and Vicki Andrews to the Wells County Trails Board. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjourned: 8:12 PM Motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to adjourn.

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President, Mike Mossburg

Vice President, Steve Huggins

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor