

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

October 30, 2023 Special Meeting

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 a Special Meeting on Monday, October 30, 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 and Patrick Cale. Fred Tobey was absent. Also present in person, John Pluimer, Laura Coons, Jimmy Heflin, Taylor Lefever, Nick Parrott, Ron Parrott, Ron Kreischer, Cody Crouse and Greg Balsano. **Attending on Zoom:** Mary Beal and Tyler Hunt.

President Borgenheimer reviewed the purpose of the meeting as an effort to help fund a decent rate of pay to Sheriff's Deputies, E911 Dispatchers (PSAP) and the EMS (ambulance) subsidy.

**On a motion by Jack Beckley and second by Ryan Goodspeed with a 6/0 vote, the regular meeting recessed at 6:05 pm to open the Public Hearing for LIT rate change.**

Sheriff Jim Heflin explained that the Sheriff's Department cannot make the upgrades needed without increased funding. Pay rates are not competitive with surrounding departments. Radios and other equipment need updated.

Hartford City Police Chief Cody Crouse stated Hartford City is losing officers for the same reason the county is experiencing.

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer thinks an increase in LIT will be a burden on employees.

Ron Parrott feels the county should have been at the maximum rate for LIT since inception. This increase is necessary.

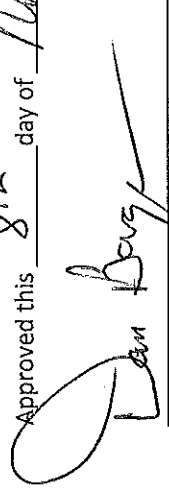
Hartford City Fire Chief Nick Parrott feels his personal income tax may raise by \$1,000 for a year. He will gladly pay this to assure EMS, Fire and Police protection for the cities and county residents

**On a motion by Jack Beckley and second by Kyle Lechien with a 6/0 vote, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:41 pm and the Regular meeting resumed.**


Ryan Goodspeed moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-12, Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates for Blackford County as written and presented and Karen Mealy 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 4/2 with Dan Borgenheimer and Kyle Lechien voting nay.


There being no further comment President Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 6/0 vote.

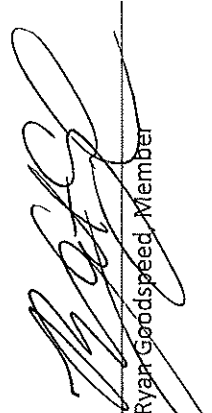
Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

  
Dan Borgenheimer, President

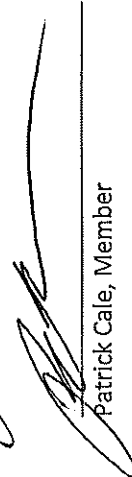
  
Karen Mealy, Member

  
Kyle Lechien, Member

  
Jack Beckley, Vice President

  
Ryan Goodspeed, Member

  
Fred Tobey, Member

  
Patrick Cale, Member

Attest:   
Auditor/Secretary