

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

May 3, 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, May 3, 2023. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

President Dan Borgenheimer called the Regular Meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll. The members answering roll were, Dan Borgenheimer, Kyle Lechien, Jack Beckley, Karen Mealy, Fred Tobey, and Ryan Goodspeed. Patrick Cale was absent. Also present in person, John Pluimer, John Oxley, Bill Aspy, Tyler Hunt, Warren Brown, Meagan Westfall, Kyli Penrod, Rich Hall, George Christman, and Jim Heflin. Attending on Zoom: Sue Kochanek, Laura Coons, Chazz Shrader and Rhonda Williams.

The minutes of the April 5, 2023, Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Karen Mealy and 2nd by Fred Tobey. The vote was 6/0.

The minutes of the April 19, 2023, Joint Special meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Karen Mealy and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 6/0.

Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – the next grant should be approved in July.

Solid Waste District – no report

Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – see Warren Brown below.

Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report

LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported the \$600,000 estimate to complete Phase 1 of the Newberry building was low. The revised estimate is \$800,000. The county has committed to paying \$300,000. Hartford City is now asking the county to pay \$400,000. After some discussion, the request died for lack of a motion.

BCEDC Director Warren (1) the next walking trail has started work on the trailhead at Walnut Street and Commercial Street in Hartford City. The area will see parking and restrooms installed. (2) The new bridge at the Disk Golf Park will be installed in October if not sooner. (3) Another OCRA Small Business grant has been approved. BCEDC is taking applications. (4) The RFP for the broadband backhead has been advertised. (5) A manufacturing plant manager meeting will be held on June 8 at BJSHS from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Facilities Manager Meagan Westfall requested the use of EDIT funds for remodel expenses at the new Purdue Extension location. She estimates the expense will not exceed \$4,500. Fred Tobey moved to approve the use of EDIT funds not to exceed \$4,500 as requested. Karen Mealy 2nd and the vote was 6/0.

Sheriff Jim Heflin (1) presented a resolution detailing the approved uses of Jail Commissary funds. Jack Beckley made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-R3 Agreeing to Certain Sheriff's Commissary Fund Disbursements. Karen Mealy 2nd and the vote was 6/0. (2) Heflin next presented an ordinance for Traffic Safety Education and Enforcement. This had been approved on March 8, 2023 but was not in ordinance form. The Council signed Ordinance 2023-03 Traffic Safety Education and Enforcement. (3) Law Enforcement Day Camp will be held at the 4H grounds on June 28-30. The free event is open to kids 11 years to 15 years old. (4) Heflin met with Rhonda Cale at The Waters and TRIAD will resume meetings in August.

The Health Department's Rhonda Williams asked the council's permission to open a checking account at First Financial Bank for credit card payments. The funds will be remitted to the Auditor's office with other office receipts. Department nurse Jessica Pierson and Williams will be on the account. Ryan Goodspeed moved to approve the request as presented and Kyle Lechien 2nd. The vote was 6/0.

Newberry building funding – at the April 5 meeting it was decided to pay the county portion of Phase 1 at \$150,000 from EDIT and \$150,000 from Cumulative Capital Development. It was discovered the CCD fund cannot be used for this purpose. After discussion it was decided to pay the full \$300,000 from EDIT. If possible, Blackford County Storm Water and Blackford County Sewer District appropriations will be taken from CCD. Jack Beckley moved to pay \$300,000 from EDIT funds for the Newberry building. Karen Mealy 2nd and the vote was 6/0.

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer (1) Small structure #66 at CR250N between CR600E and CR700E came in at \$68,971. (2) on CR500N at CR 100W, Hooster Pride installed a pipe that was purchased by the Surveyor.

Public Comment – Rich Hall owns three acres in Washington Township. His property taxes have increased dramatically. He has spoken to the state representatives and local officials and feels he needs more answers. Auditor Hartley invited him to meet with her to discuss property taxes.