

## **Hancock County Council Minutes February 10, 2021**

The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana met in the County Commissioner's Court in the Courthouse Annex located at 111 American Legion Place Greenfield, Indiana 46140 on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021 at the hour of 8:31 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Councilmembers William Bolander, James Shelby, Kent Fisk, Jeannine Gray, Mary Noe, Robin Lowder, Keely Butrum, County Attorney Scott Benkie, Auditor, Debra Carnes and Financial Administrator, Mary Bowmer were present.

*President Bolander opened the meeting with the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by a moment of silence.*

### **Public Hearing / GDI Companies, Inc.**

- Randy Sorrell (Director of Hancock County Economic Development Council) along with GDI representatives requested a resolution confirming the designation of an economic revitalization area and qualifying that area for tax abatement.
- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 8:32 AM for GDI Companies, Inc. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment. The HEDC Director Sorrell stated for the record a declaratory resolution was passed at the January 13, 2021 Council meeting and all statutory requirements have been met. Councilmember Noe asked if GDI built the three buildings on previously approved abatement properties. The GDI representative said they are building one large building. Councilmember Noe asked shouldn't GDI have returned to amend their abatement request. The HEDC Director Sorrell said that would be a question for when the CF1's come through. Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 8:47 AM.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-2-2 confirming the abatement for GDI Companies, Inc. Councilmember Shelby seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Surveyor**

- Susan Bodkin (Surveyor) requested additional appropriation of \$15,000 for Non-navigable Streams.
- Councilmember Lowder made a motion to appropriate \$15,000 for Non-navigable Streams in the Economic Development Fund. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Surveyor Bodkin presented Councilmembers with the Annual Report and reviewed.

### **IT Department**

- Bernie Harris (Director IT Department) requested SAN Storage, due to County's storage running out. Funds were approved in 2020 but were not needed until now. Councilmember Shelby said the Budget Committee recommended taking it from Cumulative Capital.
- Councilmembers agreed to advertise \$175,000 from Cumulative Capital for the IT Department.

### **Public Hearing – Additional Appropriation Fund 1001**

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:03 AM for Fund 1001 Auditor \$8,000 (Commissioner's Secretary). Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; no comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:03 AM.

- Councilmember Gray made a motion to appropriate \$8,000 for Fund 1001 Auditor for the Commissioner's Secretary. Councilmember Lowder seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Public Hearing – Additional Appropriation Fund 1001**

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:04 AM for Fund 1001 Commissioners \$100,000 (Council Emergency COVID Expenses). Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; no comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:04 AM.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to appropriate \$100,000 for Fund 1001 Council Emergency COVID Expenses for the commissioner's budget. Councilmember Butrum seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Public Hearing – Additional Appropriation Fund 1001**

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:04 AM for Fund 1001 Commissioners \$4,493.32 (Comp Time Payout). Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; no comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:04 AM.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to appropriate \$4,493.32 for Fund 1001 Comp Time Payout from the commissioner's budget. Councilmember Lowder seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Public Hearing – Additional Appropriation Fund 8954**

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:05 AM for Fund 8954 United Way Grant \$7,500. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; no comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:05 AM.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to appropriate \$7,500 for Fund 8954 United Way Grant. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Public Hearing – Additional Appropriation Fund 8955**

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:05 AM for Fund 8955 CARES Act Health \$280,64. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; no comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:05 AM.
- Councilmember Butrum made a motion to appropriate \$280,640 for Fund 8955 CARES Act Health. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Public Hearing – Additional Appropriation Fund 8895**

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:05 AM for Fund 8895 Clerk IV-D Incentive \$2,550. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; no comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:05 AM.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to appropriate \$2,550 for Fund 8895 Clerk IV-D Incentive. Councilmember Butrum seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Public Hearing – Additional Appropriation Fund 8899**

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:06 AM for Fund 8899 Clerk's Incentive \$53,765. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; no comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:06 AM.
- Councilmember Lowder made a motion to appropriate \$53,765 for Fund 8899 Clerk's Incentive. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Animal Control**

- Auditor Carnes clarified Animal Control needs an additional appropriation of \$195,572.44.
- Councilmember agreed to advertise for the next council meeting.
- Councilmember Shelby suggested when Commissioner Jessup is present to request Commissioners in 2022 not to pay for Animal Control in the incorporated areas and send a letter to the incorporated areas notifying them of this change.

