

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

July 7, 2021

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 regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 7, 2021. 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 Ryan Goodspeed, Dan Borgenheimer, Fred Tobey, Patrick Cale and Kyle Lechien. Karen Mealy attended on Zoom. Jack Beckley was absent. **Also present** in person were John Oxley, Jeff Sones, Paul Schriver, Rhonda Williams, Tyler Hunt, Molly Hunt, Mike Winegardner, Cheri Brown, Warren Brown, Kimberly Pitts, Jim Heflin, Deb Perry, Kelly Cale Greg Balasano, Kyle Resetarits, Trena Roubush, Nathan Wiles, Jesse Laniak, Paul Cummings, Dean and Jeannine Garrett, and Kathy Bantz. **Attending on Zoom:** Kathy Goodspeed, Sue Kochanek, Mary Beal, Jon Jinks, Michael Wilcox, Alexis Martinez and BSS.

The Regular Meeting was recessed for a Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing for the creation on an Economic Redevelopment Area was called to order. Jesse Laniak and Kyle Resetarits representing EDF Renewables and Dentons gave a presentation on the proposed solar project to be constructed in the ERA. The area considered is in Harrison Township. Local resident Jeremy Trant was the only one with a question. He asked “why Blackford County”. Company representatives responded that Blackford County is not limited by infrastructure like other places are, land owners are receptive to solar and the county is friendly to alternative energy. With no other comments, **Fred Tobey made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R21 County Council Final Economic Revitalization Area and Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement. Patrick Cale 2nd and the vote was 6/0. Jack Beckley was absent.**

The Regular meeting resumed at 6:36 p.m.

The minutes of the June 9, 2021 Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Ryan Goodspeed and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 6/0.

The minutes of the June 12, 2021 Special Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Ryan Goodspeed and 2nd by Fred Tobey. The vote was 4/0/1. Karen Mealy was absent 6/12 and Jack Beckley is absent at this meeting.

Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien see Tyler Hunt below

Solid Waste – Dan Borgenheimer HHWD is 6/19/21 - Transfer Station open 2nd Saturday every month

Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed see Warren Brown below
Blackford Development – Patrick Cale –no report

Tyler Hunt, Community Corrections Director, reported Jail Treatment Grant application is ready for submission.

Probation Officer Mike Winegardner reported the Justice Partner’s Grant will be submitted next week. The grant works with the courts, probation department, community corrections, Sheriff’s department. This grant will be used to hire a Re-entry Coordinator.

Dan Borgenheimer and Sharon Hartley reported the Household Hazardous Day was a success. The next event will be held in 2023.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported on the (1) Commissioners approved Resolution 2021-R16 Identifying a Region for the Creation of a Regional Development Plan (RDP) and Participation in the Indiana Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI). The grant will award \$50M to a group of seven counties that includes Blackford County to promote strategic investments for economic growth. This will be presented to Council next month. **(2)** Brown thanked the board for their time and leadership at the public hearing for the solar project.

Commissioner John Oxley reported the Newberry building permits from the state have been issued so work has resumed.

Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown requested the Community Development Services and Health and Human Services positions both be made full time. Michael Wilcox and Molly Hunt also spoke of the need in the county. The cost for the last five months of 2021 is \$27,175. The 2022 cost is \$113,480. **Ryan Goodspeed** moved to approve the \$27,175 for 2021 and the additional appropriation needed and hold the 2022 request until budgets next month. Kyle Lechien 2nd and the vote was 6/0.

Health Department Registrar Rhonda Williams asked to hire Summer Crouse full-time as the Immunization Secretary, a part-time position recently vacated by Ruth Ann Jones retirement. Crouse has worked for the department at the COVID testing and vaccine clinics and is familiar with the program used by the Immunization Secretary. The position will be paid from grants. **Patrick Cale** made a motion to approve the request and **Fred Tobey 2nd**. The vote was 6/0.

Sheriff Jeff Sones reported the county will be going with Tigg Canteen Services for meals at the jail. They will bring food, supplies and staff. Sones wants to move the kitchen supervisor to Dispatch where she had previously worked. She will be paid from the jail budget but serve as a dispatcher. **Ryan Goodspeed** moved to approve the move and **Patrick Cale 2nd**. The vote was 6/0.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

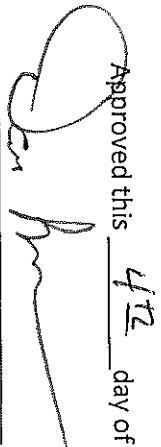
Ending Cash Balance as of 6/30/2021	\$ 3,473,380.21
Total Expenditures for June 2021	\$ 397,955.85
Total Revenue for June 2021	\$ 1,977,463.20

Transfers:
Pre-Trial Diversion – Prosecutor \$507.29 from Deferral Misc. to Operating Supplies


Patrick Cale moved to approve the transfer and **Fred Tobey 2nd**. The vote was 6/0.

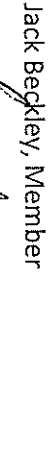
There being no further comment **Dan Borgenheimer** adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien, 2nd by Patrick Cale and 6/0 vote.


Approved this 4th day of August, 2021.


Dan Borgenheimer, President



Karen Mealy, Vice President


Kyle Lechien, Member


Jack Beckley, Member


Ryan Goodspeed, Member


Fred Tobey, Member


Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Ashlan Whittles

Auditor/Secretary