

## **COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 14, 2025**

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, Melinda Griesemer, John Mallers, Michele Ann Graves, John Ditmars, and Ron Bates.

#### **2. Invocation**

Mrs. Burton gave the invocation.

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

Mrs. Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **4. Approval of 4/14/25 Agenda**

Mrs. Burton noted the following changes to the agenda:

- *On item B5, the location should be 0135 instead of 0107*
- *Add item E4: Budget Timeline Discussion*
- *Add item E5: VASIA Information*
- *Add item E6: Community Corrections Adult Information*

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Graves seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#### **5. Public Comments (agenda items only, limited to 5 minutes per person)**

Michelle Harter, 1422 Windswept Dr. Greenwood IN 46143, was present to introduce herself to the Council members. She gave a brief overview of her background and explained she is a local attorney and has expressed interest in serving as the outside counsel for the Council.

### **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.*

Mrs. Graves made a motion to approve the following requests as presented, with the corrected location number on item B5. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#### **1. Approval of 2/24/25 Council Minutes – Joint Executive Meeting**

#### **2. Approval of 3/10/25 Council Minutes**

#### **3. Local Public Health Services (#1161) Health**

(a) From: 1161.35005.00060.0210	Access Advertising	\$	(3,000.00)
From: 1161.36105.00060.0210	Access Contractual Services	\$	(139,000.00)
To: 1161.46106.00060.0210	PHEP Operating Equipment	\$	142,000.00

#### **4. Supplemental Adult Probation Services (#2101) Unified Probation**

(a) From: 2101.31000.00000.0297	Professional Services	\$	(1,000.00)
To: 2101.32000.00000.0297	Dues & Subscriptions (new)	\$	1,000.00

5. Food & Beverage (#1157-~~0107~~0135) Council
  - (a) From: 1157.31000.00000.~~0107~~0135 Professional Services \$ (794.84)
  - To: 1157.35002.00000.~~0107~~0135 Advertising (new) \$ 794.84
6. Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0209) Adult Comm Corr
  - (a) AA: 4300.21600.00000.0209 Operating Supplies \$ 3,706.79
7. Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0138) Unified Probation
  - (a) AA: 4300.31000.00000.0138 Professional Services \$ 3,900.00
8. Voting System Reimbursement (#8148) Clerk
  - (a) AA: 8148.21500.00000.0908 Office Supplies \$ 162.22
9. VASIA Donation (#4111) VASIA
  - (a) AA: 4111.31000.00000.0454 Professional Services \$ 300.00
10. Phelps Charitable Fund (#4113) Park
  - (a) AA: 4113.42700.00000.0128 Capital Improvements \$ 4,400.00
11. Pretrial Diversion Program (#2509) Prosecutor
  - (a) AA: 2509.31200.00000.0286 Printing \$ 7,500.00
12. Law Enforcement/Prosecutor (#4926) Prosecutor
  - (a) AA: 4926.21500.00000.0108 Office Supplies \$ 75.02
13. Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0215) WIC
  - (a) AA: 4300.31601.00000.0215 Operating Expenses \$ 2,400.00

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

#### 1. General Fund (#1001-0139) Courts/Unified

Shena Johnson, Court Administrator, was present to request an additional appropriation for interpreter services.

Mrs. Burton commented she understands this is the cost of doing business, but wondered if this amount would get them through until the end of the year.

Mrs. Johnson replied it depends on what the state comes through with grants; once they are available, she will be applying for them and use those funds to help offset these costs.

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

(1a) AA: 1001.31300.00000.0139 Interpreter Services \$ 75,000.00

#### 2. Innkeepers Tax Collections (#7304) CVT

Ken Kosky, Director of Tourism, was present to request their quarterly appropriation of funds. He distributed a copy of their 2024 annual report to each Council member. He then highlighted a few things from it, such as the visits to the Visitor Center has doubled, the hotel revenue has increased 7.25%, they received about a third of a million dollars in free media, and they engaged with Co-op Indiana which matched every dollar spent – so basically they doubled the marketing than they normally would have had. He also noted in the audience were three of the CVT board members.



Mr. Kosky also gave a little more statistical data, and talked about how they are going to assist with funding events at the Johnson County Park (Deck the Stalls & ice skating), Town of Edinburgh (public plaza – farmers market & live music), and the Town of Trafalgar (town center – farmers market & live music).

Mrs. Graves stated she had asked for a profit and loss statement (which Mr. Kosky had given her), but she had a few questions regarding it. She noted when comparing the first quarter of 2025 to the first quarter 2024, it looks like the expenses are considerably lower and asked what made up the difference.

Mr. Kosky answered each quarter could vary; it is about timing. However, throughout the year, the expenses pretty much even out.

Mrs. Graves then asked another question about the line item for “grants & promotions”. It looks like the grants are running pretty even as they did last year at about \$19,000; however, when you compare this figure to other expenses, it looks like more money is being expended for administrative costs instead of what is awarded in grants.

Mr. Kosky replied there are zero administrative costs, and he would have to go back and review the profit and loss statement to see what is included, as this was the first time he has ran this report.

Mrs. Graves commented that is fine; however, she feels like they need to define between them what administrative expenses are. She then stated she has some concerns about how much cash the CVT has accumulated outside of the County Treasurer’s Office purview. For example, in March 2025, the checking account reflected a balance of over \$360,000, and there were three individual certificate of deposits that were purchased for approximately \$287,000, which brings your cash on hand to \$647,541.96. She was curious what the intentions were for the use of these funds.

Mr. Kosky replied that most of their expenses are known, except for grants. They have conversations with people on things (such as ice skating or another tourism amenity they can bring in), but as the year goes on and government moves slowly in some cases, then things don’t come to fruition. In the past, if this happens, then he would not ask for his quarterly appropriation due to not having an amenity to pay for. He then stated, to answer Mrs. Graves’ original question, Destinations International (which is their international trade organization) states if they wanted to become accredited (also, it is best practice) they need to keep between six and twelve months of operating expenses on hand.

Mrs. Graves responded she understands that concept but wanted to know what the intentions were for over the half million dollars they had in their checking account.

Mr. Kosky explained if both Trafalgar (\$100,000) and Edinburgh (\$100,000) requests come to fruition – that would be \$200,000. They are currently in continuous talks with Greenwood regarding having a permanent ice skating facility – which would be a multi-million dollar project, of which they would seek several hundred thousand from the CVT.

However, if these projects don’t come to fruition, then he would update the Council and forego subsequent appropriations.

Mrs. Burton inquired if those funds are available to use anywhere else in the county, such as the Johnson County Park. She noted that with the effects of Senate Bill 1 (SB1), everyone is going to be looking to find money wherever they can.

Mr. Kosky replied that state law outlines what these funds can be used for and that is tourism, promotion, and development. Therefore, he is willing to work with someone from the Park and maybe a Council Liaison to see what they can utilize these funds on.

Ms. Griesmer asked how many board members are on the CVT, how do they get picked, how long do they serve, and do they get paid.

Mr. Kosky answered they don't get paid; it is voluntary. There are nine members on the board: six appointments are made by the County Commissioners and three appointments are made by the mayor of the largest city, which is Greenwood. This is all set by state statute.

Mrs. Graves asked how many employees they have.

Mr. Kosky replied himself and three other full-time employees. He noted they did a study on staffing levels and compared to similar populated areas, the average is 6.8 employees, and they only have 4.

Mrs. Graves thanked Mr. Kosky for the information he sent earlier but feels like there are still some more in-depth conversations that need to be had, and she is willing to meet with him to have those conversations, including the definition of administrative expenses, the ratio spent on grants and promotions, and more information on how the \$647,541.96 will be spent. Until this information is collected, she suggested tabling this request.

Mrs. Graves then made a motion to table the request until next month. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried six to one; Mr. Ditmars voted nay.

(2a) AA: 7304.31601.00000.1127      *Operating Expenses*      \$ ~~322,731.25~~ *tabled*

3. LIT Correctional/Rehab Facilities (#1233-0124) Sheriff/Jail

Duane Burgess, Sheriff, was present to request four additional Correctional Officer positions and the benefits associated with them. He noted that he has sent out several emails regarding this request, noting it stems from the courts being busy and the transportation of inmates (in state & out of state). Based on the request of wanting some numbers, he stated in 2021 they had 2782 transports, in 2022 they had 3371 transports, in 2023 they had 3962 transports, and in 2024 they had 4368 transports. So far in 2025, they are at 447 transports. He briefly gave an explanation of what all is involved in a transport and extraditions. With these numbers, he needs more employees than the four currently being requested, but he is also trying to be good with the taxpayers money, while making sure employees, inmates, and the community are staying safe.

Ms. Griesmer asked how they transport all the way to California.

Mr. Burgess replied they fly out there and pick up the inmate and bring them back; they have certain parameters they have to follow and certain paperwork in order to fly.

Mrs. Burton stated she had a few questions she would like to ask, noting they were more "housekeeping" items. The first question she asked was if there was a Wearing Apparel policy and if so, how much was allotted for each employee.

Mr. Burgess replied yes, they have a policy; and they did decrease some of it in order to be good with the taxpayers' money.

Mrs. Burton then asked how many open positions are currently in the Jail.

Mr. Burgess replied this number fluctuates; he is unsure of the exact number currently, but thinks it may be four.

Mr. Myers indicated with SB1 and its changes, how will it affect the current processes within the Jail and how will this request help you in that regard.



Mr. Burgess replied it will help because Circuit Court wants to see all of their people in person; the other courts vary as to whether they do in person or via zoom. The inmate also has the right to attend in person, no matter what court it is. He has discussed this with the judges and the prosecutor; there are more cases being filed in Johnson County.

Mr. Mallers asked how many employees are dedicated to transports.

Mr. Burgess replied there are four dedicated plus courthouse security.

Mr. Mallers then asked how many were dedicated back in 2021.

Mr. Burgess stated he had seven then and has nine now.

Brief discussion was held regarding the funding source for this request, which is the LIT Fund. Jeff Peters, financial advisor, was also present (on another request) and gave a brief overview of how the funding for LIT works and a few comments on the effect of SB1.

Mrs. Johnson was also present to voice that all of the Judges were in full support of the Sheriff's request.

Ms. Griesemer made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried by a roll call vote.

(3a) AA: 1233.12602.00000.0124	Correctional Officer (81) (new)	\$ 34,768.00
(3b) 1233.12602.00000.0124	– Correctional Officer (81) – annual salary \$53,025 {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,039.42}	
(3c) AA: 1233.12603.00000.0124	Correctional Officer (82) (new)	\$ 34,768.00
(3d) 1233.12603.00000.0124	– Correctional Officer (82) – annual salary \$53,025 {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,039.42}	
(3e) AA: 1233.12604.00000.0124	Correctional Officer (83) (new)	\$ 34,768.00
(3f) 1233.12604.00000.0124	– Correctional Officer (83) – annual salary \$53,025 {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,039.42}	
(3g) AA: 1233.12605.00000.0124	Correctional Officer (84) (new)	\$ 34,768.00
(3h) 1233.12605.00000.0124	– Correctional Officer (84) – annual salary \$53,025 {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,039.42}	
(3i) AA: 1233.14200.00000.0124	Fica-Social Security	\$ 10,639.01
(3j) AA: 1233.14300.00000.0124	PERF	\$ 15,576.06
(3k) AA: 1233.25100.00000.0124	Wearing Apparel	\$ 2,600.00

#### 4. General Fund (#1001-0138) Unified Probation \*retro

Steve Kermode, Assistant Director Community Corrections, was present to explain the budgeted amounts for the below line items are correct; however, the form 144s were incorrect. His request is to correct the maximum amounts for the bi-weekly pay.

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

(4a) 1001.16692.00000.0138	– Assistant Director – annual salary \$90,951 (eff 6/12/25) {max bi-weekly pay of \$3,498.12}	
(4b) 1001.16925.00000.0138	– Probation Officer (11) – annual salary \$56,692 (eff 6/16/25) {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,180.46}	
(4c) 1001.16926.00000.0138	– Probation Officer (12) – annual salary \$71,737 (eff 7/10/25) {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,759.12}	
(4d) 1001.16936.00000.0138	– Probation Officer (20) – annual salary \$63,262 (eff 4/8/25*) {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,433.15}	
(4e) 1001.16998.00000.0138	– Probation Officer (25) – annual salary \$56,692 (eff 3/10/25*) {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,180.46}	
(4f) 1001.16999.00000.0138	– Probation Officer (26) – annual salary \$56,692 (eff 6/30/25) {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,180.46}	

## D. Other Business

### 1. Approval of Johnson County Redevelopment Commission 2024 Annual Report

Jeff Peters, Financial Advisor to the Redevelopment Commission, was present to get approval of the Johnson County Redevelopment Commission's 2024 Annual Report. He quickly reviewed the content of the report for the Council.

Mr. Myers asked what the \$30,000 expense to Aspire was for.

Mr. Peters replied this was for them to begin marketing these TIF allocation areas. Once these areas are identified geographically based on potential development, then they need to attract businesses to locate there, which would produce revenue and jobs.

Mrs. Graves noted she was recently appointed to the RDC and this report was received and approved at their monthly meeting. She then moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

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

### **1. Council Liaison List – Update**

Mrs. Burton stated that Mr. Mallers will now be the Council Liaison for both the Coroner and Health Departments. She then asked if any other changes needed to be made; nothing was brought forward.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve these changes. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mrs. Burton noted that although every department has a liaison, they are welcome to reach out to any of the seven Council members – you are not exclusive to your liaison.

### **2. Opioid Advisory Board Member – Update**

Mrs. Burton commented this was on the agenda last month and she stated she would become the Council member appointment to this board; however, she wanted to give Mr. Myers the opportunity to be appointed since he was unable to attend the meeting last month.

Brief discussion was held regarding the amount of time involved with this appointment and how often they meet.

Mr. Bates made a motion to appoint Mrs. Burton as the Council representative to the Opioid Advisory Board. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **3. Outside Legal Counsel – Update**

Mrs. Burton gave a brief overview of what has occurred to date regarding finding outside legal counsel to represent the Council as needed. She stated there were some ads placed in the Daily Journal, the Indiana State Bar Association, and the Indianapolis Bar Association. It was also placed on the IU Mauer and IU McKinney job boards and on the County website. The costs for the ads were just under \$1,000. They have received six applications. She has had one phone interview with an applicant (Mrs. Harter), noting that the Assistant County Attorney, Taylor Webster was also included on this interview. She then asked the Council members if they wanted her to proceed with the phone interviews with the other applicants as she had done with Mrs. Harter. She noted all of her information would be shared with the rest of the Council. At that point, they could invite some or all of the applicants to a public meeting to be interviewed before the whole Council.

It was the consensus of the Council for the same process to be continued by Mrs. Burton.

Later in the meeting, Mrs. Graves, noted that there was a prior Assistant County Attorney, Zach Lange, that may be interested in this job. Mrs. Burton said she would find his information and reach out to him.



#### 4. Budget Timeline Discussion

Mrs. Burton gave a brief overview of both the WIS work plan of job classification and compensation analysis (which is running on schedule) and the potential budget timeline (based on last year's dates) – noting that she would rather wait on defining anything until the legislative session is over and we see what changes are made based on SB1. She recommended the Council members review the timeline from last year and decide whether or not they want to do the budget workshops again this year.

Brief discussion was held regarding when they would be able to get information from Mike Reuter, Financial Consultant, for the County and when he would be able to do an updated analysis based on the outcome of the legislative changes.

#### 5. VASIA Information

Lauren Rynerson, VASIA Director, was present to make the Council members aware that she was approached to expand her VASIA program into Hancock County. She and Superior Court No. 2 Judge Peter Nugent met with Hancock Regional Hospital; their CEO has agreed to pay our VASIA program \$25,000 to provide services in 2026. She currently serves Johnson County and also Shelby County. She noted that Shelby County will be required to pay \$25,000 in 2026 as well (they currently only pay \$10,000, and has paid this for the last five years).

She explained if she expanded into Hancock County, she would anticipate hiring a part-time position to handle both Shelby and Hancock counties. She noted this would only happen if Shelby County and Hancock County come up with the funds to cover these costs; she would not be asking for any additional funds from Johnson County, although the employee would be a Johnson County employee.

Mr. Ditmars asked if Shelby County has agreed to the increase in cost or are they still considering it.

Mrs. Rynerson replied it is in the works; she has asked Judge Nugent to request the increased amount. If Shelby County does not agree to it, then she may be able to get some funds from the hospital there, since she works really close with them, so she doesn't foresee any issues. However, if they couldn't come up with the additional funding, then she would no longer service Shelby County and if she wasn't going to Shelby County, then she wasn't going to go to Hancock County.

The Council members thanked Mrs. Rynerson for sharing this information.

#### 6. Community Corrections Adult Information

Mr. Kermode was present to give the Council members information regarding the GPS units their department uses for their work release participants. He explained that in 2021, approximately 250 units were purchased at \$3.95/unit and there is also a monitoring fee of \$1.65/day/unit. Over the years, due to being broken, being lost, deteriorating batteries, or experiencing software update issues, those units have been replaced with leased units. The cost to lease is \$2.90/day/unit. Currently, the GPS units are about 65% owned and 35% leased. They are looking at other companies and what their GPS leasing options are to determine what would work best. They, as well as the judges, agree with as much as technology changes and advances, it is better to lease these units instead of buying them. He noted they currently have 240 individuals utilizing the GPS units and expect this number to increase. He just wanted to make the Council aware of where they are going incase they need to come before the Council for funding sometime in the future.

#### **F. Adjournment** – *Next regular meeting May 12, 2025*

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

### **April 14, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

  
Pamela Burton, Council President

  
Michele Ann Graves, Council Vice-President

  
Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member.

  
Melinda Griesemer, Council Member

  
John Mallers, Council Member

  
John Dumars, Council Member

  
Ron Bates, Council Member

Attest:  
  
Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor