

## **COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MAY 8, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President, Jonathan T. Myers.

### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

#### **1. Roll Call**

The following members were present: Ron Deer, Melinda Griesemer, and John Ditmars. Pamela Burton was present via Zoom. John Mallers and John Myers were absent.

#### **2. Invocation**

Mr. Deer gave the invocation.

#### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **4. Approval of the 5/8/2023 Agenda**

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers noted items B1 (4/10/23 Regular Meeting Minutes) and C2 (911 Transfer Request) have been withdrawn from the agenda. He also added item E1.5 (Interlocal Agreement with INDOT & Johnson County) to the agenda.

Ms. Griesemer moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **5. Public Comments (limited to 5 minutes per person)**

There were no public comments.

### **B. Routine Matters – Consent Agenda**

*By a single motion, the Board approves the following items, which may include Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions, and Transfers. Any items listed on the consent agenda may be removed by a Council member and moved to the regular agenda.*

Mr. Deer moved to approve the following requests as presented. Ms. Griesemer seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

#### **1. Approval of 4/10/23 Regular Meeting Minutes**

#### **2. Clerk (#1001-0101)**

(a) From: 1001.21500.00000.0101	Office Supplies	\$	(500.00)
To: 1001.44000.00000.0101	Office Equipment	\$	500.00

#### **3. Community Corrections JPI (#4950)**

(a) From: 4950.25100.00000.0216	Wearing Apparel	\$	(250.00)
To: 4950.25801.00000.0216	Food	\$	250.00
(b) From: 4950.31000.00000.0216	Professional Services	\$	(1,000.00)
To: 4950.25801.00000.0216	Food	\$	1,000.00
(c) From: 4950.31500.00000.0216	Travel & Training	\$	(250.00)
To: 4950.25801.00000.0216	Food	\$	250.00

#### **4. VASIA Guardianship Fees (#4203)**

(a) AA: 4203.31500.00000.0454	Travel & Training	\$	2,500.00
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#### **5. Emergency Management (#1001-0127)**

(a) AA: 1001.30911.00000.0127	Emergency Disaster Spending	\$	3,000.00
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6. Health (#1159)

(a) AA: 1159.25801.00000.0210      Food (new)      \$      1,000.00

7. LaTour Memorial Fund (#4122)

(a) AA: 4122.44100.00000.0219      Misc. Equipment      \$      38,681.16

**C. Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions and Transfers:**

1. Pretrial Diversion Program (#2509)

Lance Hamner, Prosecutor, was present to request approval of a salary supplement to align with responsibility changes for the position. He noted this increase will come from the discretionary funds in the Prosecutor's budget. He also requested to increase his Intern's hourly wage to \$20.00 per hour.

Ms. Griesemer moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried 4-1; Mrs. Burton voted nay, stating this request should be made at budget time.

(1a) 2509.11802.00000.0286 – Intern – request to increase hourly wage from \$18/hr to \$20/hr

(1b) AA: 2509.11454.00000.0286      Supp-Supervisor (new)      \$      5,000.00

2. Jo Co Public Safety Comm (#1001-0911)

This request was withdrawn.

~~(2a) From: 1001.36000.00000.0911      Equipment Repair & Maint.      \$      (870.00)~~  
~~To: 1001.12238.00000.0911      Supp Asst IDACS Coord (new)      \$      870.00~~

3. Superior Court No. 3 (#1001-0134)

Doug Cummins, Superior Court 3 Judge, was present to request approval of an additional appropriation to fund an additional Public Defender due to the increased caseloads. He currently only has one Public Defender for his court, who is covering 168 cases, noting the maximum recommended caseload should only be 120. The additional Public Defender will also allow cases to move through more quickly, resulting in shorter stays at the Jail. He apologized coming during the middle of the year for this request, but he just now has a good understanding and the data needed to make this request, since taking office almost a year ago.

Mrs. Burton moved to approve the request as presented. Ms. Griesemer seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

(3a) AA: 1001.30010.00000.0134      Public Defenders (Contracts)      \$      40,000.00

4. 21.027 American Rescue Plan (#8950)

Kevin Walls, Commissioner, was present to request an additional appropriation for the Health Department/Coroner Building. He also noted the bids came in closely together in costs.

Mr. Ditmars moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(4a) AA: 8950.40007.00000.0122      Health Department/Coroner Facility      \$      6,500,000.00

## **D. Other Business**

### **1. Approval of Ordinance 2023-02: An Ordinance Regarding and Additional Appropriation by White River Township Fire Protection District [#8603 – Special Fire General Fund; Capital Outlays \$950,000.00]**

Jeremy Pell, White River Township Fire Chief, Ben Roeger, Financial Consultant, and Mike Hoffman, Community Liaison, were present to request approval of Ordinance 2023-02 to cover the costs for a building to suit the needs of the White River Township Fire Protection District.

Discussion was held regarding the use of the building and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. Deer moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

### **2. Johnson County Public Library – JCPL Update Presentation**

Lisa Litner, Johnson County Public Library Director, was present to update the Council on the 2022 year for the Johnson County Public Library.

Mrs. Litner talked about the new Clark Pleasant Branch that opened in 2022. She also noted there were over one million items circulated in JCPL branches in 2022.

Looking forward to 2023, Mrs. Litner highlighted multiple programs coming to Johnson County including: story times at Bargersville Town Hall, the Bookmobile, Read to Me Jamboree, and an Early Childhood Learning Area at the Trafalgar Branch.

Mrs. Litner also discussed the effects of the recent tornado at the Clark Pleasant Branch. She explained the outside damages were mostly cosmetic and would take approximately six to eight months to repair.

The Council thanked Mrs. Litner for her time and the services that are being offered to everyone in the County.

## **E. Old & New Business**

### **1. Highway – Discussion on Highway Engineering Staff Compensation**

Daniel Johnston, Highway Engineer, was present to discuss the future plans for changing some of the aspects of the Engineering staff. He noted one need for the department would be supervising the permitting process that could be managed by an Engineering Permit Technician.

Mr. Johnston also discussed a staff development opportunity that the department would like to explore with the INDOT Certified Technician Program (CTP). He also noted the completion of this program would allow the participants to gain more responsibility and financial incentive.

The Council thanked Mr. Johnston for providing information regarding the future plans for the department and opening discussion for changes to be requested during the budget hearings later in the year.

### **1.5. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with INDOT & Johnson County Concerning Installation of I-69 Casing**

Luke Mastin, Highway Supervisor, was present to request approval of the Interlocal Agreement with INDOT & Johnson County Concerning the Installation of the Casing for the I-69 Project.

Mr. Ditmars moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

## 2. Discussion of the LIT Correctional/Rehab Facilities and the LIT Economic Development (EDIT) Revenues and Expenditures

Mr. Mastin stayed before the Council to present information regarding the current plans to fund the Smith Valley Road Project utilizing the General Fund and EDIT Revenue. He provided information regarding the expenditures and revenues for the scope of the project as it currently stands.

The Council thanked Mr. Mastin for his presentation and providing an idea of the upcoming expenses and process with the large project.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers discussed the idea of utilizing the EDIT funds for Bond repayment in the future.

Commissioner Walls came before the Council to discuss the utilization of the future funds for the LIT and EDIT Revenues and Expenditures. He recommended looking to the future for the use of the funds and working with Mike Reuter to create a plan.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers suggested a joint meeting between the Commissioners, Council, and Mike Reuter to discuss the upcoming expenditures.

## 3. 2024 Budget Information

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers discussed the 2024 Budget increase projections for 2024. He noted all accounts beginning with 2, 3, and 4 would have an initial 5% increase limit and all accounts beginning with 1, would have a recommended increase of 3%. He presented a letter that would be given to all Elected Officials and Department Heads explaining the initial budget increase recommendations for 2024.

Discussion was held regarding the expectations for the information to be provided during the budget hearings from each department.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers suggested moving forward with Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele, and Associates for job description management. He also discussed the option to have an internal position within the Auditor's office to maintain salaries and job descriptions as well.

Ms. Griesemer agreed someone should assist in the management of salary data and job positions internally. She voiced her hesitation with using an outside source for the management of job descriptions.

Mrs. Burton expressed support of the Auditor and any information the Auditor's Office would be willing to present to the Council.

Mr. Deer emphasized the need for a process to analyze job descriptions.

Discussion was held regarding different avenues to create a process for job title and salary changes.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers redirected discussion back to the 2024 Budget increase information.

The Council came to a consensus to move forward with distributing the letter to Elected Officials and Department Heads. The Council also came to a consensus to move forward with the position in the Auditor's Office to assist in creating a process for salary and job description changes.

## **F. Adjournment – Next regular meeting June 12, 2023**

There being no further business, Ms. Griesemer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

**May 8, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

  
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**Pamela Burton, Council Member**

  
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**John Mellers, Council Member**

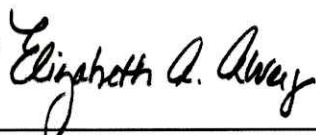
  
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**Ron Deer, Council Member**

  
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**Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member**

  
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**Melinda Griesemer, Council Member**

  
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**John Myers, Council Member**

  
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**John Ditmars, Council Member**

Attest:   
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**Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor**