Est

Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

December 4, 2023

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in regular session on Monday, December 4, 2023, in the Commissioners’ Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Councilmen attending: Warren Albright, Keith Gibson, Monty Gregory, and Jim Hamby. Councilmen Jordan Dant and Adam Greene were attending via Zoom. Councilman Andrew Beaver was absent. Also attending was Auditor Michelle Norris.

Councilman Monty Gregory called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 6:00 pm.

**RE: MINUTES**

The minutes from the regular meeting held November 4th, 2023 were approved with a motion made by Councilman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: TRANSFER REQUEST**

 The following transfer request was submitted to the Council for approval from the Clerk:

 **Election Expense**

From: 1000.104.3000.15 Ballots $902.00

 To: 1000.104.1000.17 Absentee Board $902.00

A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to approve the transfer request from the Clerk, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Community Crossings Grant

 Fund 9127

 Paving Project $599,100

A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the additional appropriation for fund 9127, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

EDIT County Share

 Fund 1112

 Health Insurance $20,000

A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the additional appropriation for fund 1112, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

General Fund

 Fund 1000

 Soil and Water Conservation District

 SWCD- Secretary $746.08

A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the additional appropriation for the Soil and Water Conservation District in fund 1000, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

General Fund

 Fund 1000

 Martin County Sheriff

 Sheriff

 Gas & Oil $12,000

 Longevity Bonus $20,000

A motion was made by Councilman Hamby to approve the additional appropriation for the Sheriff’s Department in fund 1000, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

 Sheriff Josh Greene stated the check from the commissary fund has already been deposited into the general fund to cover the longevity bonuses. Sheriff Greene stated in regards to gas and oil, the department is still using the budget from when oil was $2.50 per quart and gas was $2.00 per gallon. The department is trying to hold the budget as low as it can. He believes last December’s bill came out of the 2023 budget as well. The officers try to shut off the trucks as much as they can and do not leave the vehicles continuously running like other counties may do.

 Councilman Albright asked the Sheriff the condition of the vehicles in the department. Sheriff Greene stated an order cannot be placed for Ram trucks until after the 1st of January. Sheriff Greene stated he does not know the price of a new Dodge Ram for next year. The Dodge they purchased this year was $46,000 and government rebates are not what they used to be. The truck which was traded in had 90,000 miles on it and the amount given for trade in was $2,000 more than the original purchase price, after putting 90,000 miles and three years on the truck. Sheriff Greene stated he was trading trucks in after two years but since Ford has not provided new trucks and prices have gone up, he is going to wait to see how often the trucks will need to be replaced before deciding on a trade in schedule. Sheriff Greene stated the department is having problems with the new F250 trucks they got earlier this year.

General Fund

 Fund 1000

 Commissioners

 Juveniles in Institutions $22,000

A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to approve the additional appropriation for the Commissioners budget in the general fund 1000, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: 2023 SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

Auditor Michelle Norris presented to the Council an amended 2023 salary and wage ordinance for a highway department employee. The salary being presented was lead operator with CDL. Prior to September 25, 2023 the title for the position was operator with CDL. Highway Superintendent Scott Seals stated he and the Commissioners felt like a lead operator was needed to help oversee the work of the department. Auditor Norris stated there was money in the budget to pay this person $1 more per hour. Auditor Norris stated she did not think about needing to change the salary and wage ordinance until this week when the 2024 salary and wage ordinance was being prepared. Auditor Norris stated Superintendent Seals agreed to pay the new employee a starting wage $1 less per hour to cover the difference of the wage increase for the lead operator.

President Dant asked Superintendent Seals that since it was for an employee the department already had and it was not adding staff if there were new expectations with the new role and who creates those expectations. Superintendent Seals stated the lead operator is expected to step up where he is not there and to help when he is there and there are new roles and responsibilities. A motion was made by Councilman Albright to accept the amended salary and wage ordinance for the highway position effective September 25, 2023, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: 2024 SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE**

 Auditor Norris presented to the Council the 2024 salary and wage ordinance for review. The salary and wages were based on the budget meetings held with the Council. Councilman Gregory asked why there was not a yearly salary amount for the prosecutor’s office employees. Auditor Norris responded the salary and wage ordinance format was changed this year and hourly employees only show a range amount per hour and salaried employees show a yearly amount. Councilman Albright stated the change is because there now can be a variation in salary due to the wage ranges. A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to accept the 2024 salary and wage ordinance, seconded by Councilman Albright. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: 2024 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

 Auditor Norris presented the proposed 2024 Council meeting schedule. The consensus was the Council was in favor of 6:00 meetings and moving the January meeting to the second Monday of the month due to the holiday. A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the 2024 Council meeting schedule, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: 2024 1782 BUDGET NOTICE FROM STATE**

 Auditor Norris presented to the Council the 2024 1782 budget notice from the State. Auditor Norris read a letter from Financial Solutions Group, the County’s financial advisor, who also reviewed the notice. FSG stated the DLGF has approved the County’s 2024 budget but the funds will need to be carefully monitored throughout the year. The 1782 notice was also received for Martin County Solid Waste. The notices will be signed and submitted back to the DLGF with no changes.

**RE: TREASURER UPDATE**

 Auditor Norris stated the Treasurer was at training today and unable to attend the Council meeting. Auditor Norris stated she was told by the Treasurer that two CDs have been invested with German American Bank. The first was for $1 million with an interest rate of 5.19% for nine months. German American offered the County a second CD for $1 million with an interest rate of 5.2% for six months. Auditor Norris stated the Commissioners would like to set up a board of finance meeting with the Treasurer within the next few weeks.

**RE: COURTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

 The Courthouse will be closed the following dates: Friday, December 22nd in observance of Christmas Eve, Monday, December 25th for Christmas Day, Friday, December 29th in observance of New Year’s Eve, and Monday, January 1st for New Years Day.

**RE: EXTENSION STAFFING**

 Extension Director Dena Held stated she is the only person working in the Martin County Extension office right now, until additional staff are hired. Director Held stated she will be on campus quite a bit in the month of December.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm with a motion made by Councilman Gregory and seconded by Councilman Hamby, all were in favor and the motion passed. The next regular Council meeting will be held Monday, January 8th, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

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 Jordan Dant Adam Greene

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Warren D. Albright J. Keith Gibson

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Andrew Beaver Jim Hamby

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Monty Gregory

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

 Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor