

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

March 8, 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, March 8, 2023. 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, Dan Borgenheimer, Kyle Lechien, Jack Beckley, Patrick Cale, and Ryan Goodspeed. Fred Tobey was absent. Karen Mealy attended on Zoom. **Also present were** in person, Warren Brown, Cheri Brown, Laura Coons, John Pluimer, Mike Daniel, Paul Schriver, Mary Beal, Grant Banter, Meagan Westfall, Mark Carter and Jim Heflin. **Attending on Zoom:** Sue Kochanek, Greg Martz, Jason Semler, Dana Turner and John Lancaster.

The minutes of the February 8, 2023, Regular Council meeting were approved as **Presented** on a motion by Patrick Cale and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 5/0. Karen Mealy absent 2/8. Fred Tobey absent 3/8.

The minutes of the February 15, 2023, Regular Council meeting were approved as **Presented** on a motion by Patrick Cale and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 5/0. Ryan Goodspeed absent 2/15. Fred Tobey absent 3/8.

Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – no report
Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – see Warren below.
Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report
LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report

Warren Brown BCEDC – (1) An IN Connectivity program will check internet speed in homes for companies to bid on coverage for the home. Charter Communications manages the bids for home service. **(2)** There is a meeting this week for new federal funding for Broadband Equity Access and Deployment.

Ryan Goodspeed mentioned a Council Association meeting on March 22 for any council members able to attend.

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer (1) the overhead door at the Container Collections Site is falling apart. Mark McIntire gave a quote of \$10,782 to replace the door. Pluimer plans to use SW Disposal non reverting fund 4801 to pay for the door. **(2)** Pluimer presented the findings from Creek Run on the methane problem at the former landfill. **(3)** The PASER rating used to rate the roads in the county was shared with the council. The rating is necessary to obtain grants. **(4)** A recent inspection of the bridge to New Indy Paper found the bridge to be in good condition but the sidewalks are broken down. The sidewalks need to be replaced or removed and guardrails installed. **(5)** Two drivers will travel to Illinois for training on the new chipper/spreader the department uses.

Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown (1) contacted the high school see what students would like to see done to improve the community and how they would like to help. **(2)** the Vaping Task Force will meet on Monday, March 13 to submit a grant application. The 2-year grant for \$120,000 would be used to hire an employee to combat the vaping problem. **(3)** Janell Franks is going to work with to educate parents of 6-9th grade on the vaping problem next fall. **(4)** the next Small Business meeting will be held March 27th. **(5)** A County Comprehensive Plan meeting will be held on March 28th from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm at Hartford City, City Hall.

Sheriff Jim Heflin reported a \$17,000 CHIRP grant (formerly OPO) has been awarded to the county. The grant pays officers double time for hours worked on traffic stops for seatbelt violations, DUI and sobriety checkpoints. **Ryan Goodspeed moved to approve the pay rate for the grant and Patrick Cale 2nd. The vote was 6/0.**

Courthouse Repairs: On February 20th, Bowman Construction, Meagan Westfall, and several county officials toured the courthouse and annex looking at areas that need repairs. The clock tower, roof and windows in the courthouse need repair. The second floor of the annex has been gutted due to water damage. DLZ and Bowman Construction will present the cost estimates for the projects to the Commissioners on April 3rd and Council on April 5th. Jason Semler from Baker Tilly was on Zoom to give possible financing option for the projects. **Dan Borgenheimer made a motion to form a subcommittee to explore options to move some offices to the annex and move others into the courthouse. Jack Beckley 2nd and the vote was 6/0.** The committee consisting of Dan Borgenheimer, John Lancaster, Jack Beckley and Ryan Goodspeed was formed to explore options to move some offices from the courthouse to the annex.

Dan Borgenheimer moved to pay the rent for the Purdue Extension Office from that budget. Jack Beckley 2nd and the vote was 6/0.

Highway pay for part-time help is listed as \$14.00 per hour on the 2023 Salary Ordinance. The rate should be \$15.00 due to a change made on May 4, 2022. **Patrick Cale moved to change the part-time rate for Highway Extra Help to \$15.00 on the 2023 Salary Ordinance. Ryan Goodspeed 2nd and the vote was 6/0.**

Job descriptions for several departments need turned in to the Auditor by March 31, 2023. Auditor Hartley will notify those departments.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of February 2023	\$ 1,288,558.65
Total Expenditures for February 2023	\$ 435,356.21
Total Revenue for February 2023	\$ 158,314.58

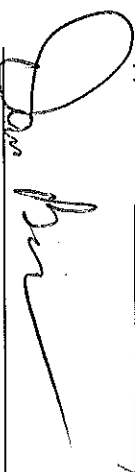
Additional Appropriations: None

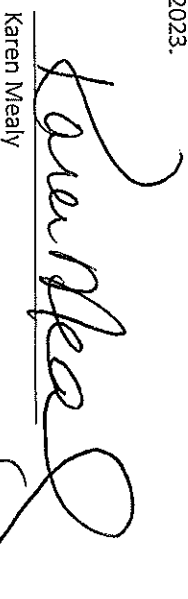
Transfers: None


Mike Daniel reminded everyone the Container Collection Site will open on April 15th from 8:00 am – Noon.

There being no further comment President Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 6/0 vote.

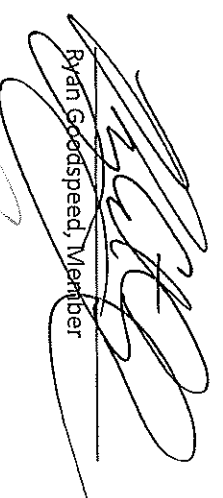
Approved this 5th day of April, 2023.


Dan Borgenheimer, President


Karen Mealy


Kyle Lechien, Member


Jack Beckley, Vice President


Ryan Goodspeed, Member


Fred Tobey, Member


Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Auditor/Secretary