

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

September 6, 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, September 6, 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, Ryan Goodspeed and Patrick Cale. Karen Mealy was absent. Also present in person, Tyler Hunt, Warren Brown, Kim Pitts, John Pluimer, Anne Owen, , John Oxley, Kelli Schriver, Paul Schriver, Taylor Lefever, Sue Kochanek, Cheri Brown, Laura Coons, Judge Brian Bade, Brockton Miller, and John Lancaster. **Attending on Zoom:** Fred Tobey, Kelly Cale, Jacob McClellan, Vincent Walker, Mary Beal, Jason Semler, and Aaron Henderson.

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

Jacob McClellan, Bose McKenny attorney for the Courthouse Bond, reviewed the process for obtaining a bond not to exceed \$8,000,000 and not to exceed 20 years.

An Appropriation Ordinance for the County Courthouse Project was introduced on a motion by **Ryan Goodspeed, 2nd** by Patrick Cale and 6/0 vote.

An Ordinance Approving Forms of Financing Documents Related to Lease Financing of The Blackford County Courthouse Project was presented. Patrick Cale made a motion to vote on the ordinance on the first reading and Ryan Goodspeed 2nd. The vote to approve the motion was 6/0.

Ryan Goodspeed made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt an ordinance on the night of introduction. Patrick Cale 2nd the motion and the vote was 6/0.

Dan Borgenheimer made a motion to approve the Ordinance Approving Forms of Financing Documents Related to Lease Financing of The Blackford County Courthouse Project. Kyle Lechien 2nd and the vote was 6/0. This is Ordinance 2023-10.

The 2024 Blackford County Solid Waste District budget was approved on a motion by Patrick Cale, 2nd by Kyle Lechien and 6/0 vote.

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer reported a driver has resigned. He asked to reinstate the driver position. Patrick Cale moved to approve the request and Kyle Lechien 2nd. The vote was 6/0.

Auditor Sharon Hartley reported the Tax Clerk has resigned. She asked to reinstate the position. Ryan Goodspeed moved to approve the request and Kyle Lechien 2nd. The vote was 6/0.

The 2024 Blackford County Budget was discussed:

Judge Brian Bade presented options for council to consider in the Probation Department. After some discussion, council will continue the discussion at the November 8th meeting.

John Lancaster discussed the **Planning & Zoning Director position**. After some discussion, Kyle Lechien made a motion to take the 2024 wage for the position to 25% of the External Mid-point of the WIS wage plan and 35 hours per week. Ryan Goodspeed 2nd and the vote was 6/0.

Sheriff Merit Officer 2024 pay was discussed. Ryan Goodspeed moved to take the 2024 pay for Merit Officers from the External Highpoint of the WIS wage plan to the External Midpoint matrix due to lack of funds. Patrick Cale 2nd and the vote was 6/0.

The option to raise the LIT rate in 2025 will be reviewed.

The pay rate for Jailer/Courthouse Security Officer Witkamp was incorrect on the WIS pay study. The correct wage is \$37,141 per Lori Seelen with WIS.

A motion to approve the 2024 Blackford County Budget with the changes made at this meeting was made by Ryan Goodspeed and 2nd by Kyle Lechien. The vote was 6/0.

Brockton Miller is the 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 will talk with him at the October 4th 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

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer reported the Transfer Station is still waiting for IDEM to send decisions.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown (1) the broadband tower for SR 3 and CR200N is on order and should be erected within nine weeks. (2) the elevator is going in at the Newberry building and the vent hood for the restaurant has been installed.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of August 30, 2023	\$ 1,687,075.39
Total Expenditures for August 2023	\$ 375,467.90
Total Revenue for August 2023	\$ 204,778.55

Additional Appropriations:

EDJT - Jackson Township Sewer District \$60,000 – no action taken.
Council would like for Commonwealth to come back with more information on the Jackson Sewer District.

ARR CV Local Fiscal Recovery - Sheriff Global System \$70,000
Approved on a motion by Ryan Goodspeed, 2nd by Patrick Cale and 6/0 vote.

ARR CV Local Fiscal Recovery – Revenue Loss \$95,000
Approved on a motion by Patrick Cale, 2nd by Kyle Lechien and 6/0 vote.

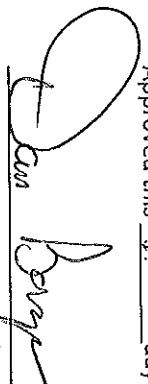
Transfers:

County General - Child Support \$88.89 from Postage to Office Supplies
Prosecutor Deferral - \$60.20 from Office Supplies to Misc. Expense.
Patrick Cale moved to approve the transfers and Jack Beckley 2nd. The vote was 6/0.

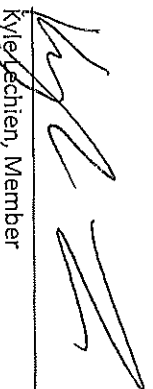
Council reviewed the proposed 2024 meeting calendar. This will be presented next month.

There being no further comment President Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 6/0 vote.


Approved this 4th day of October, 2023.



Dan Borgenheimer, President

Karen Mealy, Member

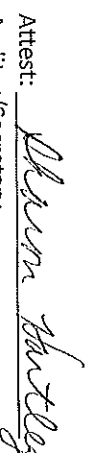

Kyle Lechien, Member


Jack Beckley, Vice President


Ryan Goodspeed, Member


Fred Tobey, Member


Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: 
Dawn Hartley
Auditor/Secretary