

## **COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 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: Jonathan T. Myers, John Mallers, John Ditmars, and Melinda Griesemer. Ron Deer was present via zoom.

#### **2. Invocation**

Mrs. Burton gave the invocation.

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

Mrs. Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **4. Approval of the 9/9/2024 Agenda:**

Mrs. Burton noted they needed to remove item D1 (*Approval of 8/12/24 Special Meeting Minutes/Budget Workshop*) from the agenda. They also need to add a transfer request from Court Services as item D8 (*Veterans Court 2024 #9193*).

Ms. Griesemer made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0. *\*note: all votes during the meeting were taken by roll call*

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

There were no public comments.

### **B. First Preliminary Determination Public Hearing on the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024**

Mrs. Burton opened the public hearing at 6:05pm to receive comment on County Council Ordinance 2024-08, an Ordinance of the Johnson County Council authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of providing funds to acquire vehicles, acquire and install certain equipment, complete certain projects and make certain improvements and renovations and to pay the costs of issuance of the bonds. She then invited Niki Franklin, Municipal Advisor, to discuss some required disclosures.

Mrs. Franklin was present and stated since this is a controlled project (*above the \$6.3 million threshold*), she reviewed the following required disclosures:

1. *The percent of the County's current and projected debt service payments divided by the net assessed value of the taxable property within the County (the "Net Assessed Value") is approximately 0.1097%.*
2. *The percent of the County's outstanding long-term debt coupled with the outstanding long-term debt of other taxing units located within the County divided by the Net Assessed Value is approximately 5.2636%.*
3. *The maximum term of the bonds is 5 years.*
4. *The maximum principal amount of bonds is \$7,00,000.*
5. *The estimated interest rate on the bonds is 4.00%.*
6. *The estimated total interest cost for the bonds is \$250,356.*
7. *The description of the projects to be financed with bond proceeds include acquiring vehicles, acquiring and installing certain equipment, completing certain projects, and making certain improvements and renovations.*

8. *The following statement must be provided: If the County Council adopts a resolution making a preliminary determination following the second public hearing on October 14<sup>th</sup>, a notice of that determination would be published and property owners or registered voters would have 30 days following the publication to file a petition requesting the application of the petition remonstrance process for the proposed bonds.*
9. *The County's current debt service levy is \$5,377,763 and the current debt service rate is \$0.0499 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.*
10. *The estimated increase if the bonds are issued to the debt service levy is \$1,998,540 and the tax rate increase of \$0.0125 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. However, the County has historically kept a flat debt service tax rate and it is anticipated that will continue in 2025 and thereafter.*
11. *The estimated increase to the County's debt service levy and rate that will result during the following ten (10) years if the County issues the bonds, after also considering any changes that will occur to the debt service levy and rate during that period on account of any outstanding bonds or lease obligations that will mature or terminate during that period.*
  - a. *Based on currently outstanding debt: Estimated levy is approximately \$7,376,303 and a rate of \$.0624 for 2025, and a levy of \$711,674 and a rate of \$0.0060 in 2026. However, the County has historically kept a flat debt service tax rate and it is anticipated that will continue.*

Mrs. Franklin then stated she would be happy to answer any questions they may have.

Mrs. Burton thanked Mrs. Franklin. She then stated members of the public appearing at the meeting either in person or via zoom have the right to be heard and opened the floor for any public comments. Hearing none, she closed the public comment portion of the hearing.

**C. Approval of Ordinance 2024-08 (First Reading) – An Ordinance of the Johnson County Council Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the Purpose of Providing Funds to Acquire Vehicles, Acquire and Install Certain Equipment, Complete Certain Projects and Make Certain Improvements and Renovations and to Pay the Costs of Issuance of the Bonds**

Mr. Mallers moved to approve Ordinance 2024-08 as presented on first reading. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

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

1. *Approval of 8/12/24 Special Meeting Minutes/ Budget Workshop*
2. *Approval of 8/12/24 Regular Meeting Minutes*
3. Superior Court #3 (#1001-0134)

<i>(a) From: 1001.25800.00000.0134 Books</i>	\$	(3,500.00)
<i>To: 1001.19900.00000.0134 Overtime</i>	\$	3,500.00
4. Park Non-Reverting Operating (#1179)

<i>(a) From: 1179.42001.00000.0273 Building &amp; Land Improvement</i>	\$	(10,000.00)
<i>To: 1179.31601.00000.0273 Operating Expenses</i>	\$	10,000.00

	(b) From: 1179.42001.00000.0273	Building & Land Improvement	\$ (5,000.00)
	To: 1179.32001.00000.0273	Promotional	\$ 5,000.00
5. <u>Health (#1159-0210)</u>			
	(a) From: 1159.40100.00000.0210	Office Equipment/Furniture	\$ (5,535.50)
	To: 1159.31000.00000.0210	Professional Services	\$ 5,535.50
	(b) AA: 1159.37200.00000.0210	Office Rent	\$ 8,600.71
6. <u>Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental [Health Dept] (#4300-0210)</u>			
	(a) AA: 4300.31000.00000.0210	Professional Services	\$ 11,712.25
7. <u>Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental [Emergency Management] (#4300-0127)</u>			
	(a) AA: 4300.21600.00000.0127	Operating Supplies	\$ 5,650.00
8. <u>Veterans Court 2024 (#9193)</u>			
	(a) From: 9193.31500.00000.0134	Travel & Training	\$ (2,000.00)
	To: 9193.21003.00000.0134	Participant Incentives (new)	\$ 2,000.00
	(b) From: 9193.31500.00000.0134	Travel & Training	\$ (2,000.00)
	To: 9193.30035.00000.0134	Participant Services (new)	\$ 2,000.00
	(c) From: 9193.31500.00000.0134	Travel & Training	\$ (942.20)
	To: 9193.31000.00000.0134	Professional Services (new)	\$ 942.20

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

1. 21.016 Sheriff DOT Eqtbl Share (#8197)

Adam Gadberry, County Attorney, was present on behalf of Sheriff Duane Burgess, to request an additional appropriation to purchase sixteen patrol rifles, three stocks, red dot lights, stream lights, slings, mounts, and a camera and battery.

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

(1a) AA: 8197.44100.00000.0124	Misc Equipment	\$ 26,500.00
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2. 21.027 American Rescue Plan (#8950)

Kevin Walls, Commissioner, was present for this request; Brian Baird, Commissioner, was also present via zoom, to request additional appropriations to pay for eight pickleball courts at Independence Park and to pay for a bridge that would connect the Training Center parking lot with the new parking area for Community Corrections.

Brief discussion was held regarding these projects, which are being paid from the discretionary portion of these funds. Mr. Gadberry noted that all projects being paid from these funds have to be under contract and appropriated by the end of 2024 and be spent by the end of 2026, otherwise we lose those funds.

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

(2a) AA: 8950.40009.00000.0122	Pickleball Courts/IndpndncePark	\$ 500,000.00
(2b) AA: 8950.40010.00000.0122	Training Center Bridge	\$ 350,000.00

3. VASIA Guardianship Fees (#4203)

There was no one present for this request either in person or online.

Mrs. Burton read the requested letter, which stated the additional appropriation was to pay for a contract with CleverDogs media for a new website and marketing program.

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

(3a) AA: 4203.36102.00000.0454 Contractual Services \$ 7,370.00

4. 16,575 VOCA Grant 2024-2026 (#8109) \*note: these positions also receive additional pay from other line item(s)

5. Prosecuting Attorney (#1001-108) \*note: these positions also receive additional pay from other line item(s)

There was no one present for these requests either in person or online.

Mrs. Burton asked everyone their thoughts on tabling these requests since there was no one present to present them.

Amy Thompson, First Deputy Auditor, stated this grant starts October 1, 2024. The amount of the grant changed; one of the salaries increased and the other one decreased, which affected the amount of the supplements that are paid from the General Fund. She also noted this is the last 2-year cycle for this grant.

Brief discussion was held regarding the supplements and the changes made to them during the budget hearings. Mrs. Thompson stated this request is only for the remainder of 2024.

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

(4a) AA: 8109.10008.00000.0108 Project Director \$ 82,126.11

(4b) 8109.10008.00000.0108 – Project Director – annual salary (10/1/24-9/30/25) of \$41,455.50 (max bi-weekly pay of \$1,594.44); annual salary (10/1/25-9/30/26) of \$40,670.61 (max bi-weekly pay of \$1,564.25)

(4c) AA: 8109.10000.00000.0108 Director \$ 41,577.98

(4d) 8109.10000.00000.0108 – Director – annual salary (10/1/24-9/30/25) of \$21,179.56 (max bi-weekly pay of \$814.60); annual salary (10/1/25-9/30/26) of \$20,398.42 (max bi-weekly pay of \$784.55)

(5a) AA: 1001.11236.00000.0108 Supp-VA Grant (1) \$ 22,195.09

(5b) 1001.11236.00000.0108 – Supp-VA Grant (1) – annual salary (eff 10/1/24) of \$22,195.09 (max bi-weekly pay of \$853.66)

(5c) AA: 1001.11548.00000.0108 Supp-VA Grant (2) \$ 4,018.70

(5d) 1001.11548.00000.0108 – Supp-VA Grant (2) – annual salary (eff 10/1/24) of \$4,018.70 (max bi-weekly pay of \$154.57)

## F. Other Business

### 1. Approval of Tax Abatement for Roy Umbarger & Sons (Personal Property; 10-years)

Pat Sherman, CPA, for Roy Umbarger & Sons, was present to discuss the request for the personal property tax abatement. Marty Umbarger and Jackson Umbarger were also present to answer any questions the council members may have.

Mr. Sherman stated that he had spoken with Mr. Ditmars prior to the meeting and they are in agreement to reduce their request from 10-years to 7-years and change the new employees from four to five, to three to four. This request is not for real property, just personal property.

Mr. Ditmars shared he was the County Council's appointee to City of Franklin's EDC for many years. During that time, his steadfast philosophy on personal property had an economic life to it that warranted either a 3, 5, or 7-years life on it, depending on the scope of the project.

Ms. Griesemer inquired what the personal property entailed.

Mr. Marty Umbarger explained the personal property would be all of the equipment needed to manufacture the feed and get it ready for distribution.

Mr. Deer commented this company has been a staple in the county for many years, and he would be in support of local owners and businesses moving forward.

Mr. Gadberry commented that since there are changes to this request, they will need to table this request until next month, at which point a resolution would also be prepared.

### **G. Old & New Business**

1. Approval of Resolution 2024-02: A Resolution Authorizing and Permitting Disbursement from the Johnson County Sheriff's Commissary Fund as Allowed by Indiana Code 36-8-10-21

Mr. Gadberry stated this resolution further enumerates agreeable uses of the Sheriff's Commissary fund.

Brief discussion was held regarding the various expenditures being allowed and the fact that our County has never had any issues with misuse of funds. Commissioner Baird noted he is involved with the ICC at the state level, and unfortunately there are a handful of sheriffs in the state that has caused issues for all of the county sheriffs. He noted our sheriff has been very mindful of his commissary funds and has used them instead of asking for items to be purchased from either bonds or other taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Deer made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02 as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

2. Approval of Resolution 2024-03: A Resolution Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1-10.5-5(a) Expressing Interest in the Purchase of Certain Real Estate

Commissioner Walls was present for this request. He stated they are moving forward with the Community Corrections and Probation building; this site is getting pretty tight with the Highway Department, so they are looking at relocating the Highway Department and this request is pursuant to that. He doesn't want to mention any addresses right now, as there are several discussions still going on.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 as presented. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

3. Approval of Ordinance 2024-09: Amended Annual Salary Ordinance

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-09 as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Walls and Seneca Harbin, Veterans Director, were both present to give the Council a heads up regarding the increase in workload for his office. Mr. Walls commented they had received phone calls from people complaining they couldn't reach Mr. Harbin. After further investigation, Mr. Harbin is working very hard and when he is spending time in meetings with veterans, he doesn't answer the phones. He has also been taking care of overflow from surrounding counties, which they have a plan to help with

this. Mr. Walls stated at second reading they will be either asking for some part time or full time help in this department and wanted to give the Council advanced notice regarding this matter.

Mr. Ditmars asked what everyone's point of view was regarding when departments submit a request for the council, but no representative is here to present it. He understands they approved a few requests tonight, but he doesn't want to see this becoming a habit.

Several Council members agreed, someone should be here to present or make arrangements if needed.

**H. Adjournment** – *Next regular meeting October 14, 2024*

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

**September 9, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

  
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*Pamela Burton, Council Member*

  
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*John Mallers, Council Member*

  
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*Ron Deer, Council Member*

  
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*Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member*  
*absent*

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*Melinda Griesemer, Council Member*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Ron Bates, Council Member*

  
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*John Ditmars, Council Member*

**Attest:**

  
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*Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor*