Est

Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

August 10, 2020

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in regular session Monday, August 10, 2020, in the Commissioners’ Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Councilmen attending: were C. Richard Summers, Warren Albright, Keith Gibson and Councilwomen Barbara McFeaters . Councilman James Stiles and Councilwoman Sheri Bowling attended virtually. Councilman Randy Wininger absent. Also attending were Auditor Bobbie Abel; Sheriff Travis Roush; Michael Arvin, Martin County Alliance & REMC; Pam Loughmiller, Martin County Allinance; Margaret Anderson, Martin County Alliance; Adam Graber, REMC; Dan Greagory, Martin County Alliance; Danielle Murphy, MCSO Matron; Jameson Hibbs, Superintendent Parks & Rec; Josh Greene, Chief Deputy; via Zoom: Courtney Hughett, Martin County Journal/Martin County Humane Society; Kathy Collins, Director Community Corrections; Dena Held, Purdue 4-H Educator; Terri Alcorn, Highway Administrator.

President Summers called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 8:30 am.

The minutes from the meeting held July 6, 2020 were approved with a motion made by Councilwoman McFeaters, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Dave Lett, County Attorney, advised that the Redevelopment Commission approved the Abatement for Westgate 8. He stated that the Abatement needs to be advertised before the Council can make an official ruling. Councilman Summers verified that it had been presented previously and will be voted on at the next Council meeting.

Auditor Abel, submitted the Loogootee Library’s confirmation documentation that the Martin County Council is the binding body for the Library. Auditor Abel read the documentation aloud. Councilwoman McFeaters made a motion to approve, Councilman Gibson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Travis Roush, Sheriff, approached the Council regarding revenue for dispatch services for the City of Loogootee. Research of historic meeting minutes the Council had stated previously that if revenue were generated for dispatch services that the Sheriff’s Department could use the funds as needed. Sheriff Roush stated the plan is to use the funds for the Sheriff’s fleet and maintenance of the fleet. Attorney Lett asked about continuing to invoice for services, Sheriff Roush stated that negotiations are currently transpiring for limited services. $42,000.00 was invoiced for multiple years services. Councilman Gibson made a motion to approve the Sheriff’s Department using the fund, seconded by Councilwoman McFeaters. Councilman Stiles questioned if the revenue could be used for salaries instead of vehicles. Sheriff Roush advised the multiple counties who bill for the same services are given the option to use funds as needed. Five vehicles have been purchased this year. Sheriff Roush asked if a motion could be proceeded with. Councilwoman McFeaters again made a motion to approve, Seconded by Councilman Gibson. Sheriff Roush asked how he was supposed to serve the public without an operational platform. Councilman Albright, Councilman Gibson, President Summers and Councilwoman McFeaters voted in favor. Councilman Stiles and Councilwoman Bowling were against. Motion carried four to two.

Jameson Hibbs, Superintendent Parks & Rec Daviess and Martin County, requested approval of implementing an Innkeepers tax for Martin County. Hibbs had attended a previous meeting about establishing the tax. With the Innkeepers tax a Commission will need to be established by the Martin County Commission. The Innkeepers tax will be paid to the State of Indiana and dispersed through the Treasurer to the Commission. The Eldorado and West Boggs will generate approximately $1500.00 to $3,000.00 with a 5% tax. The funds have to be used for promotional materials and or events for tourism. Ordinance 2020-13 was submitted by Attorney Lett. Courtney Hughett, Martin County Journal, asked if the State would get any of the funds, Hibbs stated that it will all come back to the County/Commission. A motion to approve the Ordinance 2020-13 to establish the tax/ fund was made by Councilman Albright, seconded by Councilman Stiles. All in favor, motion carried. It will go into effect September 1, 2020.

Additional Appropriations were approved as follows:

General/Coroner/Autopsy-Lab, $2,500.00 with a motion made by Councilman Albright, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All in favor, motion passed.

General/Sheriff/ USG Equipment. $5,000.00 with a motion made by Councilman Albright, seconded by Councilman Stiles. All in favor, motion passed.

MVH/ Highway Restricted Fund/ $40,000.00 with a motion made by Councilman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Albright. All in favor, motion passed.

MVH/Community Crossings/Paving Project $325,000.00. Councilman Stiles questioned if this would be used for strictly paving. Terri Alcorn, Highway Administrator, stated that this is the County’s matching portion of the Community Crossings Grant and will be used for two bridges and paving. A motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Bowling, seconded by Councilman Albright. All in favor, motion passed.

Auditor Abel advised that procedures for encumbrances will change going forward. Abel submitted documentation of encumbrances that transpired. She requested that a retroactive motion be made to approved encumbrances from December 2019 into January 2020. She stated that all encumbrance requests will need to be submitted by departments along with the corresponding invoices by December 31, 2020. The Council will approve the encumbrances in January 2021. A motion to approve the encumbrances from December 2019 into January 2020 was made by Councilwoman Stiles, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All in favor, motion carried.

Bobbie Abel, Auditor, requested a motion to approve all of the meeting minutes from the beginning of the virtual meetings and in person meetings to date. A motion to approve the virtual and corresponding in person meetings was made by Councilwoman McFeaters, seconded by Councilman Albright. All in favor, motion passed.

Dan Gregory, Martin County Alliance, stated that Tim Kinder has left the Alliance to further his education. They are currently taking resumes for the position and want to take their time to make sure the right person is found. Mike Arvin, President of the Alliance stated that they currently have a very strong board. Barb McFeaters advised that Tim Kinder did a very good job negotiating with Purdue. Pam Loughmiller advised that ROI is currently doing a master plan for Westgate. The Council requested someone from the Alliance attend the budget hearings. The budget for the Alliance was submitted to the Commissioners.

Important Dates:

Safety Meeting to be held Wednesday has been postponed.

Budget Hearings, Monday August 17, 2020 & Tuesday August 18, 2020

Courthouse will be Closed Monday, September 7, 2020 for Labor Day

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am with a motion made by Councilman Gibson and seconded by Councilwoman McFeaters, all were in favor and the motion passed. The next Council meeting will be held Monday, September 14, 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