

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION May 3, 2023

The Wells County Council met in regular session Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Steve Huggins, Todd Mahnensmith, Scott Elzey, Brandon Harnish, Brian Lambert, and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2023, regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriation: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the Additional Appropriation request for Project Income. Motion carried 7-0.

Purdue Extension: William Horan, County Extension Director, was on hand to present the 2022 Wells County Extension Annual report. There is a current opening on the Extension board. Staffing changes include Anya Aulbach, Youth Development Educator, and Morgan Estrada, Administrative Assistant. The annual report included current and future events in Youth Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Development, Health and Human Services, Nutrition Education programs and Community Engagement. Horan informed the Commissioners of international training that he and his staff have participated in the past year. Horan was in Costa Rica teaching on our processes and procedures. Molly Hoag taught food preservation techniques in Trinidad and Trivago. The Wells County 4-H fair is scheduled for July 15-20, 2023.

Grant Application Request: EMA Director Rick Valesquez was requesting approval to apply for two reimbursable grants. The first grant would update the Annex meeting room with radio equipment, handheld and mobile radios. The grant is for \$49,588.05 if approved. The second grant will update our mass communications alert system. The system is currently RAVE and will change to Everbridge. The grant will cover the first-year contract with Everbridge estimated between \$8,000 and \$10,000. A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brandon Harnish to allow Rick Valesquez to submit applications for two reimbursable grants. Motion carried 7-0.

PTABOA Ordinance/Code of Conduct: Council member Brandon Harnish had previously presented the PTABOA Code of Conduct and Ordinance for County Council review. Council members had asked that the documents be reviewed by the County Attorney, Ted Storer. Harnish brought both documents back for County Council review after the requested Attorney review. A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve PTABOA Ordinance 2023-05 and PTABOA Code of Conduct (Misc. 2023-06). Motion carried 7-0.

E911 Funding: County Council President Seth Whicker stated that in 2024 E911 Public Safety funding will need to be in place. Currently the funding is through LIT Economic Development. That option will not be available for 2024. Whicker suggested that everyone think about possible options and the subject should be revisited at the June or July meeting.

2024 Budget Meeting Dates: Proposed budget meeting dates for departments are August 10th from 8am-1pm. Additional proposed meeting dates are August 14, 23, 24 and 29 at 6pm. The Public Hearing for Wells County, Wells County Solid Waste District and Rock Creek Conservancy is September 5th at

7pm. The Adoption for Wells County, Wells County Solid Waste District and Rock Creek Conservancy is October 3rd at 7pm. A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the budget dates as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjourned: 7:27PM Motion made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Vicki Andrews to adjourn.

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President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor