

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

August 17, 2022

The Blackford County Council met at 6:00 p.m. on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the **2023 Budget Appeals Meeting** on Wednesday, August 17, 2022. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

Dan Borgenheimer called the 2023 Budget Appeals Meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll. **Those members answering roll** were, Ryan Goodspeed, Kyle Lechien, Fred Tobey, Patrick Cale, Dan Borgenheimer, Karen Mealy, and Jack Beckley present. **Also present** were in person, Lisa Simmons, Tyler Hunt, Meagan Westfall, Sue Kochanek, Chazz Shrader, John Pluimer, Kelli Schriver, Paul Schriver, Laura Coons, Jeff Sones, Warren Brown, John Oxley, Jimmy Heflin, Lori Seelen, Mary Beal, Pam Bonham, Jacci Weaver, Anne Owen, Steven Holman, Kelly Cale, and Judge Brian Bade. **Attending on Zoom:** Cheri Brown, Barbie Coronato, Jon Jinks, and Montpelier Police.

The minutes of the August 3, 2022, Budget Workshop #2 were approved as **Presented** on a motion by Patrick Cale and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 7/0.

Lori Seelen from Waggoner Irwin Scheele & Associates was asked to discuss the process of creating job descriptions and wage scale for all county employees. Seelen explained the nine-month process and the cost of \$34,680. Council asked questions and decided to obtain quotes from other companies before making a decision on moving forward with the process.

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer reported a driver has resigned and he would like the position reinstated. **Jack Beckley made a motion to reinstate the driver position and Ryan Goodspeed 2nd. The vote was 7/0.**

2023 Salaries were discussed at length. **Ryan Goodspeed moved to set 2023 wages as follows:**

- **Hourly employees, \$1 per hour raise**
 - **New employee beginning rate, \$1 per hour raise**
 - **Part-time positions, \$1 per hour raise**
 - **Elected officials (except the Sheriff, Council and Commissioners) \$1 per hour raise based on the number of hours their office is open.**
 - **Permanent Part-time including Coroner, Veteran's Affairs, Health Officer, EMA Director, Soil & Water Secretary 6% raise**
 - **Employees on the matrix (Road Officers, Jail, Dispatch), \$1,000 raise to base**
- Jack Beckley 2nd and the vote was 7/0.**

The floor was opened for **appeals**. Pam Bonham and Jacci Weaver from the **Animal Shelter** explained the workings of the shelter and the need for more funding. Their request is \$59,200 and Council cut the amount to \$29,438. After some discussion, the council will leave the 2023 amount at \$29,438. It is understood this is a contract and needs to go before the commissioners.

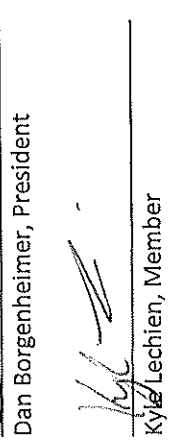
An omission in the August 1st Council minutes was discovered. Council removed the requests for financial assistance under \$5,000 (Civil War Days, HC Heritage Days, Montpelier Jamboree, Blackford County Historical Society and part of the Senior Citizens request) and wants those to go before the Commissioners for approval instead of being part of the budget process.

Chazz Shrader noted his concern to the Council on the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Blackford County Sewer District due to the number of inconsistencies and errors in data throughout the report. He provided an example to the Council of the inaccurate user rate data that had been verified as incorrect by the engineer of the report.

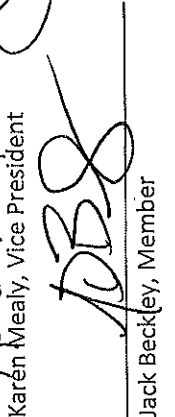
There being no further comment Dan Borgenheimer **adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.** on a motion by Kyle Lechien, and 7/0 vote.

Approved this 17th day of September, 2022.


Dan Borgenheimer, President


Kyle Lechien, Member


Karen Mealy, Vice President


Jack Beckley, Member

Ryan Goodspeed
Ryan Goodspeed, Member

Patrick Cale
Patrick Cale, Member

Fred Tobey, Member

Attest: *Alanna Thustig*
Auditor/Secretary