Est

Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

Sept 14, 2020

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in regular session Monday, September 14, 2020, at the Shoals Community Schools, 11741 Ironton Rd, Shoals, Indiana. Councilmen attending: were C. Richard Summers, Randy Wininger, Warren Albright, Keith Gibson, James Stiles and Councilwomen Barbara McFeaters and Sheri Bowling. Also attending were Auditor Bobbie Abel; Attorney Dave Lett; Judge Lynn Ellis; Treasurer Lori Carrico; Recorder Rhonda Sanders; Clerk Gerald Montgomery; Assessor Carolynn McGuire; Surveyor Nathan Hoffman; Kathy Collins, Director Community Corrections; Dena Held, Purdue 4-H Educator; Teresa Harder, Soil & Water; Courtney Hughett, Martin County Journal; Josh Hughett, Animal Control Officer; Greg Hamilton, Martin County 2A; Paul McFeaters; Joyce Jones; Adam Greene; Jim Woody; Donna Sergent; Kim Showalter; Sierra Rutledge; Brad Servance; Kimberly Allbright; Mike F Jones; Pat Jones; Brad Survance; Patricia Paul; Bev Terrell, Deputy Auditor; Teresa Wininger, Deputy Auditor; Brian Esch; Clint Hoffman; Kevin Albright; Nathan Carrico; Kevin Hovis; Tammy Cooper; Rick Sergent.

President Summers called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 6:05 pm.

The minutes from the meeting held August 17 & 18 2020 were approved with a motion made by Councilman Albright, seconded by Councilman Wininger. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Attorney Dave Lett, advised the Council that the Redevelopment Commissioner approved the tax abatement for West Gate 8 LLC/Dale Ankrom. They will be constructing a new building which will employee forty individuals generating approximately two million in salaries per year. It will cover 4.2 Acres. The abatement has been advertised. The resolution 2020-19 was brought before the Council for final approval. Courtney Hughett, Martin County Journal asked what the Real Property Abatement would be. Attorney Lett advised that the final project will be $2,765,000.00. Judge Ellis asked the Council how much the County would be losing in tax revenue. Councilman Albright stated that it would not cost the County anything. That it would bring in business. Albright stated if the abatement wasn’t approved we would lose the business to surrounding counties. Councilman Albright advised that the taxes when generated will go into the TIF District Fund. Recorder Sanders asked if the people hired would be Martin County residents. Treasurer Carrico stated that Local Income Tax is payed to the County you live in. She stated that if the employees hired do not live in Martin County, Martin County will not receive any local income tax. Auditor Abel confirmed that the local income tax collect is paid to the County the employee lives in.

A motion to approve the Resolution 2020-19 the Westgate 8 LLC tax abatement was made by Councilman Albright, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All in favor the motion passed.

Auditor Abel, submitted the Loogootee Library Budget for 2021. Librarian Darla Wagler was unable to attend the meeting. The Council accepted the budget for review.

Greg Hamilton, Martin County 2A, invited the Council and anyone who is interested in attending a pig roast to be held at Mustering Elm Park on Saturday, October 3, 2020 from 11:00-3:00. He invites anyone running for a political office to attend and/or speak. Representatives Jeff Ellington and Shane Lindauer will be attending, along with a Governor Candidate.

Additional Appropriations were submitted as follows:

General/Coroner/Autopsy & Lab $6,000.00 was approved with a motion made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Wininger. All in favor, motion passed.

General/Jail/Janitorial $4,000.00 was approved with a motion made by Councilwoman McFeaters, seconded by Councilwoman Bowling. All in favor, motion passed.

General/Jail/Medical $20,000.00 was approved with a motion made by Councilman Wininger, seconded by Councilman Albright. All in favor the motion passed.

Sheriff/Dispatch/Vehicle $42,000.00, funds which were generated for dispatch services provided to the City of Loogootee was approved with a motion made by Councilwoman McFeaters, seconded by President Summers. Motion passed 5-2. Councilman Stiles and Councilwoman Bowling were opposed. Judge Ellis asked how much has been brought into the County this year by the Sheriff Department housing out of County inmates. Auditor Abel advised that so far this year they have generated $216,000.00.

MVH/Cumulative Bridge/Contract Services $105,000.00 was approved with a motion made by Councilman Wininger, seconded by Councilwoman Bowling. All in favor the motion passed. Councilman Stiles asked if this bridge will be closed. This appropriation is for repairs to the pilings along Brooks Bridge. The bridge was repaired historically with Federal Aid, because of this the County is contractually required to make repairs to this bridge for the time being. Brad Servance asked about bridges being built and the need or lack of need for the bridges being built or repaired and the money being spent on them.

President Summers, thanked Dr. Candance Roush for use of the School for the meeting. Auditor Abel gave an update on the current funding issues the County is facing. Covid-19 is predicted to have the most adverse effect on revenues beginning in 2022 and needs to be planned for. The property tax rates are midrange with like sized Counties but assessed value for Martin County is the lowest with like sized counties. The majority of miscellaneous revenues are generated through Local Income Tax, Commercial Vehicle Excise tax and the Sheriff’s Department housing out of County Inmates. The floor was opened for public opinion on the increase to Local Income Tax. A discussion followed regarding many topics. Some were opposed to the passing of the Tax Abatement for Westgate 8. Some in opposition to the increase and some were in favor of the increase. An audience member asked what had been cut so far. Auditor Abel advised that the Council was able to cut approximately $154,000.00. She stated that there isn’t anything left to cut, the County is operating at a minimum already. When comparing Martin County’s general fund budget for 2020 which is $3,461,514.00 with the next like sized County of Crawford whose general fund budget is $4,131,141.00, the Martin County budget is the lowest of five similar sized counties. The increase to Local Income Tax will increase EDIT revenue. It is currently .45% and the increase of .75% will be a total of 1.2%. If approved the total rate for Local Income Tax for the County would be 2.5%. Further discussions followed. Judge Ellis expressed she was in support of the increase, she stated that a plan needs to be made to fix the roads, she asked why a wheel tax isn’t implemented. Kathy Collins stated that the County needs a strategic plan. The Council was asked by an audience member if a financial plan was going to be implemented. Auditor Abel stated that she has been asked by a couple of Council members to look into hiring a financial planner. A discussion followed about bringing business into Martin County. Teresa Harder stated that the County needs to improve the infrastructure, water, power and broadband to attract business. Clerk Montgomery stated his budget is less now than it was two years ago. Ms. Jones said we, as a County, cannot build a bridge, place a sidewalk or plant flowers without the help of grants, let’s do what we have to do. Rhonda Sanders asked if we could lower the taxes later. Local Income Taxes can be increased or decreased once a year.

A motion to approve Local Income Tax Resolution 2020-16 was made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Wininger. Motion was approved with a 5-2 vote. Councilman Albright and Councilman Gibson were opposed.

Important Dates:

Safety Meeting to be held October 21, 2020.

Budget Adoption will be Monday, October 5, 2020 2 5:30 pm.

Courthouse will be closed Monday, October 12, 2020 for Columbus Day.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm with a motion made by Councilman Gibson and seconded by Councilwoman Bowling, all were in favor and the motion passed. The next Council meeting will be held Monday, October 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

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 C. Richard Summers Randy L. Wininger

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Sheri Bowling J. Keith Gibson

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Warren D. Albright Barbara McFeaters

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James A. Stiles

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

 Bobbie Abel, Martin County Auditor