

Hancock County Council Minutes November 12, 2020

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 12th day of November at the hour of 8:31 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

The Council meeting was conducted through Zoom. Councilmember William Bolander initiated the County Council meeting. Councilmembers William Bolander, James Shelby, Jeannine Gray, Kent Fisk, Debra Bledsoe, Martha Vail, Mary Noe, County Attorney Scott Benkie, Auditor Debra Carnes and Financial Administrator Mary Bowmer were present.

President Bolander opened the meeting with the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Public Hearing / Ambrose Abatement Request

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 8:32 AM. The attorney for Ambrose requested a Confirmatory Resolution for Declaration of an Economic Revitalization area for Tax Abatement. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; with no comment Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 8:34 AM.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve the Resolution 2020-11-1, a Confirming Resolution for Ambrose Property Group. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Additional Appropriations

- Pauper Counsel for felonies requested Additional Appropriation of \$60,000 for year-end anticipated claims.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to pay \$60,000 for Pauper Counsel Felonies from Food & Beverage. Councilmember Vail seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Coroner requested Additional Appropriation of \$15,000 for year-end anticipated autopsies.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to pay \$15,000 for Autopsies from Food & Beverage. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Council Minutes

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve the October 21, 2020 as presented. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Council Business

- Councilmember Gray made a motion to transfer \$2,170 for Highway from Other Services to Supplies. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to amend the 2020 Salary Ordinance with Ordinance 2020-11C for Physical Agility & Positive Points. Councilmember Shelby seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to transfer \$23,876.90 in the Food & Beverage Fund to pay outstanding invoices with the option to reimburse from the Cares Act. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Surveyors Non-Navigable Streams

- Surveyor requested \$10,000 for non-navigable streams.

- Councilmember Noe made a motion to pay \$10,000 from Food & Beverage for the Surveyors non-navigable streams. Councilmember Fisk seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Public Hearing / Fund 8945 CARES Act IT Funding

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:03 AM for Fund 8945 CARES Act IT Funding for \$156,000. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; with no comment Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:03 AM.
- Councilmember Gray made a motion to appropriate \$156,000 for Fund 8945 CARES Act IT Fund. Councilmember Vail seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Hancock County Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)

- Bond Counsel for the new jail requested an Ordinance for the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) to provide for construction of a building addition to the new jail.
- Councilmember Gray made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance 2020-11D on the day of introduction. Councilmember Shelby seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-11D an ordinance extending the pledge of local income tax revenue to the payment of lease rentals for the purpose of the payment of a bond anticipation note of the Hancock County Building Corporation. Councilmember Noe seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Councilmember Noe recognized the Auditors office for the amount of work on the Building Corporation projects and noted this is outside the Auditor's parameter of what an Auditor is required to do. The Auditor puts a lot of work into this and it is above and beyond what is expected through the Auditors office and she wanted to thank the Auditor for the work she is doing. Council President Bolander agreed along with other Councilmembers . The Auditor expressed appreciation for her staff/team.

Public Hearing / Indiana Becknell

- Councilmember Bolander opened the Public Hearing at 9:15 AM for Indiana Becknell. Attorney for Indiana Becknell requested a confirming resolution determining qualifications for an economic revitalization area have been met and confirm real property improvement tax abatement. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comment; with no comment Councilmember Bolander closed the Public Hearing at 9:18 AM.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to reconfirm the abatement for Indiana Becknell with Confirming Resolution 2020-11-2. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Building Corporation Update

Commissioner President Jessup updated Council on the RDC meeting. Lauth and Red Rock projects were discussed. RDC is moving forward with creating a new allocation area to take in new projects. RDC voted 5-0 for the new allocation area. The TIF district would loan the new allocation area funds (TIF would pay new TIF area back) with the goal to grow the TIF area.

Health Department

- Health Department requested approval to hire a contractual employee through a grant to contact trace COVID.
- Councilmember Gray made a motion that Council agreed to send to the Commissioners with a favorable recommendation to allow the Health Department to hire a COVID Contact Tracer. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- Commissioner President Jessup reminded Council the grant is for \$10,000 and contact tracing may not end for a while and suggested Council consider additional appropriation in next year's budget.

Animal Control Agreement Discussed

Hancock County Attorney updated Council on the Animal Control Agreement with the City of Greenfield. Commissioners and the City have reached an agreement for Animal Control and should be approved later this month. A yearly agreement allows the Commissioners to review their budget ahead of time and allow for transparency.

Commissioners COVID Update

Commissioner President Jessup notified Council the county is experiencing a high influx of positive cases and quarantining; but not necessarily positive due to contact with positive cases. Currently it is affecting the Prosecutor's office and the Highway Department. The Board of Commissioners are currently working on policies specific to COVID and payroll for employees in quarantine going forward. The policy will encompass payroll, limitations, and assist with clarity.

Highway Update

The Auditor conveyed to Council an update from the Engineer of Highway with more specific information to follow. Two bridge projects at \$1.5M for each for 2026; one at 300 North for \$4M to be paid out of RDC Funds in 2026, but he will ask for a fiscal commitment; Stinemyer is about \$800,000 more than he thought and he will request 80% match from state for year 2029.

Adjourned 9:44 AM

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

Approved this day:

William Bolander

Kent Fisk

James Shelby

Martha Vail

Jeannine Gray

Mary Noe

Debbie Bledsoe

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor