

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION May 8, 2024

The Wells County Council met in regular session Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 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 Todd Mahnensmith to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2024, regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the transfer request in the General fund for the Prosecuting Attorney. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriation: A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the Additional Appropriation requests in the General fund for Circuit Court and GIS. Motion carried 7-0.

Ossian Economic Development Commission: The Town of Ossian requested a nomination for the Ossian Department of Economic Development Board. Nominations will be received, and the Ossian Council President shall appoint a nominee to the Commission at the regular meeting of the Ossian Town Council. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Vicki Andrews to nominate Stephanie Tucker to the Ossian Department of Economic Development for a one-year term. Motion carried 7-0. Auditor McCormick will submit a letter of nomination to the Ossian Economic Development Commission.

House Bill 1328: Clerk Beth Davis and Auditor Lisa McCormick notified County Council on House Bill 1328 regarding a stipend for the Clerk and Auditor. HB 1328 provides that a county fiscal body may provide a stipend, not to exceed \$2,500, to a circuit court clerk that serves as a voter registration officer each year in which a general election is held. It also provides that a county fiscal body may establish a salary schedule that includes a stipend, not to exceed \$2,500 in a year, to be paid to the county auditor for duties when warranted as determined by the county fiscal body. This legislation is effective July 1, 2024. Indiana Code 36-2-5-13(a)(3) specifies that a stipend allowed by statute is not included in determining an increase or decrease in compensation. A motion was made by Brian Lambert, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the stipend of \$2,500 for the Elected Clerk during a general election year and a stipend of \$2,500 for the Elected Auditor for 2024 for ongoing Commissioner and Council support, to be approved in future years during the budget cycle, effective July 1, 2024. Motion carried 7-0.

2025 Budget Meeting Dates: Budget meeting dates are scheduled for departments on August 13, 2024, from 8am-1pm. Additional proposed meeting dates are scheduled for August 20, 21, and 22 at 6pm. The Public Hearing for Wells County, Wells County Solid Waste District and Rock Creek Conservancy is September 3rd at 7pm. The Adoption for Wells County, Wells County Solid Waste District and Rock Creek Conservancy is October 8th at 7pm.

Adjourned: The 7:20PM motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brandon Harnish to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor