

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING

September 8, 2020

The Wells County Council met in a regular session plus a Public Hearing for the 2021 Budget requests on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex Building, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Mike Mossburg, Steve Huggins, Chuck King, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Seth Whicker, Jim Oswalt and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2020 regular meeting, the August 11, 2020 and August 13, 2020 budget meetings. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: Motion made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve transfers in the General Fund for Area Plan and Commissioners; also transfers in the Clerk's Records Perpetuation fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: Motion made by Chuck King, seconded by Steve Huggins to approve additional appropriations for the Wells County CASA Grant and the 2020 Community Crossings Matching Grant. Motion carried 7-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 85 inmates, 34 Pretrial Superior, 20 Pretrial Circuit, 18 F6 DOC and 9 DOC. Monthly reports were also presented. Sheriff Holliday informed Council that a grant was awarded in the amount of \$174,797.38 to be used for updating radios for the Wells County Sheriff's Department, Ossian Police Department and the Bluffton Police Department. The grant was awarded by the State Homeland Security Program.

Wells County Regional Sewer District: Nate Rumschlag informed council that the Wells County RSD was awarded \$6,622,000 in forgivable loan dollars from the State Revolving Loan Fund. These funds will go toward the construction of the Murray and Liberty Center sewer collection systems. The projects will be released for bid at the end of 2020 with construction beginning in the spring of 2021. Rumschlag stated "This award was dedicated to the regional sewer district based on the needs of the community; the project priority score established by the state and the regional sewer district's readiness to proceed. The district would not have been able to do this without the support of the County Commissioners and County Council in providing matching dollars to the planning process as well as a loan dedicated toward the engineering and permitting of these two areas."

2021 Budget Discussion: Council members discussed two outstanding budget requests. Sheriff Holliday had requested pay increased for two part time positions within his department. His initial request was for an increase for Courthouse Security from \$17 per hour to \$18 per hour. An increase was also requested for the Civil Process Server from \$12 per hour to \$13.22 per hour. After a brief discussion 3%, like the rest of the county employees, was deemed fair for those positions as well. Motion made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Jim Oswalt to increase the Sheriff's Department part time positions to \$17.50 for Courthouse Security and \$12.40 for the Civil Process Server for 2021. Motion carried 6-1, Seth Whicker opposed.

Motion made by Seth Whicker, seconded by Vicki Andrews to move to the Public Hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR:
ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY
WELLS COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
AND WELLS COUNTY**

Public Hearing on Rock Creek Conservancy: The 2021 Rock Creek Conservancy requested budget is \$83,600 which is a fundable budget for the district. Council President Mike Mossburg opened the floor for any public comment and there were no public comments.

Public Hearing on Wells County Solid Waste District: The 2021 Wells County Solid Waste District requested budget is \$217,685 which is a fundable budget for the district. Council President Mike Mossburg opened the floor for any public comment and there were no public comments.

Public Hearing on Wells County Budget: The 2021 Wells County requested budget is \$18,138,356 which is a fundable budget. Council President Mike Mossburg opened the floor for any public comment and there were no public comments.

Adjourned: 7:51PM Motion made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Steve Huggins to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Mike Mossburg

Vice President, Steve Huggins

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor