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Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 1, 2023

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in regular session on Monday, May 1, 2023, in the Commissioners’ Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Councilmen attending: Jordan Dant, Adam Greene, Warren Albright, Keith Gibson, Monty Gregory, Jim Hamby, and Andrew Beaver. Also attending was Auditor Michelle Norris.

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

**RE: MINUTES**

The minutes from the regular meeting held April 3rd, 2023 were approved with a motion made by Councilman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: PICKLEBALL**

Bill Boyd came before the Council to provide information regarding the pickleball program in Loogootee, which was been active the last two years in the County. The City of Loogootee has provided a lot South of the City pool to build four pickleball courts. In January, Loogootee Pickleball applied for nonprofit status with the IRS and became a 501c3.

A challenge grant was received by the Martin County Community Foundation in which every dollar that can be raised a dollar will be matched up to $25,000. That money will be used to design the pickleball courts. Mr. Boyd stated the design costs will be $30,000. To build four new courts the costs have been estimated at $450,000, which is estimated on the high end.

Mr. Boyd stated money will be raised using grants, fundraisers, raffles, auctions, and bake sales. The group estimates that there are at least eighty active players. Mr. Boyd wanted to make the Council aware of the project and while he recognizes funding is needed for other important projects, he would appreciate the Council keeping the project in mind.

**RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

**Sheriff**

Jail- 1000.380

Hire Bonus $1,500

A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the appropriation for the hiring bonus $1,500, seconded by Councilman Gregory with Councilman Greene abstaining. All in favor, motion passed.

Sheriff Greene stated the two F250s have arrived. President Dant asked about the status of staffing for the Department. Sheriff Greene responded that last month he became fully staffed but will soon be down two deputies and a jailer. Part-time positions are needed in every area of the jail. There are currently 75 inmates with 34 of those being from Vigo County.

Auditor Michelle Norris presented to the Council a salary and wage ordinance for the Stop Arm Grant. A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the ordinance with hourly rate of $29.75 with a total of $3,500 effective April 1, 2023, seconded by Councilman Hamby with Councilman Greene abstaining. All in favor, motion passed.

M**otor Vehicle Highway**

Unrestricted Fund- 1176

Superintendent $1,081

Administrative Assistant $541

Operators W/CDL $11,896

Operator W/O CDL $1,073

Mechanic $1,090

**TOTAL FOR 1176 $15,681**

Auditor Norris informed the Council there was an error in the 2023 budget for the Highway Department. When the budget was prepared in the Fall, she had used the salary and wage ordinance from July which had approved a $1 per hour increase effective mid-year. The total salary on the ordinance for 2022 was used to figure the 2023 wage but did not include half of the year’s raise amount. This additional appropriation is to correct the amount the Highway Department was shorted in the budget in error. A motion was made by Councilman Greene to approve the appropriation in fund 1176 for $15,6981, seconded by Councilman Beaver. All in favor, motion passed.

**Motor Vehicle Highway**

Unrestricted Fund- 1176

Business & Travel $1,000

A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to approve the appropriation in fund 1176 for $1,000, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: HIGHWAY SALARY INCREASE REQUEST**

Highway Superintendent Scott Seals stated the Department has had issues getting applicants and retaining employees. The Commissioners recommended eliminating a position, which has not been filled since Superintendent Seals started with the Department, and to take that position’s salary and split it between the other positions and give them a raise. This would result in a $2 per hour raise across the department.

Deputy Auditor Teresa Wininger stated the position is listed at $40,257 which would be divided by the eighteen remaining pay periods this year starting with the second pay in May. There are thirteen positions at eighty hours which would come out to $2.15 per position, but the Department is only asking for an increase of $2 per employee per hour. This would be spread out over eighteen pay periods when a normal year has twenty-six pay periods. Superintendent Seals states the department’s budget can take the increase next year. The increase would put the operators with CDL at $21.35 which is competitive with other counties. A motion was made by Councilman Greene to approve the wage increase of $2 per hour for all Highway Department employees by eliminating an open operator position, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilman Beaver to approve the revised salary and wage ordinance for the Highway Department to be first paid on the payroll of May 19, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: TOURISM BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Auditor Norris stated she was contacted by Tourism Board President Michelle Grace regarding the Council’s appointee to the Tourism Board. The Tourism Board has requested the Council appoint Dianna Ragsdale to the Tourism Board. A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to appoint Dianna Ragsdale to the Tourism Board, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: LOOGOOTEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Auditor Norris stated Loogootee Public Library Director, Darla Wagler, sent a request for the Council to re-appoint Chrystal Goodpaster to the Loogootee Public Library Board as the Council’s representative. A motion was made by Council Gregory to re-appoint Chrystal Goodpaster to the Loogootee Public Library Board, seconded by Councilman Beaver. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: UPDATE ON FUNDS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Auditor Norris stated she is in working to correct the ambulance funds since the State Board of Accounts stated fund 1102 could not be used. Once the EMS salary and wage ordinance is approved by the Council and AP correction can be done to move those salary amounts to be paid out of the EDIT fund 1112. Currently the ambulance fund 1102 is negative $250,733.52. Other expenses which have been paid out of 1102 are $25,737.41 and those will be moved to fund 4002. In March the revenue received for the ambulance service was $40,386.50 and in April $64,249.34 was received for a total revenue of $104,635.84. After the corrections the balance in 4002 will be $24,648.29, 1102 will be zero, and the EDIT fund 1112 as of April 30th will be $2,272.298.52.

Auditor Norris presented a new salary and wage ordinance for the EMS department. There were no changes in salary and wages but the ordinance states salaries can be paid out of the EDIT fund 1112 effective January 1, 2023. A motion was made Councilman Greene to approve the salary and wage ordinance for EMS effective January 1, 2023, seconded by Councilman Beaver. All in favor, motion passed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm with a motion made by Councilman Gibson and seconded by Councilman Beaver, all were in favor and the motion passed. The next regular Council meeting will be held Monday, June 5, 2023, 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