

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

July 12, 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, July 12, 2023. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

Vice President Jack Beckley called the Regular Meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll. The members answering roll were Kyle Lechien, Jack Beckley, Karen Mealy, Fred Tobey, Ryan Goodspeed and Patrick Cale. Dan Borgenheimer was absent. **Also present** in person, Tyler Hunt, Warren Brown, Mary Beal, Kelly Cale, Mike Winegardner, Kyli Penrod, Janel Franks, Dennis Layman, John Pluimer, Jason Semler, Greg Balsano, Brenda DeVries and Taylor Lefever. **Attending on Zoom:** Sue Kochanek, Paul Schriver, Chazz Shrader, and Dana Turner.

The Regular meeting was recessed at 6:03 p.m. for the Courthouse Bond Public Hearing.

Bose McKinney & Evans LLP Attorney Brenda DeVries began the hearing by reviewing the steps and documents for the bond issue process. Lease rental bonds will be obtained through the Blackford County Municipal Building Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$8 million. This is a controlled project due to the size of the bond. Jason Semler and Greg Balsano from Baker Tilly, the county financial consultants for the project, reviewed the financial portion of the bond. While the bond is not to exceed \$8,000,000 the expected cost of the projects is \$7,225,000. This leaves room for unexpected expenses. The interest rates for the loan will be set in November when the bond issue is closed. With the funds available in November, the projects can begin.

With no further comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

The Regular Council meeting was reconvened.

The minutes of the June 7, 2023, Regular Council meeting were approved as **Presented** on a motion by Patrick Cale and 2nd by Fred Tobey . The vote was 5/0. Beckley was absent 6/7.

The minutes of the June 19, 2023, Executive Session were approved as **Presented** on a motion by Karen Mealy and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 5/0. Beckley was absent on 7/19.

An Ordinance Making a Preliminary Determination to Enter into A Lease In Connection With The County Courthouse Project was introduced. Attorney Brenda DeVries explained the ordinance which details the bond process for a bond not to exceed \$8 million and no more than 20 years.

An Ordinance Approving Matters Related to Lease Financing of The County Courthouse Project was introduced. Ms. DeVries explained the document as showing taxpayer petitions in favor of the project, the form of the lease and appointment of two appraisers for the project among other items.

Jason Semler presented a list of banks that submitted quotes to act as Trustees for the County Courthouse Project loan. After review, **Karen Mealy made a motion to appoint Huntington Bank as Trustee. Ryan Goodspeed 2nd and the vote was 6/0.**

County Parks Board appointments – Jack Beckley presented **Scott Schick** and **Kyle Lechien** presented **Shane Smith** as board members. **Both were approved on a 6/0 vote.**

New job descriptions prepared by Waggoner Irwin & Scheele were **approved on a motion by Karen Mealy, 2nd by Ryan Goodspeed and 5/0/1 vote. Jack Beckley abstained.**

Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – they will find out about the next grant next week.

Solid Waste District – no report

Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – see Warren Brown below.

Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report

LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report

BCFDC Director Warren Brown – 1) reported the latest **OCRA grant** helped 45 businesses with \$245,000. To date, OCRA grants have given approximately \$1,000,000 in assistance to small businesses in Blackford County. **2)** The **Comprehensive Plan** has been submitted. The county will approve the plan at a later date. **3) The Newberry building** is nearing completion. The restaurant has pulled out. Brown has a restaurant developer looking for a new tenant. **4)** The **broadband project** received two bids which are being reviewed.

Sheriff Chief Deputy Taylor LeFever 1) presented a resolution adding certain disbursements to Sheriff's Commissary Resolution 2023-R3. Ryan Goodspeed moved to approve Resolution 2023-R7 Resolution to agree to certain Sheriff's Commissary Fund Disbursement. Kyle Lechien 2nd and the vote was 6/0. 2) asked for clarification on a "lateral transfer" from another police/sheriff agency. After discussion, Karen Mealy made a motion to define a lateral move from another agency as an ILEA Tier 1 (academy graduate). The beginning rate of pay on the Sheriff Matrix will reflect the years of service with the other agency up to 20 years. Patrick Cale 2nd and the vote was 6/0. This will become part of the Salary Ordinance.

Kylie Penrod and Janel Franks from the Purdue Extension office shared information on programs that have been presented to local residents. The programs are ongoing and very informative.

Recorder Kelli Schriver sent an ordinance for use of Recorder's Perpetuation Fund in the 2024 budget. Siting an error in the document, Schriver is asked to bring the corrected document to the next meeting.

Highway Superintendent John Plummer 1) will apply for a Community Crossing Grant for work on Bridge 18 at Lake Mohee. The project's estimated cost is \$319,964 with the county match of \$79,991. In the absence of President Borgenheimer, Patrick Cale moved to allow Vice President Jack Beckley to sign the grant application. Fred Tobey 2nd and the vote was 6/0. 2) they have finished paving and will start to chip and seal soon.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Ending Cash Balance as of June 30, 2023 | \$ 2,052,982.66 |
| Total Expenditures for June 2023 | \$ 466,853.09 |
| Total Revenue for June 2023 | \$ 2,195,750.60 |

Additional Appropriations:

EDIT - Jackson Township Sewer District \$60,000 -The request died for lack of a motion. Sheila Hyer is requested to present the request at the next meeting.


Rainy Day – County Improvements (building demo) \$219,000 – Patrick Cale moved to approve and Kyle Lechien 2nd. The vote was 5/1 with Jack Beckley voting nay.

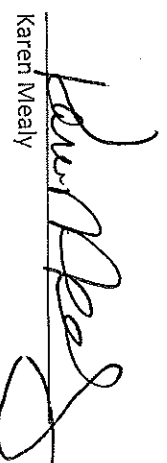
Transfers:

EDIT Fund \$1,950 from County Improvement Projects to Blackford County Sewer District – Council asked what the expense is for. Information will be presented at the next meeting.

There being no further comment Vice President Beckley adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 6/0 vote.

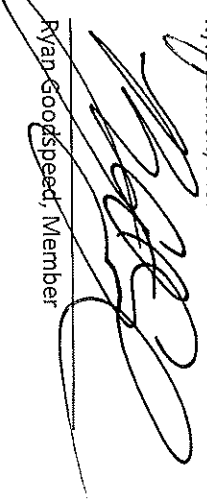
Approved this 9th day of August, 2023.

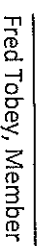

Dan Borgenheimer, President


Karen Mealy

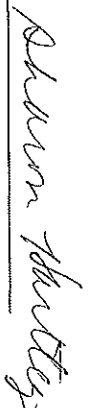

Kyle Lechien, Member


Jack Beckley, Vice President


Ryan Goodspeed, Member


Fred Tobey, Member


Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Auditor/Secretary