### **Drug Court**

- Beth Ingle (Drug Court Coordinator) explained Fund 2501 needs an additional appropriation Beth is requesting \$6,000.
- Councilmembers agreed to advertise.
- Beth Ingle explained Fund 8900 Bureau of Justice Grant is a reimbursement grant. She would like to appropriate \$32,016.27.
- Councilmembers agreed to advertise.
- Judge Sirk welcomed the two new Council members Robin Lowder and Keely Butrum.

### **Clerk**

- Lisa Lofgreen (Clerk) request to replace an employee.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to allow the Clerk to replace an employee. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **E911**

- Greg Shamblin (E911 Assistant Director) requested to replace an employee.
- Councilmember Butrum made a motion to allow E911 to replace an employee. Councilmember Lowder seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Councilmember Fisk notified E911 of a possible drainage project behind their building. Councilmember Fisk used to own the easement on the northeast corner of the property, but Republic Industries now owns it. Councilmember Fisk said Commissioner Jessup and he looked at it and discussed. After discussion, Councilmember Fisk contacted Republic and they decided to donate the easement to E911. The County will pay for paperwork and surveys for the county to take over.

### **Salary Ordinance Amendment**

- Auditor Carnes said the amendment is for the new Benefits Resource Administrator position.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment for the Auditor's office. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Probation**

- Josh Sipes (Chief Probation Officer) welcomed the new Councilmembers.
- Chief Probation Officer Sipes discussed juvenile detention contracts increasing an additional \$25,000 for 2020 and was not included in the 2021 budget. Currently the detention line is broken into two lines (31601 & 31702) and he requested all juvenile detention funds be consolidated under Secure Detention 31702.
- Councilmember Gray made a motion to move all juvenile detention funds be consolidated under Secure Detention 31702. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Councilmembers agreed to advertise an additional appropriation of \$25,000 for Secure Detention Line 31702.

- Chief Probation Officer Sipes requested a Salary Ordinance Amendment. He explained Kerry Ellison kept Probation afloat during COVID outbreak. Kerry's job responsibilities changed to include reconciliation of deposits, banking, posting and reconciling credit card companies, payroll, tracking, tracking paid time off, claim vouchers, submission of invoices and completing monthly financial reports. Her current salary is \$36,000 and he would like to increase \$1,800 plus an additional \$200 to PERF. The increase will be paid from probation user fees. He requested appropriations from Fund 2100-12100 User Fees and move into Fund 2100-11602 User Fees.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve a \$1,800 salary ordinance amendment for a secretary in Probation Department including \$200 in PERF effective January 1, 2021. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Chief Probation Officer Sipes requested a replacement employee. Commissioners have approved a replacement employee.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to allow Probation to replace an employee. Councilmember Lowder seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Opus Development Abatement Application**

- Randy Sorrell (Director of Hancock County Economic Development Council) along with Opus Development Company, LLC representatives requested a resolution declaring that the qualifications for an economic revitalization area have been met and approving real property improvement tax abatement. Representative for Opus were present to discuss details of buildings. Construction is expected to start this Summer and completed in 12-18 months.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-2-10 for Opus tax abatement. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Public Hearing set for March 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 AM.

#### **Abatements Discussion**

Councilmember Fisk concerned with companies reducing assessed values and with money in the budget to fight assessment for abatements. He noted other counties having this issue. Randy Sorrell (Director of Hancock County Economic Development Council) notified Councilmembers this was addressed in the Tax Abatement Application and these follow the buildings.

#### **Council Minutes**

Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve the January 13, 2021 minutes as presented. Councilmember Lowder seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Rules of Decorum**

Councilmember Gray made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-2-11 for the establishment of meeting procedures and decorum. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Sheriff's Department**

- Sheriff Burkhart discussed wireless Flock LPR (License Plate Reader) security cameras. Currently Hancock County has 6 cameras and 4 are active. Central Indiana has quite a few of these cameras in many counties and cameras are shared and accessible. The security cameras are low cost and on lease currently. The cameras are being paid out of public safety and next year these will need to be budgeted possibly CCD. The cameras will assist Hancock County solve crimes. Sheriff Burkhart would like to add 10 additional LPR cameras. The cameras will help tremendously with investigations, missing persons, etc.

