

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President, Rob Henderson.

A. Call the Meeting to Order

1. Roll Call

The following members were present: Melinda Griesemer, Pete Ketchum, Jim Ison, John Myers, Ron Deer, and Jonathan T. Myers.

2. Invocation

Mr. Ketchum gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Henderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of 11/8/21 Agenda

Mr. Henderson noted the following change to the agenda:

- Remove item F2 – *Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Greenwood, Indiana and Johnson County, Indiana Regarding Utility Infrastructure*

Mr. Ison made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. John Myers seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

5. Public Comments

Kim Livorno, Resident, City of Franklin, appeared before the Council to bring attention to where our tax dollars are being spent. Mrs. Livorno stated that she, along with her family, are lifelong residents of Johnson County. Mrs. Livorno commended Johnson County Government on not enforcing the Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate. She stated her daughter returned to Indiana for work, she has three degrees, but her highlight degree is in Applied Behavioral Analysis. Her daughter chose not to be vaccinated for Covid-19 because she is a cancer survivor. She had blood borne cancer with a rare brain tumor as a child and was one of the children here in Franklin that lived at ground zero. They have chosen to never vaccinate due to these reasons while claiming a religious vaccine exemption during her school years. Her daughter was employed with Adult & Child Mental Health and she was informed she would be required to take the vaccine. Her daughter provided them with a religious exemption; they approved the exemption, but weeks later informed her they could not accommodate her religious exemption request. She was laid off for two weeks without pay and was told if she did not get the vaccine within that time frame she would have to quit. Her daughter had a paralegal help her prepare a letter written to Adult & Child Services telling them no thank you, she would not be taking the vaccine but she would wear a mask and get tested as often as they like at their expense. Adult & Child responded with no, you will need to resign. She told them she would not resign. They requested her equipment be returned to them; she told them once she received a letter of termination she would return the equipment. They did provide a letter stating she was fired for not taking the vaccine. Mrs. Livorno offered a copy of the letter to anyone who would like to see it. Mrs. Livorno stated she is paying her daughter's bills and supporting her grandson while her daughter works her way through this situation. Fortunately, Mrs. Livorno's husband was able to hire her daughter at his place of employment, noting this job is outside her degree. She stated several people in this community have been fired for this same reason and she is assisting them in filing E.E.O.C. complaints to the State of Indiana. Mrs. Livorno said she wanted to make everyone aware that one million tax payer dollars are given each year to this organization and she thinks it is a shame. She stated they need to start asking hard-hitting questions to where our tax dollars are going.

The Council members thanked Mrs. Livorno for her comments.

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Joe Villanueva, who is on the Board of Directors for Adult & Child, appeared before the Council to give a little additional information on this subject, noting he can't speak to individual circumstances. but did state Adult & Child does have a Covid-19 policy where they require their employees to be vaccinated. They did offer religious exemptions and anyone seeking that was not denied; however, they did go an extra step to look to see what kind of interactions they had with patients and those who chose not to get vaccinated were offered alternative positions within the company, where they would not be in forward-facing positions and interacting with patients and others that they serve. If an employee chose not to get vaccinated or take reasonable accommodations for alternative employment within the company, then they were terminated from employment. He then stated the money arrangement between the County and Adult & Child is all statutory and is used to help serve the low income people of our community.

Mrs. Livorno noted her daughter was offered a job making \$4.00 less an hour and outside of her degree.

Ms. Griesemer agreed they do need to start asking hard-hitting questions and expressed she was sorry her daughter had to go through all of that, noting it had to be stressful and she would have thought an equivalent job would have been offered.

B. Approval of Ordinance 2021-04 (Second 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 2022

Teresa Petro, Recorder, was present in the audience for this second reading of Ordinance 2021-04.

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

C. Approval of Ordinance 2021-05 (First Reading) – An Ordinance for Payment of Annual Property Tax Liability Under Twenty-Five Dollars

Michele Ann Graves, Treasurer, was present for the first reading of Ordinance 2021-05. She explained this would allow any payments under twenty-five dollars a year to be paid in one installment. They currently have about 4,000 parcels that would qualify for this. This is just another step, as the Treasurer’s Office continues to streamline their processes and become more cost-effective and efficient.

