

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION June 2, 2026

Wells County Council met in regular session Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 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, Brian Lambert, Brandon Harnish, Scott Elzey, and Auditor Lisa McCormick.

Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Mahnensmith, seconded by Vicki Andrews to approve the minutes from May 6, 2026, regular session. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriation: A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brian Lambert to approve the Additional Appropriation request in the General Fund for Superior Court. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith to approve the Additional Appropriation request for the Duke Energy Foundation Grant. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfer: A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve transfer in the General fund for the Recorder. Motion carried 7-0.

Bi-County Services: Tim Ramsey presented his annual financial update and a request for funding for Bi-County Services to the Wells County Council. Tim stated that Bi-County's biggest challenge is staffing and retention, staffing levels have been impacted by a Medicare funding freeze. 59 Wells County residents are served by Bi-County. Ramsey requested the same funding amount of \$47,678.00 for 2027. Adams County Commissioners and Council as well as Wells County Commissioners have approved the contribution amount. Wells County Council will approve the funding amount during the budget process.

Haven Manufacturing CF-1 Compliance: Economic Development Director Jessica Beste presented CF-1 Compliance forms for Haven Manufacturing. She stated that the forms were compliant. A motion was made by Brian Lambert, seconded by Scott Elzey to approve the CF-1 Compliance forms for Haven Manufacturing. Motion carried 7-0.

CCMG 2026-01 Harrison 1059 Interlocal Agreement: A revised Interlocal Agreement for Harrison 1059 (CCMG 2026-01) was presented to County Council for review. The City of Bluffton put a cap of \$50,000 on the project, and a notification would be necessary to go above that amount. A motion was made by Steve Huggins, seconded by Brandon Harnish to approve the revised Interlocal Agreement with the City of Bluffton for Harrison 1059. Motion carried 7-0.

Probation/Circuit Court Staffing Requests: Judge Kiracofe addressed the County Council to request a restructuring of the operations of the Circuit Court and Probation Departments and the utilization of support staff. Two immediate needs resulted in the need to present the request prior to the 2027 budget hearings. Probation had two secretary positions in that office, they have been operating with only one secretary and would like to have a part-time position, eliminating the second secretary position. Secondly, the Circuit Court Bailiff submitted notice, they would like to fill that position with the proposed pay structure. The proposal recommended maintaining the current Court Reporter position with reduced time in Court, add Court Reporter responsibilities to the remaining Administrative staff and adjust wages to be equal to Court Administrator, Chief Probation Officer will assume the Judge's

staff supervision and the court calendar management, remove the law clerk wage, and modify Probation Secretary #2 from full-time to part-time to be paid \$21.90 hourly. These changes would result in a savings of \$28,392.92 for the 2026 budget. The County Council appreciated the proposal and savings to the County but will revisit the wage modifications during the 2027 budget cycle. Further addressed was the need to act sooner on the part-time administrative position. A motion was made by Vicki Andrews, seconded by Brian Lambert to amend the 2026 Salary Ordinance to remove Secretary #2 and add a Part-time Administrative position to be paid an hourly rate of \$21.90 effective June 2, 2026. Motion carried 7-0.

Miscellaneous Business: A deadline of August 1st has been imposed by the DLGF regarding any possible LIT changes. The DLGF must receive a letter of any change, a reduction, an increase, or modifying the current structure. If no letter is submitted to the DLGF, even if you don't know if you will be making changes, no changes may be made. A submittal does not obligate you to act, it just gives you the option to act. The County Council advised Auditor McCormick to draft a letter to be presented in the July meeting.

Adjourned: Wells County Council adjourned at 7:56PM. The motion was made by Scott Elzey, seconded by Todd Mahnensmith. Motion carried 7-0.

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

President, Seth Whicker

Vice President, Vicki Andrews

Attest: Lisa McCormick, Wells County Auditor