

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION November 8, 2023

The Wells County Council met in regular session Wednesday, November 8, 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, Todd Mahnensmith, Brandon Harnish, Brian Lambert, and Auditor Lisa McCormick. Steve Huggins and Scott Elzey were absent.

Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2023, regular session and the October 11, 2023, Special Session. Motion carried 5-0.

Transfers: A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the transfers in the General Fund for Auditor, Commissioners, and Superior Court, also in Health, Local Road & Street, Highway Maintenance & Repair and Reassessment. Motion carried 5-0.

Additional Appropriations: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brain Lambert to approve the Additional Appropriation requests for Drug Free Community (CADA) and Highway Administration. Motion carried 4-0-1, Brandon Harnish abstained.

CADA Annual Report: Molly Hoag presented the 2023 grant request for Citizens Against Drug Abuse (CADA). Funds for the grants are collected through the "Drug Free Community Fund"; a total of \$19,581.16 was collected in 2022 for distribution in 2023 with a carryover amount of \$2,546.91 from 2021 for a total distribution amount of \$22,128.07 for 2023. Total grant requests for the 2023 period were \$25,662.01. The grants are divided within four categories: Administration, Education/Prevention, Treatment/Intervention, and Judicial. \$5,532.01 is being distributed for Other/Admin, \$5,532.02 is being distributed to Education/Prevention, \$5,532.02 is being distributed to Treatment/Intervention, and \$5,532.02 is being distributed to Judicial.

Recorder Ordinance & Affidavit: Recorder Carolyn Bertsch presented an Ordinance and Affidavit for expending part-time salary out of the Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund. The expenditure has been previously approved by the County Council during the budgeting cycle for 2024. The affidavit attached is signed by the Recorder stating that \$23,195 may be used to supplement the payment of payroll expenses for 2024 for part-time wages. A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve Ordinance 2023-19 approving the Wells County Recorder's Request to partially fund Recorder's office salaries from the Recorder's Records Perpetuation fund for 2024. Motion carried 5-0.

Health Department Update: Interim Health Department Administrator Marlene Hoag updated the County Council on the Health Department. Hoag stated that from July 2023 to date 72 births have been filed, 90 deaths filed, 435 birth certificates have been issued, 423 death certificates have been issued, 420 flu shots have been administered, 92 COVID shots, 122 tuberculosis tests, 1,054 miscellaneous shots, eight site evaluations, 11 septic permits, and 100 food inspections completed. She stated that they are understaffed and overworked, but all tasks are being completed. Staffing needs are for a full-time septic environmental specialist, a part-time medical assistant, and a full-time deputy administrator. Advertisements are posted for all available positions, Hoag stressed that applicants are needed.

Amended Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Communications: An amended and restated interlocal agreement for Emergency Communication Department was presented to the County Council for consideration. Wells County Council implemented a Local Income Tax for PSAP. The amended agreement allocates the LIT PSAP funding to be applied solely for the County portion of the 50% reimbursement to the City. Section 12 states: The 911 State Funds shall be used first to pay for the operating expenses for the Dispatch Center, subject to the provisions of paragraphs 13 and 15. After the application of the 911 State Funds, the County shall be responsible to the City for fifty percent (50%) of the remaining expenses for operation of the Dispatch Center and the City shall be responsible for fifty percent (50%) of the remaining expenses for operation of the Dispatch Center. The City shall invoice the County four times a year for the County's contribution for the Dispatch Center's expenses incurred during the quarter for which the invoice is applicable as follows: January 31st, April 30th, July 31st, and October 31st of each year. The County's responsibility shall be satisfied in whole or in part from any revenue the County receives from any Local Income Tax established by the County for the purpose of funding the public safety access point. To the extent that the PSAP LIT has generated excess funds beyond the County's obligation in any one year, the amount shall be retained by the County for its contribution in any future year. A motion was made by Brandon Harnish, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the amended and restated interlocal agreement for the Emergency Communication Department (Misc. 2023-10). Motion carried 5-0.

2024 Salary Ordinance: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve the 2024 Wells County Salary Ordinance 2023-20. Motion carried 5-0.

2024 Surveyor Compensation Ordinance: A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve Ordinance No. 2023-21 fixing the Compensation of the County Surveyor for 2024. Motion carried 5-0. The beginning salary for the surveyor for 2024 is that of a non-registered surveyor.

2024 Sheriff's Salary Contract: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the 2024 Sheriff's Salary Contract (Misc. 2023-09). Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourned: A 7:29PM motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brandon Harnish to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor