

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION

July 11, 2023

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 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.

REGULAR SESSION

Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the minutes from June 6, 2023, regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfer request in the General Fund for the Coroner. Motion carried 6-0-1. Brandon Harnish abstained due to family ties mentioned during the discussion.

A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the transfer request in the General Fund for the Veteran's Service Officer. Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfer request in the General Fund for Superior Court. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Additional Appropriation requests in the General Fund for the Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor, Area Plan Commission, Custodian, and Superior Court for the Pay Matrix requests. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brian Lambert to deny the Additional Appropriation request in the General Fund for Community Corrections for the Pay Matrix requests, he will absorb those salaries in Project Income. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the Additional Appropriation request in the General Fund for the Sheriff's Office overtime. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the Additional Appropriation request for the Innkeepers Tax Collection Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Additional Appropriation request for the CASA Grant Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve the Additional Appropriation request in the General Fund for Area Plan for Rural Town Cleanup. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 56 inmates, 16 pretrial Superior, 18 pretrial Circuit, 7 F6 Doc and 13 DOC. The monthly Officer/Jail report for June was presented to Council Members. The Commissary Report was also distributed for the period of January through June. Holliday updated Council on the renovation status; roof repairs have been completed; the flange is in the finishing stages. The interior kitchen door is installed. The remodel of the showers in each cell block is progressing.

Election Panel Demonstration: MicroVote representative Steve Shamo and Clerk Beth Davis had a discussion regarding new election panels with the County Council. The current panels are 20 years old

and show their age. Davis thought she could reduce the number of panels needed to 72, currently she has 76. The cost to update all 72 panels is \$201,000, \$2,800 for each panel. Council members inquired if a few panels could be replaced over several years, such as 10 per year. Shamo and Davis explained that two different systems would have to be in play simultaneously. Shamo stated that MicroVote would allow the county to purchase the new panels all at once and pay the cost over two years with no interest included in that option. Davis is adding the cost of the panels into the 2024 Election Board budget for more discussion at that time.

Bluffton City 911 Budget for 2024: 911 Director Mike Miller presented the proposed Bluffton City 911 budget to County Council. Per the interlocal agreement for the universal 911 dispatch center, the proposed budget must be presented to the Wells County Commissioners and Wells County Council for review and approval. The proposed budget for 2024 totals \$1,327,443. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the 2024 Bluffton City 911 budget of \$1,327,433.00 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance 2023-08: An ordinance to repeal Wells County Ordinance 85-2 was presented to County Council for review. Ordinance 85-2 stated "All new full-time county officers, deputies and other employees who are employed by Wells County in a nonelective position shall be renumerated at a salary rate \$500.00 below the positions' base rate as established by the County Council for a period of one year from the date of hire". On June 6, 2023, the County Council approved a pay matrix for new, full-time officers, deputies and other employees who are employed in a non-elective position to take effect on July 1, 2023. The County Council now desires to repeal Ordinance 85-2. A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve Ordinance 2023-08 to repeal Ordinance 85-2 effective July 1, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.

RSD Line of Credit Report: A quarterly report was presented to the County Council on the Regional Sewer District line of credit. The RSD paid \$450,000 on a \$500,000 line of credit on August 8, 2022, which left an outstanding balance of \$50,000. The loan has a 1% interest rate. Council member Todd Mahnensmith discussed increasing the interest rate in a future agreement.

LIT Template: An interlocal agreement with the City of Bluffton approving a universal 911 dispatch center has urged conversation with County Council on different funding options to comply with the interlocal agreement. Council members tabled the conversation until the August 8, 2023, meeting.

Acting Health Administrator Agreement: An employment agreement for an acting deputy health administrator was presented to the County Council for review. The agreement is between the Wells County Department of Health and Rita Marlene Hoag. Effective July 1, 2023, the Health Department board desires Rita Marlene Hoag to be the acting Deputy Administrator temporarily. In the agreement Hoag will be compensated at an hourly rate of \$60.00 working approximately twenty to twenty-five hours a week. The employment shall be at-will, and it is anticipated that she will be employed for ninety days. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve of the agreement between the Wells County Department of Health and Rita Marlene Hoag as a contracted 1099 employee. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjourned: 8:48 PM Motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Scott Elzey to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor