

## BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

### November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting

The Blackford County Council met at 6:02 p.m. on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the Regular meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 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, Ryan Goodspeed, Karen Mealy, Fred Tobey and Patrick Cale. **Also present** in person, Mike Daniel, Laura Coons, Bill Aspy, Kathy Goodspeed and the Goodspeed Family, Paul Schriver, Warren Brown, Tyler Hunt, Anne Owen, Judge Brian Bade, Judge Nick Barry, Meagen Westfall, Sue Kochanek, and Jimmy Hefflin. **Attending on Zoom:** Mary Beal, Cheri Brown, and Trisha Keesling.

**The minutes of the October 4, 2023, Regular Council meeting** were approved as **Presented on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patrick Cale. The vote was 7/0.**

**The minutes of the October 30, 2023 Special Meeting** and Public Hearing on LIT were approved as **Presented on a motion** by Karen Mealy and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyle Lechien by. The vote was 6/0. Fred Tobey was absent on 10/30.

**Judge Brian Bade** proposed reinstating the third Probation Officer (PO) position. He would like to move the Probation Secretary wages (\$17,000) currently in User Fees back to County General and he will pay the third probation officer's wages from User Fees. This will relieve much of the overtime from the Chief Probation Officer. Discussion was held on changing the Chief PO to "Exempt" status meaning no overtime. The Chief PO will not be exempt if the third PO is hired. **Judge Nick Barry** also spoke of the need for a third PO. After some discussion, the topic will be moved on to the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**The \$6,000 invoice from KBK Pumping** for putting out the muck fire in Harrison Township was discussed by Surveyor Paul Schriver. **Jack Beckley moved to pay the claim from the Rainy Day Fund. Patrick Cale 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 7/0.**

**Surveyor Schriver** reported the planned **retention pond** near the **Hartford City Industrial Park** is waiting for the National Guard to finalize their plans to dig the pond. The county will only pay for stone for the project. The National Guard hopes to begin work in January 2024.

**Councilman Ryan Goodspeed** had a special award to present. Goodspeed was pleased to **present the Sagamore of the Wabash** award from Indiana Governor Holcomb to his mother, former County Assessor, Kathy Goodspeed. The entire Goodspeed family was present to share the moment.

**The 2024 Salary Ordinance** was discussed. Ryan Goodspeed stated that with the increase in LIT Public Safety, the wages of the Sheriff's Merit Officers can be raised to the External High Point plus the matrix as written by Waggoner Irwin and Scheele. **Karen Mealy moved to approve the 2024 Salary Ordinance as presented with the External High Point plus the matrix for Sheriff Merit Officers only. Ryan Goodspeed 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 7/0.**

#### Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – no report  
Solid Waste District – November 18<sup>th</sup> is the last day the Transfer Station will be open in 2023. It will reopen in April 2024.

Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – see Warren Brown below.  
Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report  
LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – See below.

**LEPC** – A tabletop exercise was held on November 8<sup>th</sup> with several Blackford County employees attending. The exercise presented a train derailment in Hartford City. Participants looked at which agencies would be involved and possible scenarios for each agency.

**BCEDC Director Warren Brown (1)** Manufacturing Day for high school students has been restarted. The event was a great success and more of these events are being planned. **(2)** The pedestrian bridge from South Jefferson Street into the Lions Club Park was installed on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Patrick Cale operated the crane installing the bridge. The installation went great, and many students attended. **(3)** November 20<sup>th</sup> will be the opening of bids for the broadband towers.

**Highway Foreman Mike Daniel** reported John Pluimer and Commissioner Coons attended the award ceremony for the next Community Crossings Grant. Blackford County was awarded \$239,973 to assist with the replacement of a bridge at Lake Mohee. The county match for the project is \$79,991.

**Facilities Manager Meagan Westfall** reported the annex roof is in extremely bad condition. She is currently working on a legal notice to receive bids to replace the roof and, possibly, the parapet wall. The HVAC system needs repaired, and the technician will not get on the roof until it is made safe. She has five quotes, but the cost is over the \$50,000

limit which requires the legal request for bids. The council discussed using the Rainy Day Fund and asking their attorney if this project could begin sooner if it is an emergency to repair.

**Planning & Zoning Director Anne Owen** reported the Unsafe Building Ordinance has been passed by Hartford City, Montpelier and Shamrock Lakes. The Ordinance will be on the agenda for the Commissioners November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council is tasked with forming a board to oversee the ordinance by their December meeting. A request for anyone interested in serving on the board will be put on the county website and Believe in Blackford page on Facebook.

**Blackford Jr/Sr High School JROTC** participated in the national competition. The group came in Third out of 168 teams and received several trophies.

**Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL**

Ending Cash Balance as of October 31, 2023	\$ 1,243,528.80
Total Expenditures for October 2023	\$ 351,661.86
Total Revenue for October 2023	\$ 153,006.09

**Additional Appropriations:**

County General: Council - \$68 Travel  
Council - \$250 Meals & Lodging  
Superior Court - \$20,000 Pauper Attorney  
**Karen Mealy moved to approve all additional appropriations presented. Fred Tobey 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 7/0.**

**Transfers:**

County General: Election - \$6,100 Absentee Voters Board to Computer/Vote Centers  
Extension - \$1,206 Computer Lease to Program Assistant  
P&Z - \$600 Dues & Subscriptions to Extra Help  
P&Z - \$350 Training to Extra Help  
P&Z - \$170 Training to Office Supplies  
Superior Court - \$1,566.40 Psyc. Services to Legal Research  
**Jack Beckley moved to approve all transfers as presented. Ryan Goodspeed 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 7/0.**

There being no further comment President Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechten and 7/0 vote.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

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Dan Borgenheimer, President

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Karen Mealy, Member

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Kyle Lechten, Member

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Jack Beckley, Vice President

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Ryan Goodspeed, Member

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Fred Tobey, Member

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Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: Sharon Shuttles  
Auditor/Secretary