Mr. Henderson inquired how much this cost-cutting measure could potentially save annually.

Mrs. Graves replied it would save potentially \$2,500.

Ms. Griesemer moved to approve Ordinance 2021-05 as presented on first reading. Mr. Ketchum 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. Ison made a motion to approve the following requests as presented:

1. *Approval of 10/8/21 Adoption of Special Taxing (Binding) Units’ Budgets Meeting Minutes*
2. *Approval of 10/8/21 Regular Meeting Minutes*
3. Comm Corr/Juvenile Proj Inc (#4950)
(a) From: 4950.31000.000.216 Professional Services \$ (2,000.00)

	To: 4950.25801.000.216	Food	\$	2,000.00
4.	<u>16.540 Title II Comm Corr Juv (#8233)</u>			
	(a) From: 8233.21500.000.213	Office Supplies	\$	(3,200.00)
	To: 8233.44000.000.213	Office Equipment	\$	3,200.00
	(b) From: 8233.31500.000.213	Travel & Training	\$	(750.00)
	To: 8233.21500.000.213	Office Supplies	\$	750.00
	(c) From: 8233.31000.000.213	Professional Services	\$	(400.00)
	To: 8233.21500.000.213	Office Supplies	\$	400.00
5.	<u>Board of Commissioners (#1001-122)</u>			
	(a) From: 1001.14200.000.122	Fica-Social Security	\$	(75,000.00)
	From: 1001.14300.000.122	Perf	\$	(75,000.00)
	To: 1001.34200.000.122	Professional Liability & Casualty	\$	150,000.00

Mr. Ketchum seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

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

1. Superior Court #1 (#1001-132)
2. User Fee/Jury Fee (#2501-132)

Superior Court #1 Judge, Kevin Barton was present to request a few transfers and additional appropriations for Overtime and Jury Expense due to the back-log of jury trials; there are also a few other small transfers needed for other accounts to make it to end of the year.

Mr. Deer asked how much do jurors get paid.

Judge Barton responded they get \$15 plus mileage per day for showing up; \$40 plus mileage per day for serving – these fees are set by statute.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers made a motion to approve the following requests as presented:

(1a) From: 1001.11400.000.132	Part Time	\$	(3,606.25)
From: 1001.31200.000.132	Printing	\$	(1,000.00)
From: 1001.32000.000.132	Dues & Subscriptions	\$	(142.00)
To: 1001.19900.000.132	Overtime	\$	2,728.25
To: 1001.25800.000.132	Books	\$	60.00
To: 1001.36200.000.132	Communications	\$	160.00
To: 1001.39101.000.132	Jury Expense	\$	1,800.00
(1b) AA: 1001.19900.000.132	Overtime	\$	1,500.00
(2a) AA: 2501.39101.000.132	Jury Expense	\$	8,000.00

Mr. John Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Emergency Management (#1001-127)

Stephanie Sighting, Emergency Management Director, and Sheriff Duane Burgess, were both present to request additional appropriations for radios and other miscellaneous equipment. She explained they were denied these from a grant, noting they applied in April and just received the denial on September 30, with no explanation as to why it was denied (she gave the council members a copy of the denial letter). She also noted they rarely get a denial for grants.

Mr. Ison asked Commissioner Walls if this could be paid from the ARPA money.

Kevin Walls, Commissioner, was present and stated it was a possibility; legal would need to review it to see if it is an eligible expense; therefore, at this time, he would not commit to anything.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers inquired if the expenses for the jail could be paid from the Jail LIT money.

Mr. Henderson stated he is open to anything that was for the operation of the jail to be paid from the Jail LIT fund.

Mr. Deer inquired about the \$424,510.09 request for Communications, asking for more information and if the State has set a deadline for replacing radios.

Ms. Sighting replied the request for Communications is to replace radios. She then asked Heath Brant, 911 Director, to explain the reason for the change.

Mr. Brant explained in 2016 the State upgraded the state's radio system, and there is a second phase to that. A lot of the radios that are in service by the Sheriff and Emergency Management, will become obsolete; they will no longer work on the state's system. They have not received a timetable yet from the State as to when the cutover will happen, but they were told after December 31, 2021, they will no longer be issuing ID numbers to those radios that are not capable to operate on the state's system.

Mr. Ison added that over the last eighteen months or so, most of the law enforcement and fire departments have switched to the new radios. One of the main reasons is because Motorola will no longer service the old radios. It's his understanding the Sheriff's deputies have the new radios; the jailers and Emergency Management does not.

Sheriff Burgess stated he has 60 new radios for the road division; he needs 80 new radios for the jail division, which would cost \$220,076.

Brief discussion was held about the timing for replacing the radios and if they could be paid from out of the Jail LIT fund.

Amy Thompson, First Deputy Auditor, noted that after hearing the conversation of what they are requesting from the 36200 - Communications line item (which is to buy radios), it really should be requested from the 44100 - Misc Equipment line item.

Further conversation was held regarding paying the remaining equipment request from the ARPA fund, if it is an eligible expense.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers made a motion to table the request, until they get answers if some of this can be paid from other sources. Mr. Ison seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

<i>(3a) AA: 1001.36200.000.127</i>	<i>Communications</i>	<i>\$ 424,510.09 tabled</i>
<i>(3b) AA: 1001.44100.000.127</i>	<i>Misc Equipment</i>	<i>\$ 297,246.63 tabled</i>

4. 16.588 STOP Grant 2021-2022 (#8180) *retro to 10/1/21

Prosecuting Attorney, Joe Villanueva, was present to request appropriation of this grant, which is for domestic violence.

Mr. Ison moved to approve the requests as presented and retro to 10/1/21. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(4a) 8180.11023.000.108 Deputy Prosecutor (10) – approval of annual salary of \$47,052.19*
(4b) AA: 8180.11023.000.108 Deputy Prosecutor (10) \$ 47,052.19

**NOTE: Mr. Henderson left the meeting at this time (6:41pm)*

- 5. Park Non-Reverting Operating (#1179)
- 6. Grants Awarded/ Non-Governmental [Park] (#4300-128)

Mr. Ison stated no one from the Park was able to attend the meeting tonight. Their request is to appropriate monies to pay for the lease payments on the Independence Park playground equipment and to purchase components for the bicycle playground at Johnson County Park.

Mr. Ron Deer moved to approve the following requests as presented:

(5a) AA: 1179.35000.000.273	Equipment Lease	\$	33,770.95
(6a) AA: 4300.35001.000.128	Lease Payments/Agreements	\$	13,229.05
(6b) AA: 4300.44100.000.128	Misc Equipment	\$	10,007.00

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

- 6. Statewide 911 (#1222)

Heath Brant, 911 Director, was present to request an additional appropriation to purchase the Motorola Flex (Spillman) Computer Aided Dispatch Response Plans module for fire dispatching. This system will allow them to customize their fire responses throughout the county and make things more seamless and get quicker response times from the fire departments.

Ms. Griesemer inquired how the process currently works.

Mr. Brant replied the current module they have has a sort order, and it looks for all apparatus of a particular department instead of looking for the closest apparatus. They have actually maxed out the abilities of this module, in fact, Motorola has said we are making it do things it was never designed to do.

Mr. Deer commented, as the council representative to the 911 Board, he recommends this be approved and noted it received an unanimous approval from the 911 Board.

Ms. Griesemer asked if the \$22,868.01 was a one-time cost or is this an addition every year.

Mr. Brant responded there was an annual maintenance cost of \$1,249.89, which will be picked up in the 2023 budget.

Mr. Ison inquired what other counties are using this system.

Mr. Brant answered he wasn't sure exactly; he thought Morgan County and maybe Bloomington. He added it is becoming more and more common.

Mr. John Myers moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Ketchum seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

(7a) AA: 1222.31000.000.911	Professional Services	\$	22,868.01
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- 7. Jail (#1001-124)

Sheriff Burgess was present for this request to transfer \$100,000 from Hospital & Medical to Operating Supplies and to request an additional appropriation of \$110,000 for Food. He noted the cost of food has

increased and they are trying to get a surplus of food and supplies because things are getting harder to get; they are still using styrofoam because of covid.

Mr. Ison inquired if this could be paid with the Jail LIT money.

Sheriff Burgess stated he needed these requests approved tonight instead of waiting until next month (because of advertising).

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

<i>(8a) From: 1001.30900.000.124</i>	<i>Hospital & Medical</i>	<i>\$ (100,000.00)</i>
<i>To: 1001.21600.000.124</i>	<i>Operating Supplies</i>	<i>\$ 100,000.00</i>
<i>(8b) AA: 1001.25801.000.124</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>\$ 110,000.00</i>

8. Sheriff Firearms Training (#1156)

Sheriff Burgess was also present for this request of an additional appropriation to purchase firearms' supplies.

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

<i>(9a) AA: 1156.21600.000.124</i>	<i>Operating Supplies</i>	<i>\$ 2,000.00</i>
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H. Other Business

1. Johnson County CVT Board – Approval of 2022 Budget

Ken Kosky, Executive Director, was present for approval of his 2022 budget. He noted they did increase their marketing budget for next year. They are also improving their product development. If they notice something is lacking, they want to help build it. He noted they are a few days away from their obstacle course being completed at the Johnson County Park. This has twenty obstacles over 1.6-miles, which will attract both local residents and other vendors that come for events. He noted they are also looking at bringing an ice-skating rink to the county. He also reported that nine months into the year, the hotel revenue is at a record high of \$600,000. Comparing these numbers to both the state and the nation; we are out performing both. They are a staff of two full time people; most tourism agencies in the state have anywhere from five to fifteen staff. He stated they are running lean and efficiently.

Mr. Ison asked what the current balance in the fund was.

Mr. Kosky replied the current balance in the fund is \$542,000. They are in a good position financially. Their goal is to keep some extra money (through grants) to partner with other agencies to help bring in attractions. They try to put money back into the community.

Mr. John Myers asked how much they have in their checking account.

Mr. Kosky answered they have approximately \$300,000, but have some incoming invoices to be paid, such as \$100,000 for the obstacle course.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers questioned if they have talked about partnering on anything with the Johnson County Park to help market the Horse Park, which is like a diamond in the rough.

Mr. Kosky replied no, they have not talked about anything specifically for the Horse Park, but would be interested in learning more to see how they could help.

Mr. Deer moved to approve the 2022 budget as presented. Mr. Ketchum seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Greenwood, Indiana and Johnson County, Indiana Regarding Utility Infrastructure

This item was removed from the agenda.

I. Old & New Business

1. Approval of Sheriff's Salary Contract for 2022

Sheriff Burgess was present to request approval of his 2022 Sheriff's salary contract.

Mr. Ketchum moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. John Myers seconded the request, which unanimously carried.

2. Discussion on Existing Jail

Sheriff Burgess and Commissioner Walls were both present to give an update about the jail facilities. Commissioner Walls noted the new jail is on schedule and on budget; actually there is still some contingency monies available, which they will be using to do maintenance updates on the existing jail – such as updating the plumbing, electrical, painting, and some HVAC work. They will soon be sending out bid information for all of this. It has been approved by their bond counsel to use the contingency monies for these purposes. They won't be requesting any additional money for this.

3. Approval of the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule

Mr. Deer commented he had mentioned last month about having an extra meeting in January and February to allow Elected Officials and Department Heads to come and tell their story. He then made a motion to add a council meeting on January 24th and February 28th to their schedule.

Brief discussion was held, with most council members stating Elected Officials and Department Heads are welcome to come to any meeting at any time to tell their story; no special meetings would be necessary.

The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Ison then questioned the meeting in October, since it is fall break for several schools. Should this be changed to either the week before or the week after.

Brief discussion was held, but decided since most council members didn't have kids in school, there would be a quorum and no change was necessary at this time.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers then made a motion to approve the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule as presented. Mr. John Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

J. Adjournment – *Next regular meeting December 6, 2021*

Mr. John Myers made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Griesemer seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

November 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes



Rob Henderson, Council President



James Ison, Council Vice-President



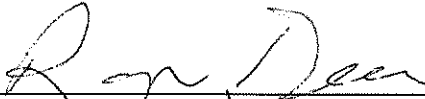
Melinda Griesemer, Council Member

Absent

Pete Ketchum, Council Member



John Myers, Council Member



Ron Deer, Council Member



Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member

Attest:



Pamela J. Burton, Johnson County Auditor