

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION January 6, 2026

The Wells County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 7:00PM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Physically present at the meeting were: Seth Whicker, Steve Huggins, Todd Mahnensmith, Scott Elzey, Brandon Harnish, Brian Lambert, and County Auditor Lisa McCormick. Vicki Andrews participated in the meeting by electronic means of communication, Zoom, which allowed Andrews to simultaneously attend and observe the meeting. All votes taken during the meeting were taken by roll call vote.

Re-organization of Board: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Steve Huggins to re-appoint Seth Whicker as Council President and to re-appoint Vicki Andrews as Council Vice-President for 2026. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the minutes from December 23, 2025, Regular Session. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Additional Appropriation: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the additional appropriation for the Convention, Visitor and Tourism fund. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve the additional appropriation for the CHIRP grant. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Reduction of Appropriation: A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the reduction of appropriation for the Innkeepers Tax Collection fund. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Transfers: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the transfer request for the LIT Economic Development fund. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Holliday reported 62 inmates, 18 pretrial Superior, 33 pretrial Circuit, 0 F6 DOC and 11 DOC. Sheriff Holliday provided his monthly and annual reports including the report of Officer Activity for December 2025, the quarterly Commissary Fund report, and the 2025 Courthouse Security report. Holliday presented a resolution to permit certain Sheriff's commissary fund disbursements. A change in statute was the reason for the updated resolution. A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve Resolution 2026-01 permitting certain Sheriff commissary fund disbursements. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Veteran Motion: A request was made by the Veteran Officer to train the newly appointed Veteran Officer in the first month of 2026 at a wage of \$22.58 per hour during the December 23rd meeting. No formal motion was made. A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve the training hours for January for Dewey Randall at a rate of \$22.58 per hour. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Encumbrance Summary: An encumbrance summary was presented to County Council on December 23rd for approval and signatures. No formal motion was made. A motion was made by Brandon Harnish,

seconded by Brian Lamber to approve the Encumbrance summary and sign. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

2026 Solid Waste Salary Contract: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Scott Elzey to approve the 2026 Solid Waste Contract on wages (Misc. 2026-01). Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

2026 Board Appointments: A motion was made to re-appoint Scott Elzey to Bluffton NOW, Seth Whicker to the E911 Advisory Board, Steve Huggins to the Economic Development Board, Todd Mahnensmith to the EMA and EMS Advisory Boards, Vicki Andrews to the Solid Waste District Board, and Brian Lambert to the Wells County Trails Board. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to appoint Dawn Johnson Harvey to complete the term ending on December 31, 2026, for the Huntington City/Town Public Library and allow the President to sign the certificate of appointment. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Brian Lambert to appoint John S. Whicker to the Regional Sewer District board to complete a term ending on December 31, 2027. Motion carried 6-0-1 by roll call vote.

Annual Disclosure Certification: The annual certification of elected officials to the Wells County Council on compliance with county contract disclosure policy was presented to the County Council for signatures.

Adjourned: 7:21 PM motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brian Lambert to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor