

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Pamela Burton.

A. Call the Meeting to Order

1. Roll Call

The following members were present: Ron Deer, Jonathan T. Myers, John Mallers, John Ditmars, and Melinda Griesemer. John Myers was absent.

2. Invocation

Mrs. Burton gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of the 8/12/2024 Agenda:

Mrs. Burton noted they needed to add a request from the Treasurer, Michele Graves, as item #4 under New & Old Business.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

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. Jonathan T. Myers made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

1. Approval of 7/8/24 Regular Meeting Minutes

2. Emergency Planning/Right to Know (#1152)

(a) From: 1152.31500.00000.0212	Travel & Training	\$	(2,000.00)
To: 1152.44100.00000.0212	Misc Equipment	\$	2,000.00

3. Park Non-Reverting Capital Improv (#1178)

(a) From: 1178.35000.00000.0271	Equipment Lease	\$	(75,000.00)
To: 1178.42001.00000.0271	Building & Land Improv	\$	75,000.00

4. Park Non-Reverting Operating (#1179)

(a) From: 1179.35000.00000.0273	Equipment Lease	\$	(20,000.00)
To: 1179.44100.00000.0273	Misc Equipment	\$	20,000.00

5. Court Interpreter Grant 24-25 (#9135)

(a) AA: 9135.31300.00000.0131	Interpreter Services	\$	45,000.00
-------------------------------	----------------------	----	-----------

6. Weights & Measures Ord Fines (#4202)

(a) AA: 4202.42000.00000.0121	Operating Equipment	\$	1,100.00
-------------------------------	---------------------	----	----------

7.	<u>Prosecutor Deferral Program (#2508)</u>		
	(a) AA: 2508.30060.00000.0327	Grant Adjustments	\$ 3,456.50
	(b) AA: 2508.30060.00000.0327	Grant Adjustments	\$ 647.50
8.	<u>JDAI Juvenile 2024-2025 (#9127)</u>		
	(a) AA: 9127.21600.00000.0140	Operating Supplies	\$ 3,450.00
	(b) AA: 9127.25801.00000.0140	Food	\$ 15,675.00
	(c) AA: 9127.31000.00000.0140	Professional Services	\$ 56,800.00
	(d) AA: 9127.31500.00000.0140	Travel & Training	\$ 4,075.00
9.	<u>GAL/CASA (#1213)</u>		
	(a) AA: 1213.31500.00000.0274	Travel & Training	\$ 2,000.00
10.	<u>Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental [Health Dept] (#4300-0210)</u>		
	(a) AA: 4300.31000.00000.0210	Professional Services	\$ 5,656.62
11.	<u>Health (#1159-0210)</u>		
	(a) AA: 1159.40100.00000.0210	Office Equipment/Furniture	\$ 50,000.00
	(b) From: 1159.11400.00000.0210	Part Time	\$ (15,000.00)
	To: 1159.19900.00000.0210	Overtime	\$ 15,000.00

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

1. Auditor (#1157-0102)

Elizabeth Alvy, Auditor, was present to request an additional appropriation to pay for her Professional Services line item. She explained this account is running low due to some prior year's invoices being paid out of this year's budget (due to the GAAP audit being carried over from one year to the next) and not realizing there were a few more things paid from this line item when she prepared the initial budgeted amount.

Mr. Ditmars commented on contacting the vendor to make sure all invoices get submitted timely in order to pay them in the year they were budgeted, to help prevent this situation from happening again next year.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(1a) AA: 1157.31000.00000.0102 Professional Services \$ 41,000.00

2. Drainage Board (#1157-0119)

Gregg Cantwell, Surveyor, was present to request a new line item with an additional appropriation to pay for the printing cost of the watershed meeting notices.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(2a) AA: 1157.31200.00000.0119 Printing (new) \$ 11,957.35

Mr. Deer inquired how the watershed meetings went.

Mr. Cantwell replied the reassessment hearings were held at the fairgrounds and overall, they went remarkably well. There were 49 watersheds discussed; 48 were passed and 1 was continued. He stated it was a long day, but successful.

3. Community Corrections API (#1122)

Angela Morris, Director/Chief Probation Officer, was present to request an additional appropriation to cover expenses for drug screens for Adult Community Corrections. The provider has increased their fees. Additionally, more money is needed to pay for interpreter fees, as these needs have increased as well.

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

(3a) AA: 1122.31000.00000.0209 Professional Services \$ 40,000.00

4. Supplemental Adult Prob Srvc (#2101)

Mrs. Morris was also present for this request. She explained additional monies are also needed for Adult Probation to cover both drug screens and interpreter fees. She noted for several years, they have received a grant from Drug Free Johnson County; however, they were not awarded one this year (but Juvenile Probation was awarded one).

Mrs. Burton asked if she anticipated getting the grant back in the future.

Mrs. Morris replied she would continue to apply for it.

Mr. Deer made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

(4a) AA: 2101.31000.00000.0297 Professional Services \$ 65,000.00

D. Other Business

1. County Council Review of Estimated Property Tax Levy Limits and Estimated Reductions Due to Circuit Breakers for Each Taxing Unit

Mrs. Burton stated they have received and reviewed the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each of the following taxing units:

- Blue River Township
- Clark Township
- Franklin-Union-Needham Township
- Hensley Township
- Nineveh Township
- Pleasant Township
- White River Township

- Bargersville Civil Town
- Edinburgh Civil Town
- Franklin Civil City
- Greenwood Civil City
- New Whiteland Civil Town
- Princes Lakes Civil Town
- Trafalgar Civil Town
- Whiteland Civil Town

- Center Grove Community School Corporation
- Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation

- Edinburgh Community School Corporation
- Franklin Community School Corporation
- Greenwood Community School Corporation
- Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United School Corporation

- Edinburgh-Wright-Hageman Public Library
- Greenwood Public Library
- Johnson County Public Library

- Amity Fire District
- Bargersville Fire District
- Hensley Fire District
- Needham Fire District
- Nineveh Fire District
- White River Fire District

- Solid Waste District

- Johnson County

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers then made a motion for these units not to exceed their 2024 property tax levy multiplied by the 2025 statewide growth quotient of 4.0%. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

E. Old & New Business

1. Ratification of Melinda Griesemer as the Council Representative on the Indiana Opioid Remediation Board

Ms. Griesemer made a motion to approve this request as presented. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

2. WIS Salary Study Contract

Adam Gadberry, County Attorney, was present to explain if the Council wants to utilize Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele, and Associates, Inc (WIS) for a job classification and compensation analysis for the following year's budget, then we need to sign a letter of engagement to get in line for this to be done in a timely fashion. After speaking with WIS, we really need to get something in the works before October, as it could be a 6-8 month process to get the results.

Mrs. Burton stated with moving forward on streamlining the budget process and getting accurate, more up-to-date numbers, they need to get the ball rolling now, to utilize the data in 2025 for the 2026 budgets.

Mr. Gadberry replied correct.

Mr. Deer made a motion to move forward with this contract as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

3. Discussion on Community Corrections Bond

Mr. Gadberry commented that once Mr. Peters is done talking about the Community Corrections Bond, he will be having a brief discussion on Road Bonding.

Jeff Peters, Financial Advisor for Bonds, was present to give the Council members an update on the amortization schedule for this bond. He noted previously he was working with a specific dollar amount,

which would have gotten the amortization down to 10 years. What the Council had approved previously was an amortization out to 20 years, which is standard. After reviewing the proposed 2025 budgets, Mike Reuter, Financial Advisor for the County, has recommended lengthening it to the 20-year period to allow for additional Community Correctional Facilities LIT money to be available for operational expenditures and not committed to this debt service. Mr. Peters stated they could sell the bonds for a 20-year period (which usually have a 10-year call period available).

Mrs. Burton reiterated the Council needs to approve extending the amortization schedule to a 20-year period.

Mr. Ditmars asked if they already took action approving only a 10-year period and now they need to change it to a 20-year period.

Mr. Peters replied no, the prior formal action just stated it could be up to a maximum of 20 years; however, as the County's Financial Advisor for selling bonds, he wanted a definitive answer to go ahead and do the 20-year period.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers inquired if there was any penalty for paying the bond off early.

Mr. Peters replied no; he stated typically, when you do the bond call they don't need a premium. This will be a straightforward bond secured by the income taxes of the LIT fund and backed by the property taxes of the County, so they will not require any premium.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Next, Mr. Peters also gave a brief overview of some road bonding options. With the large number of road projects and high costs, he gave an example of how they could start on some of them now instead of waiting until additional monies were saved. He explained by setting aside \$4,000,000 a year over the past few years in the General Fund and with the revenue from the Economic Development Income Taxes, at the end of 2025 the total cash will be around \$27,000,000. By using these funds, and future revenue from the EDIT taxes, along with continued appropriations from the General Fund, the County could potentially bond around \$105,000,000 for the multiple road projects now and leverage the aforementioned stream of funding for those bond payments without raising any taxes. He further explained this type of bonding would be called lease/rental bonds and reviewed how these worked.

Brief discussion was held on some of the projects, including engineering design and right-of-way acquisitions. Luke Mastin, Highway Supervisor, was also present and stated even though the Smith Valley Project is a huge project, he wanted to also move along with several of the other projects. The Smith Valley Project is in the design phase currently; however, getting a bond will help move all projects along. There is a long list with several variable factors to consider. Mr. Mastin stated he would keep the Council members updated.

Mrs. Burton stated there have been several meetings where both short term and long term plans have been discussed and this is just the beginning of some of that information.

The Council members thanked Mr. Peters for all of his information.

4. Treasurer – Discussion on Review of Job Description due to an Error of Omission

Michele Ann Graves, Treasurer, was present to request sending to WIS a current job description for review due to a discovery that an omission of a title that may have had an impact on the resulting job classification in 2019.

Mr. Ditmars asked for more detailed information; what was omitted from the title.

Mrs. Graves stated when she took office in 2017, they were asked to redo all of the job descriptions (which actually happened in 2019), noting it had been about 20 years since this had been done. She erroneously dropped the title of “Bookkeeper” to one of her positions; the title of the position should have been “Bookkeeper - Deputy Treasurer”. She feels like this title change could have had a negative impact to this position’s classification. She also noted along with adding this title back on, there also needs to be a requirement of additional experience in bookkeeping added to the job description. When the Council asked for the job classifications to be updated in 2023, that is when her Chief Deputy found this error.

Mrs. Burton asked what the reasoning for this request being made now was, instead of waiting about six months when their new contract with WIS takes effect.

Mrs. Graves voiced she believes this should be an exception because it was her mistake. She is willing to pay for the review cost from her budget and would like to get it submitted as early as possible, so if there was an error, it could be made in time for the 2025 budget hearings.

Brief discussion was held regarding the timing of this request and if there was a change in the job classification how would it be handled at this point.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers made a motion to approve the request to send the updated job title to WIS, to be paid from the Treasurer’s budget. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which failed two to four; Mr. Deer, Mrs. Burton, Mr. Mallers and Ms. Griesemer all voted nay.

Teresa Petro, Recorder, appeared before the Council inquiring what the process is to get positions reclassified, stating she has some that need to be reviewed.

Brief discussion was held regarding the expectations from WIS for the Council and the county employees in 2025. This item will be addressed more at a later date.

F. Adjournment – Next regular meeting September 9, 2024

There being no further business, Mr. Ditmars moved to adjourn. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

August 12, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes




Pamela Burton, Council Member



John Mallers, Council Member



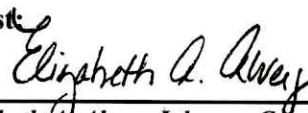
Ron Deer, Council Member


Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member


Melinda Griesemer, Council Member

John Myers, Council Member - resigned 8-22-24


John Dimars, Council Member

Attest:

Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor