

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

October 4, 2023 Regular 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 the Regular meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 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, John Pluimer, Laura Coons, Brockton Miller, Grant Banter, and Jimmy Heflin. **Attending on Zoom:** Jacob McClellan, Mary Beal, Greg Balsano, Aaron Henderson, Warren Brown, Sue Kochanek.

The regular meeting recessed at 6:01 pm to open the Public Hearing for the Courthouse Bond.

ORDINANCE 2023-11 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE for the courthouse bond, which was introduced at the September 6th meeting, was presented for approval. Public comments were requested and there were none.

The Public hearing was adjourned at 6:10 pm and the Regular meeting resumed.

Jack Beckley moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-11, Appropriation Ordinance for the courthouse bond as written and presented and Ryan Goodspeed 2nd. The vote was 7/0.

The minutes of the September 6, 2023, Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 2nd by Patrick Cale. The vote was 6/0. Karen Mealy was absent on 9/6.

The minutes of the August 23, 2023 – Public Hearing for 2024 Budget Appeals/ were approved as Presented on a motion by Karen Mealy and 2nd Kyle Lechien by. The vote was 6/0. Fred Tobey was absent on 8/23.

The 2024 Council Meeting Schedule was approved on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 2nd by Patrick Cale. The vote was 7/0.

Brockton Miller, owner of 106 E. Washington Street, Hartford City. He has been talking with the commissioners about payment to repair damage done to his building due to the demolition of 108 and 110 E. Washington. Council and their attorney Aaron Henderson do not feel the repairs requested are from deconstruction damage. Miller does not have any insurance on his building. Miller stated he will file a tort claim if the council won't pay the repair bill. The council is fine with that action. **Jack Beckley made a motion to deny the \$25,965 bill that was presented for the repairs. Ryan Goodspeed 2nd and the vote was 7/0.**

The \$6,000 invoice from KBK Pumping for putting out the muck fire in Harrison Township was continued until November. The council wants to talk to Surveyor Paul Schriver about the claim.

The Local Income Tax (LIT) rate was discussed. Ryan Goodspeed recently attended the Council Conference where LIT was discussed. The LIT Public Safety rate can be split to help fund the PSAP (E911 dispatch) center. An Emergency Medical Service (EMS ambulance rate) is also possible. All the funds currently cannot meet the financial needs. After discussion with Greg Balsano from Baker Tilly, Jack Beckley moved to pursue a 1% increase in LIT rate with Baker Tilly developing a financial impact report. The Public Hearing for the LIT rate will be held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Patrick Cale 2nd and the vote was 7/0.

Ryan Goodspeed moved to allow the auditor to approve an agreement with Baker Tilly for the LIT cost analysis report not to exceed \$10,000. Kyle Lechien 2nd and the vote was 7/0

The 2024 Salary Ordinance was discussed to verify some pay rates. The changes will be made and the ordinance will be presented at the November meeting.

Committee Reports

- Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – no report
- Solid Waste District – no report
- Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – no report
- Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report
- LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report

BCEDC Director Warren Brown (1) The pedestrian bridge from South Jefferson Street into the Lions Club Park will be installed on September 24 in the morning. Patrick Cale will operate the crane installing the bridge. The public is welcome to watch the installation and students are encouraged to attend. (2) the first testing on roads to be used for a solar project has started.

Highway Superintendent John Plumer (1) recently attended a safety meeting and motorist passing farm equipment is a big problem. (2) a recent cleanup around the Highway saw 37 tons of junk sold for \$5,600. (3) chip and seal is finished with 39 miles completed. Stone cost \$52,000 and oil cost were \$364,000 for the project.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL


Ending Cash Balance as of September 30, 2023	\$ 1,441,300.91
Total Expenditures for September 2023	\$ 519,481.01
Total Revenue for August 2023	\$ 273,706.53

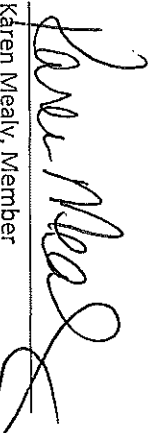
Additional Appropriations: None

Transfers: None

There being no further comment President Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechten and 7/0 vote.

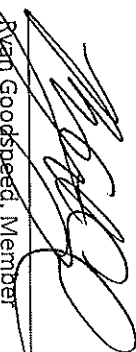
Approved this 8th day of November, 2023.



Dan Borgenheimer, President

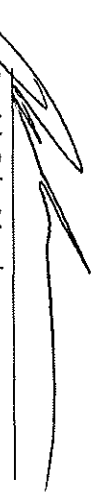

Karen Meal, Member



Kyle Lechten, Member


Jack Beckley, Vice President


Ryan Goodspeed, Member


Fred Tobey, Member


Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Dawn Thulty
Auditor/Secretary