

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

April 6, 2022

The Blackford County Council met at 6:00 p.m. in the Circuit Court Courtroom of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2022. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

President Dan Borgenheimer called the Regular Meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll. **Those members answering roll** were Dan Borgenheimer, Jack Beckley, Karen Mealy, Ryan Goodspeed, Patrick Cale, Kyle Lechien, and Fred Tobey. **Also present** were in person, Tyler Hunt, Jeff Sones, John Pluimer, Jim Heflin, Anne Owen, John Oxley, Laura Coons, Lisa Simmons, John Lancaster, Mike Daniel, Jason Semler, Rick Hall, Aaron Henderson, Kim Pitts, Paul Schriver, Kelly Inns, Tim Diehl, Oliver Ellen, Nick Weber, and numerous members of the community. **Attending on Zoom:** Mary Beal, Warren Brown, Camille Mealy, Jon Jinks, Kevin Brown, and Kathy Goodspeed.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR BLACKFORD SOLAR ENERGY, LLC (BSE)

Kelly Inns and Nick Weber of BSE spoke about the proposed solar project in Jackson Township and requested a Confirmatory Resolution for abatement. Jason Semler from Baker Tilly, CPA firm hired by the county, talked about the financial impacts to the county. The public was invited to comment on the abatement request. One person spoke in favor of the solar project and two spoke against. After all public comments were heard, President Borgenheimer adjourned the public hearing.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADJOURNED

President Borgenheimer called for a motion on **Resolution 2022-R8** Confirmatory Resolution for **BLACKFORD SOLAR ENERGY, LLC**. **Fred Tobey moved to approve the resolution and Ryan Goodspeed 2nd**. **The vote was 6/1 with Karen Mealy voting nay.**

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PRAIRIE CREEK WIND, LLC (PCW)

Oliver Ellen and Kyle Resetarits spoke about the proposed wind project in Harrison, Washington and Licking Townships and requested a Confirmatory Resolution for abatement. Jason Semler from Baker Tilly, CPA firm hired by the county, talked about the financial impacts to the county. The public was invited to comment on the abatement request. Three people spoke in favor of the wind project and two spoke against. After all public comments were heard, President Borgenheimer adjourned the public hearing.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADJOURNED

President Borgenheimer called for a motion on **Resolution 2022-R9**, Confirmatory Resolution for **PRAIRIE CREEK WIND, LLC**. **Kyle Lechien moved to approve the resolution and Fred Tobey 2nd**. **The vote was 5/1/1 with Karen Mealy voting nay and Ryan Goodspeed abstaining.**

The minutes of the March 9, 2022, Regular Council meeting were approved as **Presented** on a motion by Karen Mealy and 2nd by Ryan Goodspeed. The vote was 7/0.

Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – Tyler Hunt – writing new grant
Solid Waste – Dan Borgenheimer – no report
Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – no report
Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report
LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report

Sheriff Jeff Sones presented the **2021 Jail Annual Report**. No action is needed.

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer (1) Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Engineers list 319.883 road miles in Blackford County. **(2)** The engineering company reviewed two bridges, one at Lake Mohee and the other near 100 N and 200 S. A federal aid grant with an 80/20 match is being sought. The outcome will not be known until 2028. **(3)** Pluimer will meet with the wind and solar companies soon.

Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown – (1) The County Parks Board requires two Council appointments. **(2)** a meeting for Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces will be held on April 18 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Innovation Center, 116 N Jefferson, Hartford City or on Zoom on April 19 from 9:00 -11:00 am.

Todd Burnell from **Pyramid Consulting** reviewed the tower project budget overages. No action was taken on the additional appropriation for the overages.

Logan Rance, representing Blackford Wind Energy, LLC presented a Declaratory Resolution Designating an Economic Revitalization Area. The project in Licking and Jackson Townships was explained to the council. Ryan Goodspeed moved to approve the Resolution 2022-R10 to begin the project and Fred Tobey 2nd. The vote was 6/1 with Karen Mealy voting nay. A public hearing will be held at the May 4th meeting.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of 3/31/2022	\$ 1,352,862.75
Total Expenditures for March 2022	\$ 124,495.27
Total Revenue for March 2022	\$ 386,381.60

Additional Appropriations:

County General – Unappropriated - \$125,000 (tower overage) - **HOLD**


Transfers:

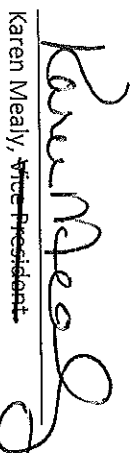
Co. General – E911 - \$286.88 from E911 Supplies to E911 Equipment
Container Collection - \$3,000 from Roll off Box to Repair of Equipment
Container Collection - \$1,000 from Roll off Box to Repair of Building
Highway - \$2,000 from Emergency/Vacation to Contractual Services.

Jack Beckley moved to approve all transfers and Patrick Cale 2nd. The vote was 7/0.

There being no further comment Dan Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien, and 7/0 vote.

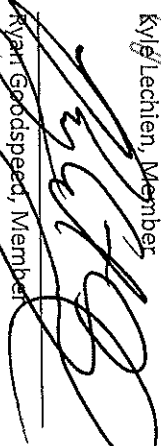
Approved this 2nd day of May, 2022.

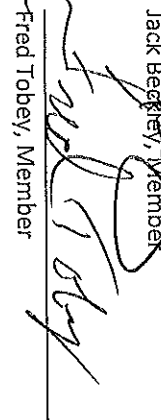

Dan Borgenheimer, President


Karen Mealy, ~~Vice President~~

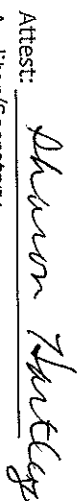

Kyle Lechien, Member


Jack Beckley, Member


Ryan Goodspeed, Member


Fred Tobey, Member

Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Auditor/Secretary