

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

March 6, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Blackford County Council met at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

President Jack Beckley called the Regular Meeting to order and called roll. The members answering roll were Kyle Lechien, Ryan Goodspeed, Patrick Cale, Jack Beckley, Fred Tobey, and Jim Weiseman. Also present in person, Warren Brown, Cheri Brown, Laura Coons, Jim Heflin, Jason Semler, Dan Borgenheimer, and John Pluimer. Attending on Zoom: Sue Kochanek, Paul Schriver, Dana Truner, and Mary Beal.

The minutes of the February 7, 2024, Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Patrick Cale and 2nd by Kyle Lechien . The vote was 4/0. Tobey and Weiseman were absent 2/7. Mealy absent 3/6.

Jason Semler from Baker Tilly was present to discuss a Comprehensive Financial Plan for the county. The plan usually looks at 25+ funds and gives “what if” scenarios for each. The Plan can be updated yearly or every 2 years. Another option is to plan for the EDA funds that will be coming to the county. After some detailed discussion, the council will make a decision at the April meeting.

Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – The next grant is being prepared.
Solid Waste District – Karen Mealy - no report
Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – see Warren Brown below.
Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – see Dan Borgenheimer below.
LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report.

Warren Brown asked officials to “save the date” on April 27th from 9 am-2p for Elected officials Training. The location is to be determined.

Dan Borgenheimer reported **Blackford Development** has looked at the properties they own and will be listing several for sale.

Sheriff Jim Heflin presented items he would like to have added to the **LIT Public Safety (LIT PS)** budget. **1.** In 2022 a IRAC gave the county \$40,000 from a grant that could be used for any expense. An additional \$30,000 was given to the county in 2023. The funds were not used, and the Sheriff would like to purchase a new transport van. Another county has a transport van in very good condition for \$25,000. He also needs new AED’s (no cost given). **2.** Heflin requested an Equipment line item in the LIT PS budget. **Patrick Cale moved to create an Equipment line item for LIT PS. Fred Tobey 2nd and the vote was 6/0.** From the Equipment line, Heflin requested the purchase of: **A. Flock Safety cameras.** These read license plate numbers and can give officers information on vehicles entering/leaving the county. The purchase of six cameras is \$21,900 with an \$18,000 annual recurring charge. **Ryan Goodspeed moved to approve the purchase of a six camera Flock system at \$21,900. Jim Weiseman 2nd and the vote was 6/0. B. Stalker Street Dynamics** – A small speed reader sign that shows drivers their speed is \$4,632. A larger mobile speed reader sign is \$10,177. Heflin requested one of each. **Kyle Lechien made a motion to NOT purchase any speed reader signs and Patrick Cale 2nd. The vote was 5/1 with Jim Weiseman voting against the motion. C. Motorola radios** were requested. These radios can communicate with other police and fire departments. The cost is \$128,726.71. The Auditor will bring information on funds available in the LIT PS fund and the ARP Grant fund to the April meeting. **D. New “Fall out gear”** was requested for nine officers at a cost of \$ 18,000. **Patrick Cale moved to put \$30,000 into the new equipment line in LIT PS for Fall out gear. Ryan Goodspeed 2nd and the vote was 6/0. E. SWAT vests** for officers was requested at a cost of approximately \$35,000. No action was taken on the request.

Commissioner Laura Coons presented a Blackford County Annex Structural Review from DLZ’s Eric Ratts. The report finds several problems with the Annex. The building is deemed safe for occupancy at this time. The report list the fascia at the north wall repairs as the most time sensitive. Additional items include leaks in the roof membrane and deteriorated sealant in the masonry control joints on the south wall.

Commissioner Borgenheimer reported (1) all 62 properties listed for sale at the February 29, 2024 Tax Certificate sale sold. (2) Tyler Hunt has been appointed to select a committee to determine the uses of the Opioid Settlement funds. (3) Commissioners have notified Mainstream that Blackford County will terminate the phone and internet service contract effective March 20, 2025. We will be looking for new service providers.

Cheri Brown – Purdue Extension – The next Eclipse meeting will be Thursday night.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of February 29, 2024	\$ 1,243,264.42
Total Expenditures for February 2024	\$ 668,914.52
Total Revenue for February 2024	\$ 302,136.70

Additional Appropriations:

1138 Cum Cap Development - \$65,000 Computer Hardware
\$25,000 Computer Software

Approved on a motion by Kyle Lechten, 2nd by Patrick Cale and 6/0 vote.

Transfers:

Adult Probation User Fees 2001- \$160.00 – Medical Testing to Group Insurance

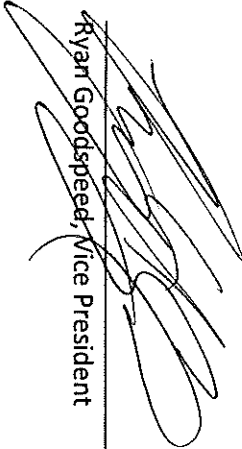
Approved on a motion by Patrick Cale, 2nd by Jim Weiseman and 6/0 vote.

There being no further comment President Beckley adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechten, 2nd by Fred Tobey and 6/0 vote.

Approved this 3rd day of April, 2024.



Jack Beckley, President



Ryan Goodspeed, Vice President



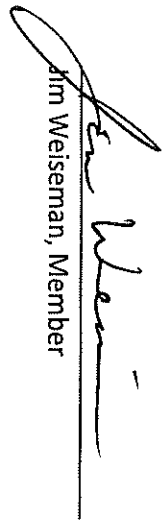
Kyle Lechten, Member

Patrick Cale, Member

Karen Mealy, Member



Fred Tobey, Member



Jim Weiseman, Member

Attest: 

Auditor/Secretary