

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION December 5, 2023

The Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 7PM in the Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN. Present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Vicki Andrews, Todd Mahnensmith, Steve Huggins, 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 November 8, 2023, regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers: A motion was made by Brian Lambert, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the transfer in the General Fund for the Surveyor. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Steve Huggins to deny the transfer for County Home Road – CR450E due to not being sent prior to the meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the transfer in the Community Correction Grant 1 fund. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the Additional Appropriation request for the LIT Public Safety fund. Motion carried 7-0

Innkeepers Tax Update: Audry Dudley updated the County Council on the Innkeepers Tax. February through October collections totaled \$80,959.43. Dudley presented the Wells County Visitors Commission 2024-26 Strategic Plan. Included in the plan were pillar statements and strategies including strengthen asset development, market activities and attractions, enhance organizational awareness, and data and evaluation. The collected funds support county maps, the upkeep of the website, event marketing grants, and mission statements included in the strategic plan. Groups or individuals traveling to the area can get resources, assistance, and the visitor guide for Wells County from the tourism office or from the tourism website. The tourism commission is currently researching ways to collect and track data regarding tourism in Wells County.

PSAP & EMS Appropriations: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brandon Harnish to submit Additional Appropriation paperwork for 2024 LIT PSAP funding, \$439,025, and 2024 LIT EMS funding, \$351,220. Motion carried 7-0.

2024 Board Appointments: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Vicki Andrews to appoint Mike Shady to the Regional Sewer District board for a 4-year term effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2027. Motion carried 7-0.

The County Council tabled the other board appointments until December 21st with the hope of additional applications.

Adjourned: 7:36PM motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to adjourn.

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor