Est

Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2021

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in regular session September 13, 2021, in the Commissioners’ Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Councilmen attending: Warren Albright, Randy Wininger, James Stiles; Keith Gibson, Adam Greene; and Councilwomen Barbara McFeaters. Attending virtually was Councilwoman Sheri Bowling, Councilman Stiles absent. Also in attendance were Auditor Bobbie Abel, Danielle Murphy, Director Community Corrections; Mike Jones; Pat Jones; Angie Risacher, Martin County Alliance Director, Commissioner Cody Roush; Terri Alcorn, Administrative Assistant Highway; Scott Seals, Highway Superintendent.

President Albright called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 6:00 pm.

The minutes from the meeting held August 2, 2021 were approved with a motion made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Wininger. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed.

Angie Risacher, Director Martin County Alliance, informed that Radius Indiana is holding a luncheon on September 22, 2021 beginning 11:30 am through 1:30 pm at French Lick. If anyone is interested in attending contact Ms. Risacher, the Regional Impact Fund will be discussed. Ready Grant projects are due. Martin County submitted the most projects for our region. They are anticipating that every county will be provided money they just do not know which projects will be funded.

President Albright, read aloud the Budget Public Hearing Announcement to be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 @ 6:00 pm and the Budget Adoption to be held Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.

Additional Appropriations were approved as follows:

General Fund:

Commissioner/Juvenile in institution in the amount of $23,000.00, Deputy Auditor in the amount of $4.000.00 and Employee Drug Screen in the amount of $1,000.00 with a motion to approve all made by Councilwoman McFeaters, seconded by Councilman Gibson. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed.

Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted:

Highway/Local Match in the amount of $100,000.00, with a motion made by Councilman Wininger, seconded by Councilwoman McFeaters. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed. The Council thanked Superintendent Seals and the Highway Department for their work.

Martin County Circuit Court:

GAL/CASA-Court appointed GAL in the amount of $3,000.00 with a motion made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Greene. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed.

Community Corrections:

Drug Free Community/Education-Prevention Supplies $325.00, Intervention-Treatment Supplies $325, Law Enforcement-Judicial Supplies $325.00 and Grant Expenditures $7,033.00 with a motion made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Greene. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed.

Interfund Transfers were approved as follows:

General:

Commissioner, from Postage to Office Supplies $500.00 with a motion to approve made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Wininger. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed.

Riverboat:

Commissioner, from CC Road Crew Supervisor to Emergency Management Turnout gear $7,000.00, with a motion made by Councilman Greene, seconded by Councilman Wininger. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed.

Drug Fee Community:

Community Corrections/from Coordinator Salary to Education-Grants in the amount of $1,000.00, with a motion made by Councilman Gibson, seconded by Councilwoman McFeaters. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Bowling asked Director Murphy how man clients they currently have. Currently there are fifteen total. Thirteen home detention clients and two day reporters. They have eight with community service.

Jail Treatment:

Community Corrections/ Program Manager to Jail Incentives $500.00, Program Manager to Jail Program Supplies $25.25, Administrative Assistant to Jail Program Supplies $3,349.00 and Jail Treatment Coordinator to Jail Program Supplies $3,730.90 were approved with a motion made by Councilwoman McFeaters, seconded by Councilman Wininger. Councilwoman Bowling voted in favor virtually. All in favor, motion passed.

Angie Risacher, announced that Hindostan Days will be Saturday, October 2, 2021. There are currently twenty vendors, the schools and local Churches are participating. The Boys Scouts will provide parking assistance and the Historical Society will be providing their annual Bean Dinner for donations.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the upcoming budget. Multiple conversations transpired simultaneously. Councilman Greene stated he contacted the Financial Advisor and asked them to change the revenue amounts generated from out of County inmates. Councilman Greene stated he felt more cuts could be made, including the possibility of no longer funding the positions of Deputy Prosecutor and Deputy Surveyor. Councilman Wininger asked who determined a two percent raise for the County Employees. Councilwoman McFeaters stated it was based upon the Financial Advisors recommendation for sustainability. Auditor Abel added that the wage increase was recommended by the Commissioners because it is their recommendation to make to the Council and it was based on the recommendation of the Financial Advisor. Councilman Wininger replied that the Financial Advisor was doing a good job for the County but it was a recommendation and he feels the Employees need a three percent wage increase to move towards being competitive with surrounding Counties, Commissioner Roush agreed. Commissioner Roush suggested the Deputy Prosecutor as a position to begin evaluating the removal of given the possibility of the potential loss of revenue if the Vigo County Inmates are no longer housed or if the number of inmates being held is decreased, the figure of two hundred thousand came up in discussion as a potential revenue loss to the County. Commissioner Roush and Councilman Wininger both stated that the County Budget should not be determined with Inmate money. A discussion followed on this topic. Councilman Stiles requested an Executive Session to further discuss the possible dissolution of County positions and the budget. Auditor Abel advised that discussion of the budget cannot be behind closed doors. Another workshop can be held where no decisions are made or a Special Meeting can be held where decisions can be made. The Council determined the need for a Special Meeting. A Special Meeting was called for Thursday, September 16, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.

A motion was made to approve a retroactive wage increase for the Jail Correction Officers to $14.00 to $15.00 an hour retroactive to August 25, 2021 by Councilwoman McFeaters, seconded by Councilman Wininger. Councilman Stiles was opposed and Councilwoman Bowling virtually in favor with five Councilmembers in favor and one opposed, the motion passed.

Auditor Abel submitted the monthly financial statement.

Important Dates:

Safety Meeting for October 13, 2021 @ 9:00 am / 4:00 pm at the Highway Department

Budget Public Hearing and Regular Session, Monday, October 4, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.

Budget Adoption, Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm with a motion made by Councilman Gibson and seconded by Councilman Wininger, all were in favor and the motion passed. The next Council meeting will be a Special Meeting to be held Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

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Warren Albright Randy L. Wininger

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Sheri Bowling J. Keith Gibson

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Adam Greene Barbara McFeaters

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James A. Stiles

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Bobbie Abel, Martin County Auditor