

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARINGS & REGULAR SESSION
September 3, 2024

Wells County Council held a Public Hearing and a Regular Session on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex meeting room, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, Scott Elzey, Brian Lambert, Brandon Harnish, and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

PUBLIC HEARING:
2025 Budgets

Public Hearing on Rock Creek Conservancy: The 2025 Rock Creek Conservancy advertised budget estimate is \$90,950.

Public Hearing on Wells County Solid Waste District: The 2025 Wells County Solid Waste District advertised budget estimate is \$264,280.

Public Hearing on Wells County Budget: The 2025 Wells County advertised budget estimate is \$26,367,821.

Council President Seth Whicker opened the floor for public comment, there were no public comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

REGULAR SESSION

Minutes: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2024, regular session, the August 13, 2024, and the August 20, 2024, budget meetings. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfer: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the transfers in the Community Corrections Grant II fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the additional appropriations for the Clerk's Record Perpetuation fund, the Local Public Health Services fund, the Supp Adult Probation Services fund, the Sup Juvenile Probation Services fund, and the County Highway Garage fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Reduction of Appropriations: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the reduction of appropriation in the Community Corrections Project Income fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Library Update: Sarah MacNeill presented updates on statistics for the Wells County Public Library. Registered in the Summer Reading Program this year were 1,456 children, 260 teens, and 629 adults. Infants (birth to 24 months) completed 1656 activities, children (age 2 to 6th grade) read 486,720 minutes, teens read 387,284 pages, and adults read 1,507,706 pages. Stats are above last year's numbers for circulation, and study rooms, holding steady for meeting rooms. MacNeill applauded Friends of the Library for their support of the programs. 1,000 books before kindergarten, monthly programming, author visits, Boo in Bluffton, continuing education, various library giveaways, summer and winter reading programs, and the Children's book festival are funded by Friends of the Library. The next book sale will be held October 23rd-26th.

2025 Budget Discussion: Council revisited a request for Probation Officer #7 for Circuit Court. Judge Kiracofe explained this position, that will be paid out of the Adult Probation user fee fund, will be for training a new probation officer to take the place of a retiring probation officer. The position will be for the last six months of 2025 and the first six months of 2026, estimated. County Council agreed to leave the appropriation in the 2025 budget, add the position to the 2025 Salary Ordinance which will be approved at that time.

Adjourned: 7:34 PM motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Steve Huggins to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor