

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEARINGS & REGULAR SESSION

September 6, 2022

Wells County Council held two Public Hearings and the Regular Session on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Steve Huggins, Seth Whicker, Chuck King, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Jim Oswald, Scott Elzey, Auditor Lisa McCormick, and County Attorney Colin Andrews.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Local Income Tax Ordinance

Wells County Council held a public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance for local income tax imposed within Wells County. The proposed ordinance will redistribute the local income tax credit allocations. County Attorney Colin Andrews opened the floor for public comment, there were no public comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2023 Budgets

Public Hearing on Rock Creek Conservancy: The 2023 Rock Creek Conservancy advertised budget estimate is \$85,300.

Public Hearing on Wells County Solid Waste District: The 2023 Wells County Solid Waste District advertised budget estimate is \$237,329.

Public Hearing on Wells County Budget: The 2023 Wells County advertised budget estimate is \$21,832,405.

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

REGULAR SESSION

Minutes: Motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Chuck King to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2022, regular session, the August 10, 2022, August 11, 2022, August 16, 2022, and August 18, 2022, budget meetings. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfer: Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve a transfer in the 93.788 Indiana Opioid Response fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion was made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the additional appropriation for the Sheriff in the General fund, Drug Free Community (CADA) and the SR 301 Road Transfer fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 90 inmates, 32 pretrial Superior, 31 pretrial Circuit, 13 F6 DOC and 7 DOC. Monthly activity reports for August were presented. Holliday informed Council that intake is estimated to be complete and occupied by October. Other jail renovations are on schedule.

Highway Garage Update: Conor Jackson updated County Council on Highway garage re-bids that were received on September 1, 2022. These included: #3, concrete, Bowman was the low bid for \$1,282,740,

#5, masonry, Schmucker was low bid for \$279,855, #7, General Trades, CME was the only bid for \$436,800, #8, Overhead Doors, RDC was the only bid for \$264,815 and was quite high as far as Conor was concerned, #10, Drywall and Acoustical, Jones commercial Interiors for \$167,550, #11, Flooring, Jack Laurie Group for \$79,285, #12, Painting, F&S for \$96,434, #13, Fire Protection, VFP for \$204,443. #18 Fencing and #19, Landscaping only had one bid each and Jackson suggested pursuing the fencing and landscaping another way. Shawn Bonar suggested purchasing the seeding equipment and doing it in house. Jackson felt he could get a maximum guaranteed construction price based off the current information of \$9.4 to \$9.5 million dollars.

Highway Not to Exceed: Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to set a not to exceed amount of \$9.5 million dollars for construction costs, not including furnishing, fixtures, and office supplies for the Highway Garage. Motion carried 7-0.

Prosecutor Employee Request: Prosecutor Andy Carnall had requested during the 2023 budgeting process making a part-time position in his office into a full-time position. Council agreed to that employee change for 2023. The Prosecutor stated that his part-time position will be vacated on September 30, 2022, he was asking for approval to hire a full-time employee for that position effective October 17, 2022, in leu of the effective date of January 1, 2023. Carnall will use the remaining funds from the part time salaried line in the General fund first, then pay the rest of the salary out of IV-D Incentive funds. Motion was made by Chuck King, seconded by Vicki Andrews to allow the Prosecutor to hire a full-time IV-D Staff Assistant 3 effective October 17, 2022, and use IV-D Incentive funds for part of that salary. Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance 2022-16: Wells County Council held a public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance for local income tax imposed within Wells County. The proposed ordinance will redistribute the local income tax credit allocations. Motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Seth Whicker to approve Ordinance 2022-16 Modifying Local Income Tax Rates. Motion carried 7-0.

RDA Reauthorization: Economic Director Chad Kline and County Attorney Colin Andrews presented an Ordinance committing the County of Wells to an additional eight years as a member of the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority. The County adopted on June 2, 2015, Ordinance 2015-06 to join the Authority. The Authority has assisted with funding for the Downtown Plaza renovation and the Ossian Amphitheater. Wells County has been a member of the Authority for a period of approximately seven years and is required to pass an ordinance to commit to an additional eight years of membership in the Authority. This ordinance may be amended or repealed at any time. Motion was made by Jim Oswald, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve Ordinance 2022-19 committing to an additional eight years as a member of the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority. Motion carried 7-0.

CADA Annual Report: Molly Hoag and Angie Dial presented the 2022 grant request for Citizens Against Drug Abuse (CADA). Funds for the grants are collected through the "Drug Free Community Fund"; a total of \$20,657.94 was collected in 2021 for distribution in 2022. Total grant requests for the 2022 period were \$19,992.89. The funds not requested, \$2,546.91, will be distributed in the 2023 grant cycle. The grants are divided within four categories: Administration, Education/Prevention, Treatment/Intervention, and Judicial. The Additional Appropriation for those funds was approved earlier in the meeting.

Amended 2022 Salary Ordinance: An amended 2022 Salary Ordinance was presented to Wells County Council. The updates to the 2022 Salary Ordinance included: increasing the maximum hourly rate for

part-time employees to \$15.00/hour and changing the part-time IV-D employee to a full-time position (effective October 17, 2022). The amended salary ordinance is effective upon signatures on September 6, 2022. Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve Ordinance 2022-20 that amends the 2022 Salary Ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

2023 Budget Discussion: Assessor Kelly Herman addressed County Council regarding board pay for the PTABOA board. Council had discussed during the budget meetings having all boards be consistent in pay at \$65 for 2023. Herman has been paying the PTABOA board \$100 for each meeting currently. She was hesitant to reduce their compensation; she would like to keep that board at \$100. Council will revisit this discussion at the October meeting.

Registered Surveyor Compensation: The 2022 Salary Ordinance states, “if the Surveyor becomes Registered within the current year – the Salary for Registered Surveyor will not take effect until the following budget year”. Council President Steve Huggins wanted to discuss whether that should be updated to allow the increased wage upon becoming registered. Todd Mahnensmith stated that the wording was added for budgeting purposes. Seth Whicker added that it is quite an accomplishment and should be compensated at the time of that designation. The discussion will be continued at the October 4th meeting.

E911 Interlocal Agreement: Seth Whicker stated that the Bluffton Common Council had on its agenda the E911 Interlocal Agreement, if passed at that meeting it will go on to Bluffton Board of Works. After passage with the Bluffton Boards, it will come to the Commissioners for approval then final approval with Wells County Council.

Adjourned: 8:05 PM Motion was made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Steve Huggins

Vice President, Seth Whicker

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor