

## WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

### REGULAR SESSION 2024 BUDGET ADOPTION October 3, 2023

The Wells County Council met for a regular session and the 2024 Budget Adoption on Tuesday, October 3, 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.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2023, regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

**Transfers:** A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Scott Elzey to approve the transfer in the Highway Maintenance & Repair Fund. Motion carried 7-0.

**Additional Appropriations:** A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the Additional Appropriation requests in the General Fund for the Sheriff's Department, Highway Administration Fund, County Offender Transportation Fund, and the Opioid Restricted Fund. Motion carried 6-0-1, Harnish abstained.

## 2024 BUDGET ADOPTION

Council member Brandon Harnish opened the budget adoption meeting with a comment regarding the 2024 full-time security officer pay. He proposed a reduction in that amount to \$41,600. The approved salaried amount for that position for 2024 was \$43,682, which is the same amount an entry level jailer is paid. Harnish thought the jailer position was much more rigorous than the security officer would be, and the pay should reflect that. Harnish felt that the listing on the matrix should be separated out from the jailer staff and be given its own classification. Steve Huggins concurred with the pay separated out individually. A motion was made by Brandon Harnish to separate the full-time security into its own category on the matrix and reduce the 2024 wage to \$41,600. Scott Elzey asked if this was already voted on and approved for 2024, Seth Whicker agreed that it had been unanimously voted on and approved at a wage of \$43,682 for 2024. Sheriff Holliday disagreed with a reduction, the full-time security officer will be supervising other security officers and should be paid for that additional responsibility. Following a brief discussion Harnish retracted his motion. Council members agreed upon moving the security position into a separate section in the matrix, which will be approved with the 2024 Salary Ordinance during the November meeting.

**Wells County:** 2024 Wells County Budget in the amount of \$22,293,197 "Ordinance No. 2023-14". A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the 2024 Wells County Budget Ordinance No. 2023-14. Motion carried 7-0.

**Wells County Solid Waste District:** 2024 Wells County Solid Waste District Budget in the amount of \$246,440 "Ordinance No. 2023-15". A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the 2024 Wells County Solid Waste Management Budget Ordinance No. 2023-15. Motion carried 7-0.

**Rock Creek Conservancy:** 2024 Rock Creek Conservancy budget in the amount of \$90,950 “Ordinance No. 2023-16”. A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the 2024 Rockcreek Conservancy Budget Ordinance No. 2023-16. Motion carried 7-0.

**Highway Update:** Conor Jackson updated County Council on the Highway Garage project. Council member Todd Mahnensmith asked Jackson if foundation issues that had arisen earlier in the year had been resolved. Jackson stated that the situation had been taken care of, the problem areas were removed and replaced. Some anchor bolts were the incorrect size on the south side of the main building and severe wind shear caused unforeseen damage. Construction is on schedule and slightly under budget. The completion date is February 5, 2024. Currently the sanitary sewer is not complete, site restoration is not complete, concrete on the interior is complete, interior masonry is complete, the drywall is 65% complete, and the focus currently is on the northeast corner of the building. Doors, both overhead and storefront entrances, are in process. Fencing and landscaping have come in below budget which will allow for some concrete paving, 34,500 square feet, in the south lot instead of stone. Council Member Steve Huggins asked about punch list items upon completion, Jackson hopes the punch list items shake out prior to completion.

**2024 Meeting Dates:** A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the 2024 meeting dates for County Council as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**Adjourned:** 7:30PM Motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

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President, Seth Whicker

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Vice President, Vicki Andrews

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Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor