

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

April 5, 2023

The Blackford County Council met at 6:00 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the Regular meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

President Dan Borgenheimer called the Regular Meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll. The members answering roll were, Dan Borgenheimer, Kyle Lechien, Jack Beckley, Patrick Cale, Karen Mealy, Fred Tobey, and Ryan Goodspeed. **Also present** in person, Laura Coons, John Pluimer, John Oxley, Greg Martz, Eric Ratts, Shelby Evans, Dan Eckstein, Bill Aspy, Ron Dudleston, Dana Whatley, Jon Creek, Bill Weiseman, Aubrey Crist, Judge Brian Bade, Mike Wolfe and Jim Heflin. **Attending on Zoom:** Greg Balsano, and Tyler Hunt.

The minutes of the March 8, 2023, Regular Council meeting were approved as **Presented** on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 2nd by Patrick Cale . The vote was 6/0. Fred Tobey absent 3/8.

The minutes of the February 16, 2023, Joint Special meeting were approved as **Presented** on a motion by Patrick Cale and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 5/0. Ryan Goodspeed and Karen Mealy were absent on 2/16.

DLZ (Eric Ratts, Bowman Construction (Shelby Evans) and GM Development (Greg Martz) gave a presentation on repairs needed to the courthouse and annex. Repairs include new courthouse roof (\$2,100,000), all windows replaced (\$1,625,000), Masonry (\$525,000), General Conditions (\$400,000), Clock Tower repairs (\$350,000) , an elevator for the Annex (\$350,000), contingency (\$500,000) all totaling \$5,850,000. A plan to move/renovate the Superior Court spaces (\$750,000) brings the total of all projects to \$6,600,000.

Greg Balsano from Baker Tilly gave a presentation about funding options for the courthouse and annex projects. **The projects and funding will be discussed at a Special Joint Meeting of the Council and Commissioners on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse meeting room.**

Newberry BOT will be part of the discussion on April 19th.

Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – working on the next grant.
Solid Waste District – see below
Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – no report
Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report
LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report

Solid Waste District – Household Hazardous Waste Day was held on April 1st. The next HHWD will be held in 2025. The Container Collection Site (former Transfer Station) will open on April 15 from 8 am to Noon.

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer (1) reported on the small structure on CR 800 E between CR 100 N and CR 200 N. **(2)** Pluimer asked that his department go to four, ten hour days, Monday through Thursday. On weeks with a Monday holiday, the department will work four, eight hour days. PTO will be used at the rate of ten hours a day for the ten hour a day weeks. This schedule will run through November. Commissioners approved this request on April 3rd.

Sheriff Jim Heflin (1) reported a lightning strike disabled the well system and intercoms. A claim has been submitted to the insurance company. **(2)** the Sheriff App will be ready within two weeks.

Commissioner John Oxley asked if the county wants to pursue litigation against the owners of 108/110 E. Washington Street, known as the Glorious East End Bar, for the cost of demolishing and removing 110 E. Washington. Attorney Aubrey Crist has been retained to assist with the project. Litigation could cost the county \$25,000. No decision was made after discussion. **Auditor Hartley asked what fund the council wants to use for the demolition and the Rainy Day Fund was chosen.**

Judge Brian Bade discussed the courthouse security project. The project vendor and Steven Holman, county IT, will conduct a site visit later this month. Judge Bade is looking at another grant to purchase more outside cameras and/or other needs for the project. The new security guards will be in the courthouse on Monday per Sheriff Heflin.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of March 2023	\$ 966,392.32
Total Expenditures for March 2023	\$ 484,427.77
Total Revenue for March 2023	\$ 162,261.44

Additional Appropriations:

County General – Purdue Extension \$16,500 Building Rent
Motion to approve by Patrick Cale, 2nd by Karen Mealy, vote 7/0.

Jail - \$35,000 Courthouse Security Officer Cavanaugh
Jail - \$35,000 Courthouse Security Officer Clarke
Motion to approve both by Fred Tobey, 2nd by Patrick Cale, vote 7/0.

SW Disp. Non-reverting Cap - \$100,000 Misc. Expense
Motion to approve by Karen Mealy, 2nd by Ryan Goodspeed, vote 7/0.

ARPA - \$218, 478 Revenue Loss
Motion to approve by Jack Beckley, 2nd by Patrick Cale, vote 7/0.

Transfers:

County General – Assessor - \$46,38 from Office Supplies to Dues & Subscriptions
Motion to approve by Ryan Goodspeed, 2nd by Fred Tobey, vote 7/0.

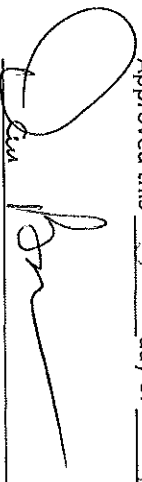
Commissioner \$68,500 from EMS Subsidy to HC Ind Park Storm Water
Commissioner \$89,866 from Insurance Liability to HC Ind Park Storm Water
Motion to approve both by Jack Beckley, 2nd by Patrick Cale, vote 7/0.

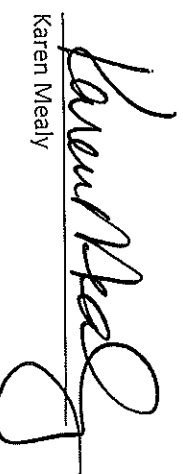
Hartford City Mayor Eckstein thanked the County and City for working together on the
E. Washington Street demolition.

Dan Borgenheimer thanked the Sheriff and Highway Departments for the efficient work
during the recent storms.


There being no further comment President Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m. on a motion by Kyle
Lechian and 7/0 vote.

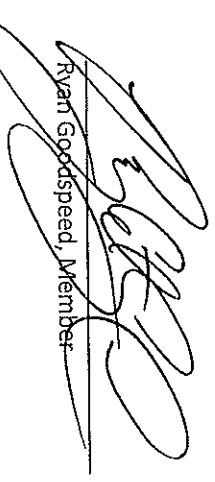
Approved this 3rd day of May, 2023.

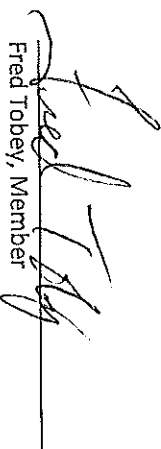

Dan Borgenheimer, President


Karen Mealy

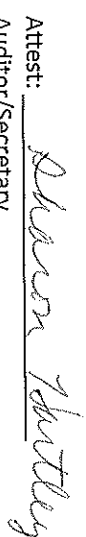

Kyle Lechian, Member


Jack Beckley, Vice President


Ryan Goodspeed, Member


Fred Tobey, Member

Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Auditor/Secretary