

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION

August 6, 2024

Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, Scott Elzey, Brandon Harnish, Brian Lambert and County Auditor, Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2024, regular session. Motion carried 7-0

Transfers: A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the transfers in the General Fund for the Commissioners, and in the Highway Administration Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the additional appropriations in Highway Administration, 20.205 Bridge 105 Coordination Fund, and the 2019 Court Interpreter Grant. Motion carried 7-0.

Review of 2025 Estimated Property Tax Levy Limits and Circuit Breakers: Per IC 6-1.1-17-3.6 the County Council at the first meeting in August of each year shall review the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each taxing unit in the county. Recommendations made by the council shall be distributed to all taxing units. Council members reviewed the reports that were provided by the Department of Local Government Finance and did not see any significant changes in the levy limits; the reports showed increases from the growth quotient of 4%. Wells County property taxes are still low enough that we are not seeing much of an impact due to the circuit breakers. The largest percentage of the circuit breaker loss in Wells County is due to the over 65 deductions. A motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to notify all taxing units within the county that no recommendation is being made on the estimated 2025 property tax levy limits or the 2025 estimated reductions due to circuit breakers. Motion carried 7-0.

Innkeepers Update: Audry Dudley, Tourism Coordinator, updated the County Council on tourism for Wells County. Dudley reported to County Council that Innkeeper tax collections to date are \$139,719.48. The Tourism Commission is currently reviewing proposals from marketing firms to study and implement a comprehensive marketing program for Wells County. Over \$11,000 was invested back into local event coordinators in 2024 for increased visibility for Wells County events. Bluffton NOW!, Horizon Events Corp., Ossian Parks Department, Bluffton Parks Department, Bluffton Free Street Fair, Wells County Council on Aging, and the Wells County Historical Society & Museum were recipients in 2024. The Tourism Commission is working on county wide road maps for all areas of Wells County, such as, Downtown Bluffton, Bluffton, Bluffton North, Ossian, Markle, and an Ouabache to downtown Bluffton map.

Adjourned: Wells County Council adjourned at 7:19PM. The motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor