

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 25, 2022**

Council present for the meeting: Derek Puterbaugh, John Comer, Matt Commons, Ethan Foxworthy, Sharon Hutchison, Neil Ellis and Brian Jordan.

Public: Jim Lanham, Ben Dispennett, John Cannon, Scott Regal, Pete Peterson, Randy Wurtzbaugh,

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Lori Heidenreich, Treasurer; Craig Greenwood, Commissioner; Phil Astell, EMA Director; Clay Andrews, Commissioner, Michelle Hetrick, Clerk;

1. The meeting was called to order by Ethan Foxworthy, President of the Council.
2. Ethan Foxworthy, Council President led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
 - a. Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
 - b. John Comer made a motion to approve the March 28, 2022 with a second from Derek Puterbaugh, all voted in favor.
 - a. Additional Appropriation Solid Waste – Weston-Hubner explained the additional appropriation is due to the addition of an employee in the Solid Waste Department. Brian Jordan made a motion to approve the additional appropriation Resolution #2022-0425A with a second from John Comer, all voted in favor.
 - b. 2022 Salary Ordinance, Solid Waste Additional Employee – Brian Jordan made a motion to approve the Amended 2022 Salary Ordinance #2022-0425B with a second from Derek Puterbaugh, all voted in favor.
 - c. Outreach Representative-Northwest Indiana Office of Attorney General Todd Rokita, John Cannon – Cannon explained representation of AG Todd Rokita. Discuss the legislative agenda with Commissioners and Council and implementation of bills. Discussed cyber security and data security concerning municipalities. Consumer protection with concern recalls, product issues, robocalls. Explained and handed out a pamphlet on federal trade commission. Explained the Indiana unclaimed property site.
 - d. Michelle Hetrick, Clerk – Hetrick asked for volunteers to help setup polling sites for the Election next Tuesday. They will begin delivering voting machines Monday at 12:30.
 - e. Ceres Land Parcel – Andrews explained 1.5 acres close located near the EMA building has been offered to the County for \$5,000 from Ceres. Puterbaugh inquired of the purpose for purchasing. Andrews stated EMA parking lot and training area are partially located on this parcel and survey is needed. Greenwood explained a survey is approximately \$7000 and is waiting for a quote from another surveyor. Environmental study was discussed and IDEM stated no environmental cleanup. John Comer made a motion to approve the purchase for \$5,000 from Jordan Creek Wind Farm Expense Fund with a second from Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
 - f. New County Annex Building – Andrews explained the possibility and need for an annex building for the county. Many offices are in need of more space. Pete Peterson, RQAW architecture firm, discussed the building, construction costs. The costs are between 2.5 and 3.5 million depending on size. Peterson explained BOT lease agreement contract with less risk concerning cost, municipal lease, bond. The RQAW team would provide expertise, guarantee max cost, contract, financial close, design and build. There are no change orders to the cost and explained the process. Comer inquired what offices would be located in the Annex. Andrews explained LEDO, Community Foundation, possibly Health Department, Commissioner Office, Commissioner/Council Meeting room for 50 people, admin assistant, EMA office, EOC, Coroner's office, Human Resource office, etc. would be located in the 8500 Sq Ft single floor building. Wurtzbaugh stated the Williamsport Town Hall building is in bad shape and possibly be located in the Annex while they rebuild the office and community center. Puterbaugh inquired of other options for a building. Discussion concerning older buildings in the area. Discussed a schematic design contract to begin looking at the process. Andrews will send a detailed quote to the Council for review. Tabled until next meeting.
 - g. ARPA Funds, Barnes & Thornburg – Andrews explained the ARPA funds revenue loss for the County. Explained hiring Barnes & Thornburg to help with the process. Andrews requested a tentative approval at \$2,500/month for approximately 4 months. Foxworthy explained the management of the ARPA funds. Dispennett discussed the revenue loss funds being transferred to the county general fund. Brian Jordan made a motion to approve \$2,500/month for 4-month form ARPA Funds amending the ARPA Ordinance #2021-0419B Amendment with a second from Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
 - h. READI Program Implementation – Dispennett explained READI Plan Program information with the goal of attracting and retain workforce. The use of ARPA funds concerning infrastructure, housing, warren county broadband, adequate child care resource network is needed in the County, Wabash River Greenway 90 miles from Logansport to Covington. INVETS Partnership was explained such as relocation of vets to the County. Lafayette Airport Expansion project could bring commercial airline service to Purdue. Dispennett explained the Williamsport Falls walk ways allowing more recreation to the area and County portion is \$200,000. Discussed the region READI and need approval if the County will want to move forward. Discussion concerning the funding of the Williamsport Trails project. Derek Puterbaugh made a motion to approve to up to \$200,000 from Economic Development with a second from Brian Jordan, all voted in favor. Dispennett stated the RFP for the Broadband project will be presented at the May Council meeting. Derek Puterbaugh made a motion to rescind the LEDO \$600,000 RFP motion from September 27,2021 Council meeting with a second from John Comer, all voted in favor.
 - i. 2023 Budget Planning – Weston-Hubner stated the 2023 Budget Meeting with Commissioner and Council will be held as scheduled July 25th with extra day scheduled for July 26th. The budget requests will go out to department heads the last of May.
 - j. Budget Review 2022 – Weston-Hubner presented a financial statement showing items that have been approved for payment by Council and Commissioners but not yet paid from funds. Weston-Hubner stated concern with fund balances in several areas. Council and Commissioners discussed the financial status of the County in detail. Brian Jordan made a motion to approve Additional Appropriations for Wabash River Greenway,

Highway Pickup Trucks, E911, Ceres Property purchase, Courthouse repairs with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.

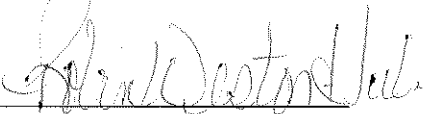
4. Elected Official/Department Head comments:

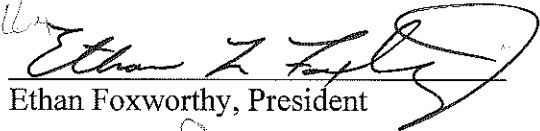
- a. Lori Heidenreich, Treasurer – Property taxes are due May 10th.
- b. Sharon Hutchison, Council - Stated Pine Village inquired about funding from the County for sidewalks.


5. Public Comment: No public comment.


Next Council meeting May 31, 2022 @ 8:00 a.m.

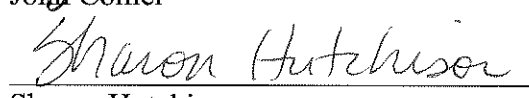
There being no further business Brian Jordan made a motion to adjourn with a second from John Comer, all voted in favor.

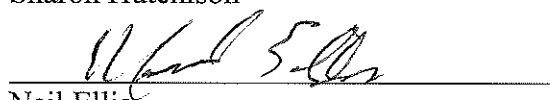
ATTEST: 
 Robin Weston-Hubner

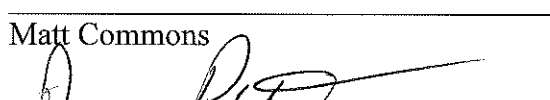

 Ethan Foxworthy, President



 W Brian Jordan, Vice President


 John Comer


 Sharon Hutchison


 Neil Ellis


 Matt Commons


 Derek Puterbaugh