

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 14, 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, Ron Bates, Jonathan T. Myers, John Mallers, and John Ditmars. Melinda Griesemer was absent.

Mrs. Burton again welcomed their newest Council member, Ron Bates.

2. Invocation

Mrs. Burton gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of the 10/14/2024 Agenda:

Mrs. Burton noted that item H11, *21.016 Sheriff DOJ Eqtbl Share*, should be fund #8197, not #89197. Also, item J2, *Approval of Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Bargersville*, has been tabled.

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

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

Dr. Christine Negendank, Adult & Child President and Indiana Region Chief Medical Officer, was present to introduce herself to the Council. She apologized for not being present during the budget hearings; during the transition of the retirement of Allen Brown and her appointment, there was some communication error which has since been resolved. She wanted to thank the Council members for their ongoing support of Adult & Child, noting they are looking to expand their services in 2025. She then distributed handouts to the Council members highlighting several things from the current year and showcasing what is to come in 2025.

B. Second Preliminary Determination Public Hearing on the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024

D. Public Hearing on An Additional Appropriation of the Bond Proceeds of the Johnson County's General Obligation Bonds

Adam Gadberry, County Attorney, opened a public hearing on October 14, 2024 at 6:05pm to receive comment on County Council Resolution 2024-04, *a Resolution of the Johnson County Council Making a Preliminary Determination to Issue Bonds*, as well as a public hearing on the additional appropriation of the Bond Proceeds of the Johnson County's General Obligation Bonds, and finally a public hearing regarding the second reading of 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*. Members of the public appearing at this hearing have the right to be heard regarding these matters; if anyone is present who would like to be heard may do so. They must state their name and spell it, state their address of residence, and limit their comments to 5 minutes. However, Jeff Peters, Financial Advisor with Peters Franklin, will first present to the Council his information concerning the preliminary determination.

Mrs. Burton noted this pertains to items B, D, and E of the agenda.

Mr. Peters appeared before the Council. He stated the bond issue before them is a General Obligation Bond repayable from property taxes, which they have traditionally done every year. One General Obligation Bond for various list of capital projects that will be undertaken. Also, in the repayment of the property taxes limited the next year's property tax to stabilize a rate to continue to accomplish these capital projects. This is the same as previous

Council Regular Meeting – October 14, 2024

years; the repayment is for a two-year period, the maximum amount is \$7,000,000. It is heavily loaded in 2025 for repayment, again to stabilize that rate of the overall property tax rate of the County. He then explained since the amount of this bond issue is, as was last year's General Obligation Bonds, it puts the County in a category where statutory information has to be disclosed prior to the previous public hearing and which will be disclosed here again.

Mr. Peters then stated the following disclosures:

1. The current and projected annual debt service payments divided by the net assessed value.
In 2024, that amount is 0.1045%; in 2025 it is anticipated to be 0.1097% and in 2026 it is estimated to be 0.287%. Again, this would be the payoff of these bonds that is being contemplated today.
2. The long term outstanding debt plus overlapping debt divided by the current net assessed value.
Currently this percentage is 5.1987%; with this new debt it will be 5.2636%.
3. The maximum term of bonds.
This would 5 years, noting it is targeted to be repaid in two years, with year one being a larger amount.
4. The maximum principal amount of the bonds.
The amount is \$7,000,000.
5. The estimated interest rate and cost of the bonds.
The estimated interest rate is 4.00%; the costs are estimated at \$250,356.
6. The current debt service levy and rate.
For 2024, the debt service levy is \$5,377,763 and the rate is \$0.0499 per \$100 of assessed value.
7. The estimated increase in debt service levy and rate.
The estimated increase in the debt service levy would be \$1,998,540; the estimated increase in the rate would be \$.0125 per \$100 of assessed value.
8. The estimated 10-year debt service levy and rate change.
For 2025, the estimated debt service levy would be \$7,376,303 with a rate of \$.0624; for 2026, the estimated debt service levy would be \$711,674 with a rate of \$0.0060.

Mr. Peters then stated he would be happy to answer any questions they may have.

Mrs. Burton voiced these are all things they have reviewed before. She then asked for any public comments. Hearing none, Mr. Ditmars made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

C. Approval of Resolution 2024-04: A Resolution of the Johnson County Council Making a Preliminary Determination to Issue Bonds

Mr. Deer made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-04 as presented. Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

E. Approval of Ordinance 2024-08 (Second 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. Ditmars moved to approve Ordinance 2024-08 as presented on second reading. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Council Regular Meeting – October 14, 2024

F. Adoption of the 2025 County Budgets

Mrs. Burton read aloud the following statement for clarity to the taxpayers regarding the adoption of the 2025 County Budgets:

This Council sought guidance from the State Board of Accounts regarding the 2025 compensation for salary line items for the Johnson County Attorney's. They clarified, that while the Commissioners set the compensation, the Council must approve the appropriation. This Council does not have the authority to change this wage independently, but can negotiate if the compensation seems unreasonable. If an agreement isn't reached, and in this case, it was not, legal action may be pursued. I personally do not believe court involvement would be ideal, considering this change will have a minimal impact on the 2025 budget. Should this matter have moved to the legal system there would be additional costs to taxpayers for Council to retain independent outside legal representation. Based on this information disclosed to you today, I recommend accepting the Commissioners' proposed changes to the attorneys' compensation for the 2025 budget.

Mrs. Burton then asked if any of the Council members had any additional comments.

Mr. Ditmars commented that during this process became somewhat contentious, particularly as it related to compensation. He feels like this same contentious nature to continue in following years if they do not, at some point, find a way to improve their HR approach, such as some type of professional expertise. Right now, their current decision making is somewhat subjective and he feels like an objective approach would be more appropriate.

Mr. Ditmars then made a motion to approve Form 4 as presented, which includes the following changes for the adoption of the 2025 County budget:

Salary changes:

- o 1001.11013.00000.0122 Asst County Attorney - decrease to \$83,725
- o 1001.11456.00000.0122 County Attorney - increase to \$103,449
- o 1001.12902.00000.0122 Supp-Asst County Attorney - increase to \$10,000

Clean up of some account titles:

- o 1001.11211.00000.0105 Major – change title to Major (1)
- o 1001.11212.00000.0105 Major (1) – change to Major (2)
- o 1001.13000.00000.0105 Civil Process Server – change title to Civil Process Server (1)
- o 1001.13001.00000.0105 Civil Process Server (1) – change title to Civil Process Server (2)
- o 1001.14410.00000.0122 HSA-Employer Portion – change title to HSA/HRA-Employer Portion

- o On the Part Time sheet – the fund for Comm Corr/ Juvenile s/b #1001 instead of #1233

Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

1. Approval of Resolution 2024-05: A Resolution Petition to Appeal for an Increase above the Maximum Levy (Appeal Type: Three-year Growth Factor in the of \$1,700,000)

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05 as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Ordinance 2024-10: Annual Salary Ordinance

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-10 as presented. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

G. Approval of Ordinance 2024-11 (First Reading): An Ordinance Granting Recorder's Request to Use Monies from the Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund to Pay the Recorder's Operating Expenses, Recorder's Office Salaries, PERF, and Social Security in 2025

Teresa Petro, Recorder, was present for the first reading of Ordinance 2024-11. She had briefly explained during budget hearing, that with the money in her fund she has sufficient funds to pay for all of their operating expenses, salaries, and benefits for 2025.

Mr. Mallers moved to approve Ordinance 2024-11 as presented on first reading. Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

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

1. *Approval of 8/12/24 Special Meeting Minutes/ Budget Workshop*
2. *Approval of 9/9/24 Regular Meeting Minutes*
3. Coroner (#1157-0107)

(a) From: 1157.30700.00000.0107	Transport Fee	\$ (5,000.00)
To: 1157.44000.00000.0107	Office Equipment	\$ 5,000.00
4. 16.585 Drug Court Adult 22 (#8252)

(a) From: 8252.25801.00000.0138	Food	\$ (1,000.00)
To: 8252.31500.00000.0138	Travel & Training	\$ 1,000.00
5. Emergency Planning & Right to Know (#1152)

(a) From: 1152.31000.00000.0212	Professional Services	\$ (1,000.00)
To: 1152.44100.00000.0212	Misc Equipment	\$ 1,000.00
6. Supplemental Adult Probation Services (#2101)

(a) From: 2101.21500.00000.0297	Office Supplies	\$ (600.00)
To: 2101.25801.00000.0297	Food (new)	\$ 600.00
7. Clerk/Election Board (#1001-0114)

(a) From: 1001.21500.00000.0114	Office Supplies	\$ (2,000.00)
To: 1001.19900.00000.0114	Overtime	\$ 2,000.00
8. Superior Court #3 (#1001-0134)

(a) From: 1001.21500.00000.0134	Office Supplies	\$ (5,000.00)
To: 1001.19900.00000.0134	Overtime	\$ 3,000.00
To: 1001.11400.00000.0134	Part Time	\$ 2,000.00
(b) AA: 1001.19900.00000.0134	Overtime	\$ 18,000.00
(c) AA: 1001.11400.00000.0134	Part Time	\$ 8,000.00
9. VASIA Guardianship Fees (#4203)

(a) AA: 4203.21005.00000.0454	Client Favors (new)	\$ 1,439.48
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10. 16.922 Sheriff DOJ Eqtbl Share (#8191)

(a) AA: 8191.44100.00000.0124	Misc Equip	\$ 16,188.90
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11. 21.016 Sheriff DOT Eqtbl Share (#8197)
 (a) AA: 89197.44100.00000.0124 Misc Equip \$ 29,870.66
12. Sheriff's Towing (#4933)
 (a) AA: 4933.44100.00000.0124 Misc Equip \$ 62,000.00

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

1. Clerk/Election Board (#1001-0114)

Trena McLaughlin, Clerk, was present to request an additional appropriation for a stipend of \$2,500.00, as allowed by statute, effective July 1, 2024. She explained she, as the Clerk, serves as the Clerk for all seven courts, is secretary to the Election Board, and is the Chief Voter Registration Officer. Per I.C. 3-7-12-22, the clerk may receive an annual stipend, not to exceed \$2,500 each year when a general election is held. She explained that when she ran for this office, she was aware of all of the job duties and responsibilities this job entailed. She feels like she has done and will continue to do all of the job duties and responsibilities she was elected to do. She then listed the many additional duties she does as Clerk during election years. Lastly, she feels like the reason for this new law is justification to provide compensation for the years the Clerks do elections in their counties and also continue to run day to day operations as the Clerk. She then thanked the Council for their time and consideration and offered to help answer any questions they may have.

Mrs. Burton asked if the Clerk's duties were statutorily set, similar to other elected positions.

Mrs. McLaughlin replied yes.

Mr. Myers stated he supports this; he commented Mrs. McLaughlin does a great job and goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Ditmars expressed he agrees that Mrs. McLaughlin does a great job; however, he struggles with providing additional compensation for the work they basically signed up to do.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which failed four to two; Mr. Deer, Mr. Mallers, Mrs. Burton, and Mr. Ditmars all voted nay.

~~(1a) AA: 1001.19924.00000.0114 Stipend Circuit Court Clerk \$ 2,500.00~~

2. 10.557 WIC Program 2024-2025 (#8216) retro to 10/1/24

Tracy Smith, Coordinator, was present to appropriate her grant for 2024-2025. She noted she had revised some of the amounts, and they were resubmitted. She noted they will be opening an office in Greenwood and submitted higher amounts than needed. Angela Larkin, Clinic Assistant, was also present.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the following requests as amended and retroactive to 10/1/24:

- (2a) AA: 8216.11400.00000.0215 Part Time \$ 99,057.40
 (2b) 8216.11400.00000.0215 – Part Time – Request hourly rates of up to \$35.57 for Registered Dietitians
 (2c) AA: 8216.11422.00000.0215 Clinic Assistant \$ 44,148.00
 (2d) 8216.11422.00000.0215 – Clinic Assistant – Annual salary of \$44,148.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$1,698.00
 (2e) AA: 8216.11423.00000.0215 Clinic Assistant (1) \$ 42,627.00
 (2f) 8216.11423.00000.0215 – Clinic Assistant (1) – Annual salary of \$42,627.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$1,639.50
 (2g) AA: 8216.12852.00000.0215 Coordinator \$ 76,518.00
 (2h) 8216.12852.00000.0215 – Coordinator – Annual salary of \$76,518.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,943.00
 (2i) AA: 8216.13203.00000.0215 Registered Dietician (2) \$ 63,979.50
 (2j) 8216.13203.00000.0215 – Registered Dietician (2) – Annual salary of \$63,979.50; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,460.75
 (2k) AA: 8216.13204.00000.0215 Registered Dietician (3) \$ 61,425.00

(2l)	8216.13204.00000.0215	– Registered Dietician (3) – Annual salary of \$61,425.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,362.50	
(2m)	AA: 8216.13205.00000.0215	WIC Nutritionist	\$ 61,425.00
(2n)	8216.13205.00000.0215	– WIC Nutritionist – Annual salary of \$61,425.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,362.50	
(2o)	AA: 8216.13206.00000.0215	WIC Nutritionist (2) [new]	\$ 61,425.00
(2p)	8216.13206.00000.0215	– WIC Nutritionist (2) – Annual salary of \$61,425.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,362.50	
(2q)	AA: 8216.13207.00000.0215	WIC Nutritionist (3) [new]	\$ 61,425.00
(2r)	8216.13207.00000.0215	– WIC Nutritionist (3) – Annual salary of \$61,425.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,362.50	
(2s)	AA: 8216.13208.00000.0215	WIC Nutritionist (4) [new]	\$ 61,425.00
(2t)	8216.13208.00000.0215	– WIC Nutritionist (4)– Annual salary of \$61,425.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,362.505	
(2u)	AA: 8216.13209.00000.0215	Lactation Consultant [new]	\$ 53,332.50
(2v)	8216.13209.00000.0215	– Lactation Consultant – Annual salary of \$53,332.50; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,051.25	
(2w)	AA: 8216.13210.00000.0215	Shelby County Manager	\$ 68,250.00
(2x)	8216.13210.00000.0215	– Shelby County Manager – Annual salary of \$68,250.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,625.00	
(2y)	AA: 8216.13211.00000.0215	Greenwood Clinic Manager [new]	\$ 68,250.00
(2z)	8216.13211.00000.0215	– Greenwood Clinic Manager – Annual salary of \$68,250.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,625.00	
(2aa)	AA: 8216.13212.00000.0215	Clinic Assistant (2)	\$ 42,627.00
(2bb)	8216.13212.00000.0215	– Clinic Assistant (2) – Annual salary of \$42,627.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$1,639.50	
(2cc)	AA: 8216.14200.00000.0215	Fica-Social Security	\$ 66,242.00
(2dd)	AA: 8216.14300.00000.0215	PERF	\$ 79,008.00
(2ee)	AA: 8216.14400.00000.0215	Emp Group Health Insurance	\$ 116,000.00
(2ff)	AA: 8216.19900.00000.0215	Overtime	\$ 3,000.00
(2gg)	AA: 8216.21500.00000.0215	Office Supplies	\$ 16,836.00
(2hh)	AA: 8216.31601.00000.0215	Operating Expenses	\$ 100,000.00
(2ii)	AA: 8216.31000.00000.0215	Professional Services	\$ 100,000.00
(2jj)	AA: 8216.31500.00000.0215	Travel & Training	\$ 10,149.66
(2kk)	AA: 8216.36200.00000.0215	Communications	\$ 1,800.00
(2ll)	AA: 8216.32200.00000.0215	Postage	\$ 3,000.00
(2mm)	AA: 8216.32400.00000.0215	Utilities	\$ 19,240.00
(2nn)	AA: 8216.36000.00000.0215	Equipment Repair & Maint	\$ 2,340.00
(2oo)	AA: 8216.36201.00000.0215	Insurance	\$ 5,540.00
(2pp)	AA: 8216.37200.00000.0215	Office Rent	\$ 62,943.00
(2qq)	AA: 8216.44000.00000.0215	Office Equipment [new]	\$ 5,762.00

Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Mrs. Smith commented that once they get better numbers on opening the Greenwood clinic, the State is prepared to give additional monies; therefore, she will be back asking for appropriation of those funds.

3. Pretrial Diversion Program (#2509)

Lance Hamner, Prosecutor, was present to request additional appropriations to start two of the six new positions approved in the 2025 budget. He explained this early hiring will give his office a measure of temporary relief from the caseload they are currently dealing with until the new year.

Mr. Mallers noted he had spoken with Mr. Hamner earlier and the new position of the Legal Assistant/Paralegal (14) was approved in the 2025 budget at \$50,000, so he would recommend lowering the requested salary from \$54,000 to \$50,000.

Mrs. Burton commented that would also lower the requested appropriation amount of \$8,308 to \$7,693.

Mr. Hamner was in agreement with those changes.

Mr. Mallers then made a motion to approve the requests as amended. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

- (3a) AA: 2509.11028.00000.0286 Deputy Prosecutor (15) \$ 18,462.00
- (3b) 2509.11028.00000.0286- Deputy Prosecutor (15) – annual salary of \$120,000 (max bi-weekly pay of \$4,615.38)
- (3c) AA: 2509.11718.00000.0286 Legal Assistant/Paralegal (14) \$ 7,693.00
- (3d) 2509.11718.00000.0286 – Legal Assistant/Paralegal (14)- annual salary of \$50,000 (max bi-weekly pay of \$1,923.08)

4. Sheriff/Jail (#1233-0124)

Duane Burgess, Sheriff, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$50,000 for sheriff/jail building repairs. He explained they have been replacing several air handlers throughout the year and they added a power surge protector, which they paid for out of their Commissary Funds (\$22,000). Last week, his maintenance employee notified him they have another air handler going out. Typically, he uses his Commissary Funds for these types of repairs; however, all the Sheriffs are fighting for these funds because the federal government is trying to take away the money they receive from phone services.

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

- (4a) AA: 1233.36001.00000.0124 Building Repair & Maint \$ 50,000.00

5. Innkeepers Tax Collections (#7304)

Ken Kosky, Director of Tourism, was first present to request their fourth quarter additional appropriation. Next, he also noted he has been meeting with several elected officials and distributed a handout to the Council members with the information that has been discussed. He also expressed they have awarded \$169,650 in grants so far this year. He stated he has reached out to every community within the County to make them aware of the grant funding opportunities – which was a concern voiced by the Council last year. He can now say that every sector of the County has been provided funding this year.

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

- (5a) AA: 7304.31601.00000.1127 Operating Expenses \$ 294,331.25

J. Other Business

1. Johnson County CVT – Approval of their 2025 Budget

Mr. Kosky was also present to request approval of their 2025 budget. He noted there were very few changes from their 2024 budget.

Mr. Ditmars inquired how many staff members they have.

Mr. Kosky replied they have four staff members.

Next, Mr. Ditmars asked what makes up the \$60,000 request for Operating Expenses.

Mr. Kosky voiced this is for general expenses that an organization incurs, such as use of a post office box, insurance, payroll taxes/unemployment, logo wear for staff, mileage, cell phones for staff, and other miscellaneous business expenses.

Lastly, Mr. Ditmars questioned how this budget compared to the prior year's budget and how is the 2024 budget running actual to budget.

Mr. Kosky noted the 2025 budget is very similar to 2024's budget. They are in a strong financial position; any remaining funds will be used for grants. The budget of \$1,290,925 is up almost \$100,000, which tracks with the increase of their collections.

Mr. Mallers requested when asking for the next year's budget (2026), it would be helpful if the prior year's budget (2025) was also included.

Mr. Kosky replied he would prepare a year to year comparison.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 budget as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Bargersville: Amendment and Addendum to Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Concerning Road Maintenance

This item was tabled at the beginning of the meeting.

K. Old & New Business

1. Approval of Ordinance 2024-12: Amended Annual Salary Ordinance

Mr. Gadberry stated this item needs to be tabled due to the changes on the Prosecutor's request. Mrs. Burton agreed this item would be tabled until their November meeting.

2. Approval of Resolution 2024-TA-1: A Resolution Qualifying Certain Personal Property Improvements for Tax Abatement (Roy Umbarger & Sons Inc)

Mrs. Burton stated their was discussion on this last month and changes were agree upon, and are now reflected in the resolution.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-TA-1 as amended. Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

H. Adjournment – *Next regular meeting November 12, 2024*

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


October 14, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes



Pamela Burton, Council President



John Mallers, Council Vice-President



Ron Deer, Council Member



Ron Bates, Council Member



Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member



John Ditmars, Council Member



Melinda Griesemer, Council Member

Attest: 

Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor