

Hancock County Council Minutes September 9, 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 9th day of September at the hour of 8:30 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Councilmember William Bolander initiated the County Council Meeting. Councilmembers William Bolander, James Shelby, Jeannine Gray, Martha Vail, Mary Noe, County Attorney Scott Benkie, Auditor Debra Carnes and Financial Administrator Mary Bowmer were present. Debra Bledsoe participated through Zoom. Kent Fisk was not present.

President Bolander opened the meeting with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and a moment of silence.

Hancock County TIF/EDC – HRH, NineStar & Amazon

- President & CEO of Hancock Hospital discussed the Hancock Gateway Park Infrastructure.
- Chief Operating Officer/Vice President of Hancock Hospital discussed development and infrastructure.
- Chief Financial Officer of Hancock Hospital discussed future growth and funding.
- A CPA with Bakertilly discussed cash flow, TIF and working with EDC. It was confirmed there is no risk for Hancock County.
- The Director of HEDC discussed TIF areas and importance of Comprehensive Plan for Hancock County.
- Councilmember Noe expressed concern with growth and the effect on schools, fire departments and E-911.
- President of NineStar Connect updated the Council on investments in the County and their \$3.6M TIF/Bond request. NineStar has never asked for abatement and does not intend to but would like an opportunity to defray cost in terms of capital infrastructure. NineStar purchased the Gem Water System from the town of Cumberland to accelerate investment, growth and economic development. The Gem water plant pumping and filtration capacity will be doubled with the added water tower.
- The attorney for bond council for the EDC requested an amendment of Ordinance 2020-8D to remove the references to the county EDIT and the county loan to the RDC. The County Attorney will work with the lawyer for EDC on the amended Ordinance 2020-8D.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the amendment of the Economic Development Income Tax Ordinance 2020-8D to remove the references to the county EDIT and the county loan of \$500,000 to the RDC from Hancock County. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- The attorney for EDC requested Council reconsider Ordinance 2020-8B the HRH Ordinance. To clarify; HRH has to deposit the money to draw it down and provide the RDC with what has been constructed and if approved, would go to the Trustee. The attorney for EDC requested Council reconsider Ordinance 2020-8B.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to table Ordinance 2020-8B until next meeting when Councilmember Fisk is present to make his voice heard. Councilmember Gray did not feel this should be tabled until one person is here. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to table Ordinance 2020-8B until next meeting. Councilmember Noe seconded. Councilmember Noe asked Lisa to clarify what the vote to table was for. Lisa said this would move to table

consideration of Ordinance 2020-8B, which approves the bond issue for HRH. Motion carried 4-2. Councilmember Gray voted nay. Councilmember Vail voted nay.

- Councilmember Shelby amended his motion to include tabling Ordinance 2020-8B and 2020-8C. Councilmember Noe seconded the amendment. Discussion: Councilmember Noe would like to hear Councilmember Fisk's opinion and have more discussion; this is a big project; this is just not because one member is not present and she would like more discussion. **Motion carried 4-2.** Councilmember Gray voted nay. Councilmember Vail voted nay.

Public Hearing / Additional Appropriation

- Councilmember Bolander opened the public hearing at 9:33 AM for Fund 1001 \$25,000 Surveyor Contractual. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comments. No comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the public hearing at 9:33 AM.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve Fund 1001 \$25,000 for the Surveyor Contractual Services. Councilmember Gray seconded. Motion carried 5-1. Councilmember Bledsoe abstained.
- Councilmember Bolander opened the public hearing at 9:34 AM for Fund 1001 \$35,000 Commissioners Unemployment. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comments. No comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the public hearing at 9:34 AM.
- Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve Fund 1001 \$35,000 for Commissioners Unemployment. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- Councilmember Bolander opened the public hearing at 9:34 AM for Fund 1112 \$1M for the Amazon Road. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comments. A citizen asked for an explanation on where money was going for Amazon and the draw down bond? Councilmember Bolander explained the road cost was estimated at \$2M and Amazon was able to get the road completed for \$1M. Councilmember Bolander closed the public hearing at 9:36 AM.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Lisa Lee, Attorney explained the road came in at just under \$1M. The \$500,000 grant is the first part and the \$500,000 TIF funds on hand are the second; so county funds are not needed.
- Councilmember Bolander opened the public hearing at 9:37 AM for Fund 2100 \$170,000 for Probation User Fees. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comments. No comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the public hearing at 9:37 AM.
- Councilmember Vail made a motion to approve Fund 2100 \$170,000 for Probation User Fees. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- Councilmember Bolander opened the public hearing at 9:37 AM for Fund 4616 \$1M for RDC. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comments. No comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the public hearing at 9:38 AM.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve Fund 4616 \$1M for RDC. Councilmember Noe asked for explanation on this. Councilmember Shelby said this is for roads at Gary Pools request. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- Councilmember Bolander opened the public hearing at 9:39 AM for Fund 8954 \$9,000 CASA United Way Grant. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comments. No comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the public hearing at 9:39 AM.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve Fund 8954 \$9,000 CASA United Way Grant allocation. Councilmember Gray seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- Councilman Bolander opened the public hearing at 9:40 AM for Fund 1001 \$38,447.79 Councilman Bolander asked for public comments. No Comments. Councilman Bolander closed the public hearing at 9:40 AM Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve

\$38,447.79 from Fund 1001 to re-pay Food & Beverage for Greenfield Animal Control invoice. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Public Hearing Red Rock Abatement

- Councilmember Bolander opened the public hearing at 9:41 AM for Red Rock Abatement. The attorney for Red Rock was present and requested a standard 10 year abatement. The Declaratory Resolution was presented at the last meeting and he presented the Confirming Resolution. Councilmember Bolander notified the attorney for Red Rock the \$500 Application Fee has not been received. Councilmember Noe explained without the application fee in possession in the Treasurer's office; we will not, as a Council hear the application until money is received. The attorney offered to pay the \$500 application fee immediately. Councilmember Bolander asked for public comments. Councilmember Bolander closed the public hearing at 9:45 AM.
- Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve the Confirming Resolution 2020-9-8 for Red Rock Investment Partners, LLC, as long as the check is received in the Auditor's Office. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Spectra CF-1 Non-Compliance due to COVID

- The Director of HEDC discussed Spectra's (a Canadian company) non-compliance due to COVID. Workers were furloughed and they are short on workers. Chapter 11 Bankruptcy was filed. If no action is taken, after 45 days it is approved.
- Councilmembers agreed no action will be taken.

SAVE Grant

- The Sheriff's department Captain requested an appropriation for a \$7,000 Stop Arm Violation Enforcement Grant.
- **Councilmembers approved to advertise for additional appropriation next month.**

Sheriff's Update

- Discussed setting up a Salary Committee and the Councilmembers to take part in the meeting. Councilmember Gray and Councilmember Shelby volunteered.

Health Department Request

- The Office Manager for the Health Department requested to replace an employee.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to allow the Hancock County Health Department to replace an employee. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- Requested an additional appropriation for a COVID testing grant for \$200,000.
- **Councilmembers approved to advertise for additional appropriation next month.**

Hancock County Public Library Request

- The Hancock County Public Library Director explained they are now required to declare a fiscal body and have this completed by the end of the year. The library board voted to declare the Hancock County Council as the fiscal body and now the Council needs to acknowledge this. The Council has been fiscal body since the 1990's when the library started.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to be Hancock County Public Library's fiscal body. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Additional Appropriation / Drug Court

- Drug Court requested an additional appropriation for the BJA Grant. Drug Court would like to appropriate funds for a reimbursement grant \$8,892 to finish out the year.
- **Councilmembers approved to advertise for additional appropriation next month.**

Replace Employee / Surveyor

- The surveyor requested to replace an employee.
- Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the replacement employee for the Surveyor's office. Commissioner Vail seconded the motion. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Additional Appropriation Request / Coroner

- The Coroner requested additional appropriation of \$9,000. Last year there was 107 cases, this year there are 112 cases.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to appropriate \$9,000 from Food and Beverage. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Polling Discussion

- A polling employee was concerned with polling places in Buck Creek and Sugar Creek, she saw people standing in line for two hours at the primary election. She was concerned with handicapped accessible locations, being accused of voter suppression and voters are concerned with the security of their vote.
- The Clerk appreciated the polling employee's input and invited her to discuss concerns at the Election Board meeting and feels this would be the appropriate place to discuss concerns. The clerk clarified there are handicapped entrances and she will work on signage. Nameless Creek has been added (Youth and Event Center) and New Palestine library was added; State law is to have one vote center per 10,000 voters; we have 58,000 voters and this would require us to have 6 centers and the Election Board chose 8 centers. Councilmember Noe agrees with the polling employee a 2 hour wait to vote is too long. Councilmember Bolander stated Council would like something done to alleviate lines for voting. The Clerk will address these concerns with the Election Board.

Salary Ordinance Amendment / Probation Officer

- The Chief Probation Officer requested a Salary Ordinance Amendment. The Chief Probation Officer requested a change for 2020 and 2021; he would like to hire a new level of officer; a Senior Officer and he has a person in mind to promote with a \$2,500 addition in salary. This new level would assist with evaluations, mentoring, advising, heading improvement groups, assist in new training programs initiated by State.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to establish a Senior Officer level and allow a Probation Officer to be promoted to this position. Councilmember Gray seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Budget Transfers / Additional Appropriation

- Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the Highway Department Fund 1169 Local Road & Street transfer of \$80,000 from Other Services to Supplies. Councilmember Gray seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve the Highway Department Fund 1176 & 1173 transfer of \$100,000 from Capital Expenses to Supplies. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve the Clerk Fund 1001 transfer of \$10,000 from Other Services to Supplies. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**
- Gary Pool, Highway Department is requesting to appropriate \$160,000 in Fund 1112 Economic Development for the RAB in Sugar Creek that will be let in October of 2020 instead of 2021. This will allow the 2021 budget to be decreased.
- **Councilmembers approved to advertise for an additional appropriation next month.**

Council Minutes

Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve the July 31 and August 12, 2020 minutes as presented. Commissioner Vail seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Adjourned 11:23 AM

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

Approved this day:

William Bolander	<u>Absent</u>
James Shelby	Kent Fisk
Jeannine Gray	Martha Vail
Debbie Bledsoe	Mary Noe
Attest: _____	
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor	