

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

March 9, 2022

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, March 9, 2022. 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, Jack Beckley, Karen Mealy, Ryan Goodspeed, Patrick Cale, Kyle Lechien, and Fred Tobey. Also present were in person, Kelly Cale, Tyler Hunt, Jeff Sones, John Pluimer, Jim Heflin, Anne Owen, John Oxley, Laura Coons, Kelly Inns and Nick Weber. Attending on Zoom: Rick Hall, John Bartlett, Sue Kochanek, and Kathy Goodspeed.

The minutes of the February 9, 2022, Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 2nd by Patrick Cale. The vote was 7/0.

The minutes of the February 8, 2022, Joint Commissioner's and Council Executive Session were approved as Presented on a motion by Jack Beckley and 2nd by Ryan Goodspeed. The vote was 7/0.

Committee Reports

- Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – no report
- Solid Waste – Dan Borgenheimer – see below
- Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – no report
- Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report
- LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report

Solid Waste District – Dan Borgenheimer reported the **Container Collection Site** will be open the second Saturday each month, April through October. November 19 (the third Saturday) will be the last date for the 2022 season.

Sheriff Jeff Sones (1) reported the Sheriff's Merit Board hired Jailer Sebastian Sluder-Ross to fill the position vacated by Jon Jinks. **(2) Sones requested a second Corporal position** be approved for night shift. A current jailer would fill the position. **Ryan Goodspeed moved to amend the Salary Ordinance to assign a current employee as the second Corporal and Kyle Lechien 2nd. The vote was 7/0.**

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer (1) Requested permission to hire a driver to fill the place he vacated. **Patrick Cale moved to reinstate the driver position and Fred Tobey 2nd. The vote was 7/0. (2)** repairs to the barn posts will cost \$14,000. He has \$5,000 in his budget and will need an additional appropriation to make the repairs. Council told him to come back with the additional. **(3) Pluimer contracted 12,000 of diesel fuel at \$3.14 per gallon. (4) CR 075 from 3M to 100 S quote from Dirt Works came in at \$114,000 (up \$97,000 from a month ago due to fuel costs). Two other companies that were contacted did not quote. The Commissioners approved the work. Due to this and other projects, he will need to submit \$175,000 to \$200,000 in additional appropriations. (5) They will clean up two of the broadband tower sites.**

P&Z Director Anne Owen reported her part-time help is in training and will use a big part of the \$1,000 allowed in her budget. She is requesting and additional \$2,500 for this year. Council told her to follow the additional appropriations procedures and they will take action.

Kelly Inns and Nick Weber representing **Blackford Solar Energy, LLC** presented a Declaratory Resolution Designating an Economic Revitalization Area. The project in Jackson Township was explained to the council. **Dan Borgenheimer moved to approve the Resolution 2022-R4 to begin the project and Ryan Goodspeed 2nd. The vote was 7/0. A public hearing will be held at the April 6 meeting.**

The question of PTO for the Highway Superintendent and Sheriff Chief Deputy was presented at the Commissioners meeting. At that meeting, Commissioner Laura Coons moved to add to section 4.1 of the Employee Handbook to include 28 PTO days per calendar year (no carryover) for the two employees and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0. Council has a part in this section and needs to act as well. **Jack Beckley moved to approve the plan adopted by the commissioners and Patrick Cale 2nd. The vote was 7/0,**

Ordinance 2022-02, Establishing a Department of Parks and Recreation was approved as written and presented on a motion by Jack Beckley and 2nd by Ryan Goodspeed. The vote was 7/0.

Resolution 2022-R3 (amends 2020-R5), Relating to County Employment and Restricting the Hiring of New Employees passed on a motion by Karen Mealy and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 7/0.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of 2/28/2022	\$ 1,614,789.64
Total Expenditures for February 2022	\$ 615,995.77
Total Revenue for February 2022	\$ 109,541.92

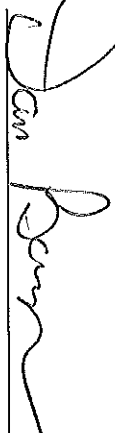
Additional Appropriations:

Community Corrections – Office Supplies - \$1,000.14 was approved on a motion by Fred Tobey, 2nd by Patrick Cale and 7/0 vote.

County General – Unappropriated - \$125,000 (lower overage) Jack Beckley moved to continue this additional appropriation until Warren Brown gives his report and Patrick Cale 2nd. The vote was 7/0.

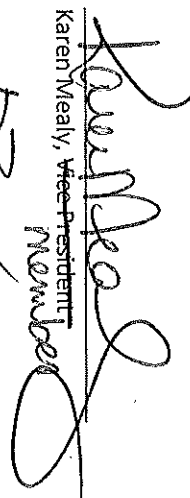
There being no further comment Dan Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien, and 7/0 vote.

Approved this 6th day of April, 2022.


Dan Borgenheimer, President

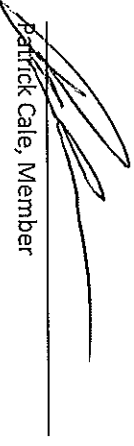

Kyle Lechien, Member

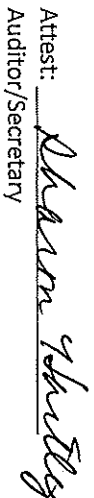

Dan Goodspeed, Member


Karen Mealy, Vice President
Member


Jack Beckley, Member


Fred Tobey, Member


Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Auditor/Secretary