

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 17, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED that a meeting of the White County Council was held at the White County Building in Monticello at 9:00 A.M. on August 17, 2020 for the purpose of discussing any business that might come before the membership.

Council President Kramer called the Council meeting to order in joint session with the Commissioners. The following members were present:

James B Davis	Dennis E Carter	Arthur A Anderson
Janet J Faker	James G Annis	Raymond L Kramer Jr

Also, in attendance: Auditor Gayle Rogers, HR Director Leah Hull, White County Clerk Laura Cosgray, Election Deputy Shanda Cortez, Commissioner Steve Burton, Council Secretary Libby Billue

Absent: Kevin L Crabb

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Kramer opened the Council meeting with the Council reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Council minutes for the special meeting held on 7/20/20 were presented for approval. Councilor Annis motioned to approve the minutes. Councilor Davis seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

TRANSFERS

The following requests for transfer were received:

<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
		Stone	Stone
Highway	\$2,952.74	1176-23100-000-0529	1173-23100-000-00
		Gas & Oil	Road Equipment Repair
Highway	\$10,000.00	1176-22101-000-0531	1176-30900-000-0531

Councilor Anderson made a motion to approve the above transfer. Councilor Annis seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

ELECTION BOARD WORKER PAY FOR GENERAL ELECTION

White County Clerk Laura Cosgray and Election Deputy Shanda Cortez presented on behalf of Election Board President Pat Harper who was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Council President Kramer noted that Pat Harper is newly appointed as the Election Board President due to the recent resignation of Bob Callahan. The Election/Poll Worker pay for

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the 2020 Primary Election was raised from \$11.38/hour to \$15.00/hour due to impacts of COVID-19. Laura Cosgray requests that the pay for Absentee Ballot and Election workers at the 2020 General Election continue at \$15.00/hour. Shanda noted that the clerk's office is currently receiving a record number of requests for mail-in ballots, significantly increasing the pre-election day work load. The Election Board anticipates needing 4-6 workers for mailing/processing Absentee Ballots, and up to 4 people for the early voting site. Additionally, Laura requests that the daily rates for workers on Election Day 11/3/20 be reviewed and adjusted in coordination with the requested hourly rate. Current election day rates are \$125/day for Poll Workers, \$150/day for Judges, and \$175/day for Inspectors. Clerk Cosgray requests a daily pay increase of \$50/day for each of the Election Day workers. At this time, 5 polling locations are planned for the 2020 General Election, and each will be staffed by 7 workers.

Council members requested that Laura and Shanda provide details to Auditor Rogers regarding the total number of workers, hours and/or days and the relevant rates of pay. Council intends to review this information, if available, at the upcoming budget meeting with Commissioners. Clerk Laura Cosgray also requested permission to hire an independent IT worker for the 2020 General Election. Laura stated that poll pads would need to be programmed by the end of August, so a decision regarding IT would need to be made quickly. Council President Kramer stated that this will also be discussed in session with the Commissioners at the scheduled budget meeting.

HR DIRECTOR LEAH HULL - JOB DESCRIPTION REVISIONS

HR Director Leah Hull presented three Sheriff's Department job descriptions for approval. The full-time position of "Maintenance" is now known as "Maintenance Technician" with minor updates to the job description. A description of the newly established part-time position of "Maintenance Assistant", as well as a job description for the part-time Corrections Officer, was created and provided for Council approval. Councilor Davis motioned to approve the final draft of all three job descriptions. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

PAYROLL REQUEST

Auditor Rogers presented several payroll requests for new hires of existing job positions. Councilor Anderson motioned to approve all payroll requests as presented. Councilor Davis seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

BOARD MEETING REPORTS

Councilor Annis noted that a recent housing study by Area Plan indicates that there is a housing shortage in White County. The results of this study will be added to the County's Comprehensive Plan.

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Councilor Carter stated that tipping fee revenues from the landfill have increased, and much of the trash collected is brought in from out of state. Councilor Faker reminded all that the contract was recently re-negotiated, and she would like to review the distribution of these fees.

Councilor Davis met with Ameresco at the old jail as they investigated the potential for rehabilitation of the building. The Ameresco representative will report to the Commissioners within the next couple of days. Auditor Rogers will schedule a time to meet with Council to review this report as well.

Auditor Rogers provided updates regarding relief monies related to COVID-19, and there was general discussion regarding a potential testing site within White County. She also reported that the Sheriff's Department recently received a Level 6 Felony reimbursement of \$72,907 for the first half of 2020.

Councilor Faker advised the Council of greatly reduced Innkeepers Tax revenues due to COVID-19.

Council President Kramer noted that the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District budget was approved by their board and has been forwarded to Jasper County for non-binding review.

WOLCOTT LIBRARY

Council President Kramer presented the Declaration of Fiscal Body for the Wolcott Library. Councilor Faker motioned to approve the Declaration. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

BUDGET HEARINGS

Budget meetings are scheduled for 8/24/20, 8/25/20, and 8/27/20. Additional dates 8/26/20 and 8/28/20 are also available if needed. A schedule has already been provided to Council members and Department Heads.

COMMISSIONER STEVE BURTON – HIGHWAY GARAGE UPDATE

Commissioner Burton was present to provide an update of the highway garage project. He noted that financials for the project have been released to the local newspapers for publication. Commissioner Burton will have the Council Secretary forward this information to Council members for their records.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Council, Council President Kramer adjourned.

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The next monthly meeting of the White County Council is September 21, 2020.

DENNIS E CARTER

JAMES G ANNIS

ARTHUR A ANDERSON

JAMES B DAVIS

(Absent)
KEVIN L CRABB

RAYMOND L KRAMER JR
President

JANET J FAKER

Attest: _____
GAYLE E ROGERS, AUDITOR