

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

February 3, 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, February 3, 2021. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

President Dan Borgenheimer called the meeting to order and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll.

Those members answering roll were Jack Beckley, Karen Mealy, Ryan Goodspeed, Dan Borgenheimer, Fred Tobey, Patrick Cale and Kyle Lechien.

Also present were: in person were Jeff Sones, Paul Schriver, Warren Brown, Cheri Brown, John Oxley, Ron Dudelston, Anne Owen, Dan Eckstein, Jon Creek, Dana Whatley, John Lancaster, Dustin George, Bill Hughes, John Plulmer and Bruce Edgington. Attending on Zoom were Kathy Goodspeed, Nick Rhodes, Tyler Hunt and Kelly Cale

The minutes of the January 6, 2021 Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 2nd by Patrick Cale. The vote was 7/0.

Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – See Tyler Hunt below

Solid Waste – Dan Borgenheimer HHWD is 6/19/2021

Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – See Warren Brown below

Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – See Dustin George below

LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed no meeting

Community Corrections Director Tyler Hunt gave numbers for January – Electronic monitoring was up and Day Reporting stayed the same. There was a drug screen blitz which found 64% positive results with 8 meth, 6 THC and 4 opioid positives. Employment was 74%. Community is hosting Work One every Thursday from 9 am – 1 pm.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported: (1) The Gillman Home Store has a signed contract and will start construction between March 1 and April. This project will include running water lined to the Jr/Sr High School. (2) The Newberry building renovation is moving along. A tour for local officials will be held on February 25 at noon. Blackford County Commissioners entered into an agreement with Hartford City to pay \$51,790 per year for the loan payment for the reno. Patrick Cale made a motion for Council to show support for the Newberry Building renovation and interlocal agreement. Jack Beckley 2nd and the vote was 7/0. (3) A technology committee is being formed and one council member will be on it. (4) Trú Form is expanding in the HC Industrial Park.

BDC – Dustin George thanked the council for their support of the Newberry project. He reported that BDC is being aggressive in cleaning up the cities and county of derelict houses. They have built one new house which has been sold and hope to build several more in the future. The former Swifty property on South Walnut Street will soon house a new business.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington told council that he and another employee will retire in 2021. That will make them short two drivers as they have already been working shorthanded. He asked for one new driver/operator. Karen Mealy moved to allow one new driver/operator position and Kyle Lechien 2nd. The vote was 7/0.

Purdue Extension Cheri Brown said the housing study is ready to develop an action plan. They will then form a group to work with the state.

John Oxley introduced a draft of the Capital Improvement Plan the Commissioners took under advisement on February 1. A committee is being formed to keep the plan current. The committee will consist of one commissioner, one council member (Patrick Cale volunteered), the auditor and BCEDC Director. Patrick Cale made a motion in support of the Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Ryan Goodspeed 2nd and the vote was 7/0.

Auditor Hartley had been asked about moving money from County General to the Rainy Day Fund. After discussion, Jack Beckley moved to transfer \$300,000 from County General to the Rainy Day Fund and Karen mealy 2nd. The vote was 7/0. A resolution to transfer will be presented at the March meeting.

2021 Salary Ordinance Amendments (since there are quite a few amendments, an entire new ordinance titled "Amended" was presented):

- Highway – new foremen (John Pluimer) rate of pay (page 6) \$20.50
- Highway – add Callout pay line with rates (page 6)
- Superior Court – new Court Reporter (Erin Foreman) rate of pay (page 3) \$18.50
- Veteran’s Affairs Officer rate error – should be \$15.73 (page 2)
- Jail & Merit Officers – eliminate Prob. and Regular rate due to matrix (pages 4 & 5)
- Jail & Merit Officers – correct some salaries due to matrix (pages 4 & 5)

Fred Tobey moved to approve all amendments to the 2021 Salary Ordinance and Karen Mealy 2nd. The vote was 7/0.

Surveyor Paul Shriver introduced attorney Bill Hughes to talk about the steps to establish a Cum Drain Fund. Hughes presented a Resolution (2021-R4) setting March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse as the Public Hearing. Jack Beckley moved to begin the process of establishing a Cum Drain Fund and Patrick Cale 2nd. The vote was 7/0. Following the Public Hearing, Council will consider the adoption of a resolution to establish a Cum Drain Fund. The fund only taxes properties in unincorporated areas of the county, not the cities or towns. The regular monthly Council meeting will follow the public hearing.

Shriver reported on the drain conditions in the area of proposed solar fields. The work needing done could cost \$600,000 - \$800,000. The county would qualify for a 75% grant.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of 1/31/2021	\$ 3,170,765.55
Total Expenditures for January 2021	\$ 641,424.19
Total Revenue for January 2021	\$ 97,361.20

Transfers:

- Co. Gen. Recorder - \$800 from First Deputy to Legal Services
- Health Dept. - \$18,825 from Nurses to Immunization Counselor
- Reassessment - \$1,000 from GIS Project to Misc.
- Comm. Corr. Project Income - \$1,844.48 from Extra Help to Office Supplies

Patrick Cale moved to approve all of the transfers and Ryan Goodspeed 2nd and the vote was 7/0.

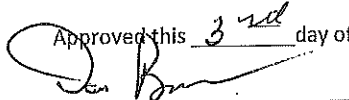
Bruce Edgington introduced the new Highway Foreman, John Pluimer.

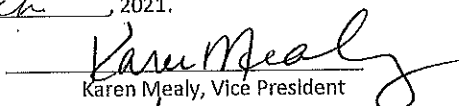
Hartford City Mayor Dan Eckstein thanked the council for their support of the Newberry project and funding.

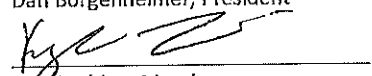
BDC Dustin George wanted to explain why Montpelier is not part of BDC. Montpelier declined to join when BDC was first formed. They don't have the number of houses available for BDC to work with.

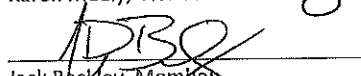
There being no further comment Dan Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien.

Approved this 3rd day of March, 2021.



Dan Borgenheimer, President

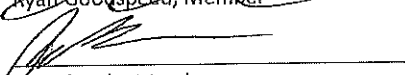

Karen Mealy, Vice President

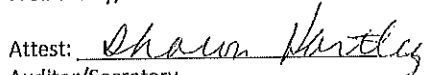

Kyle Lechien, Member


Jack Beckley, Member


Ryan Goodspeed, Member


Fred Tobey, Member


Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Auditor/Secretary