- Councilmember Shelby suggested as part of tax abatement application that companies get with Sheriff Burkhart to require cameras on buildings as they build. Randy Sorrell (Director of Hancock County EDC) felt it was more a building department issue than abatement issue.
- Sheriff Burkhart discussed starting the process for hiring additional deputies for the new jail.
- Councilmember Gray made a motion to allow Sheriff's Department the authority to begin hiring jail staff within the allotted budget. Councilmember Lowder seconded the motion.  
**Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Board of Commissioners Discussion**

- John Jessup (President, Board of Commissioners) notified Councilmembers he did not have an update on changes occurring in Senior Services.
- Commissioner Jessup requested funding of \$10,000 for an HR consultant to evaluate where we are and where we fall short. He asked if Councilmembers were interested in a countywide salary study for \$5,000. Councilmember Butrum asked how the price of \$10,000 was decided on and would Commissioners look at more than one RFP? Commissioner Jessup said this is based on our insurance providers recommendation. Councilmember Butrum asked Councilmember Noe if she had another recommendation. Councilmember Noe recommended Bliss McNight. Commissioner Jessup said we could reach out to Bliss McNight.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to appropriate \$10,000 from Food & Beverage for an HR audit. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion. Councilmember Noe said the Board would like to see the estimates that come in and which one the Commissioners choose and then approve the spending at that time. She expressed concern if it would be put out to more than one consulting company. Commissioner Jessup said I can see your point, but it is my purview whom to hire and getting the best price, it's Council's job to appropriate the money. Councilmember Bolander reminded the Commissioner if Council doesn't approve, Commissioners don't get the money. Commissioner Jessup said of course, if you don't approve, we don't get the money and if you do approve, we will determine who does the job. We will get the best prices and best services. Councilmember Shelby called for the question. Councilmember Butrum clarified she would like to insure we are compliant from a legal standpoint; she would like to see Commissioners have scoped more than one consultant for such important feedback is why this was a question. Councilmember Bolander asked for a rollcall on the vote and then another Councilmember asked for the motion again.
- Councilmember Shelby reread the motion to appropriate \$10,000 from Food & Beverage for an HR audit. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion. Councilmember Bolander asked for a rollcall on the vote. Councilmember Shelby, Councilmember Fisk and Councilmember Bolander voted yes. Councilmember Gray, Councilmember Noe, Councilmember Lowder and Councilmember Butrum voted no. **Motion failed 4-3.**
- Councilmember Butrum made a motion to appropriate \$10,000 from Food & Beverage for an HR audit with at least 2 proposals submitted. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion.  
**Motion carried 7-0.**
- Commissioner Jessup notified Councilmembers of a change with CGS that they will no longer be funding the Solid Waste Management Director after March 8<sup>th</sup>, so we will need to move forward with discussion. The Director works for us 20 hours and 20 hours for Shelby County. He suggested an additional appropriation for the 2022 Budget to keep the Solid Waste Management District going. Councilmember Fisk said it might be June before they stop paying their part and Dede feels she will be eliminated. The Boards pleasure is to keep Dede Allender for the Solid Waste Management Director, but we will need a contract with her and make up the money they were paying her.

- Councilmember Shelby said regarding Animal Control he asked Commissioners to consider for the 2022 Budget that the County would withdraw the financial support for the incorporated areas. And, if the Commissioners agree, that the Commissioners could send out notification to the incorporated areas they should work with Greenfield.
- Commissioner Jessup proposed the need for a joint Council-Commissioner meeting. Councilmember Gray requested March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 PM.
- Councilmember Shelby reviewed the 4 subjects of discussion: 1) Senior Services 2) HR Consultant 3) Future use of current jail 4) Salaries 5) Animal Control.

*Councilmember Bolander left the meeting at 10:46 AM.*

**Budget Meeting Update**

- Councilmember Shelby reported the budget committee and County Council reviewed all the county fund balances and no problems were reported, they were in good shape.
- Councilmember Shelby said the Budget Committee discussed the need for creating another GO Bond for 2021.

**Adjourned 11:00 AM**

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Butrum seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Approved this day:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Bolander

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Mary Noe

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James Shelby

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Robin Lowder

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Kent Fisk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keely Butrum

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Jeannine Gray

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor