

County Council Reorganization Meeting
January 2, 2019

Present: Blake Bunner, Aaron Benton, David Gogel, Todd Ruxer, Matt Knepper, Steve Haaff, Todd Grundhoefer, Auditor Autumn Winkler

Meeting was called to order by Auditor Winkler at 8:30 A.M.

President

First order of business was nominations for President. Benton made a motion to nominate Blake Bunner as President. Ruxer seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved. The meeting was then turned over to President Bunner.

Vice-President

Knepper made a motion to nominate Aaron Benton as Vice-President. Ruxer seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Council Attorney

Benton made a motion to nominate Andrew Foster for council attorney. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

EMA BOARD

Ruxer made a motion to appoint Benton to the EMA Board. Knepper seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

ABC Board

Benton made a motion to appoint JW Arnold to the ABC Board. Ruxer seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Indiana Region 15

Benton made a motion to appoint Ruxer as the Council representative for Indiana Region 15. Knepper seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Tourism Commission

Benton made a motion to appoint Sharon Raven and Ashley Satterfield to the Tourism Commission. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

LEDC

Benton made a motion to appoint Gogel to the LEDC. Haaff seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

LEDC Joint Appointment with Commissioners

Ruxer made a motion to reappoint Larry Harlen. Grundhoefer seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

4-H Youth & Community

Gogel made a motion to appoint Grundhoefer to the 4-H Youth & Community. Ruxer seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Solid Waste

Benton made a motion to reappoint Ruxer to the Solid Waste Board. Grundhoefer seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Advisory Plan Commission

Ruxer made a motion to appoint Knepper to the Advisory Plan Commission. Benton seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Luce Township Regional Sewer District (LTRSD)

No appointment needed.

PTABOA

Knepper made a motion to reappoint Valery Kessens to the PTABOA. Ruxer seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Redevelopment Commission

Gogel made a motion to reappoint Eric Vogel and Brian Greulich to the Redevelopment Commission. Grundhoefer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Economic Development

No appointment needed.

Mariah Hill Regional Sewer District

No appointment needed.

Park and Recreation Board

Benton made a motion to appoint Carol Evrard and Harold Banks to the Park and Rec Board. Knepper seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Community Corrections

Benton made a motion to appoint Haaff as the Council representative for Community Corrections. Grundhoefer seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, motion was approved.

Roberts Rule of Order Modified

Gogel made a motion that we follow Roberts Rule of Order Modified. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Meeting Date and Time

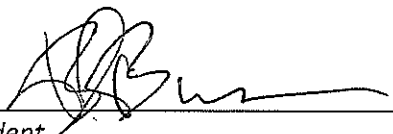
Ruxer made a motion to continue meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 P.M. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Coroner Budget

Gentry came before the council requesting some transfers be made to increase the coroner salary, because she will now be doing a majority of the runs, all the paperwork and be the main person on call. The coroner salary has been the same for almost eight years, because the previous coroner requested it stay the same. The council discussed that the salary should be increased to reflect the pay raises given to other employees in that time frame. Gentry explained that she has moved into the courthouse basement which provides a \$5,100.00 savings on rent, wishes to use her personal cell phone instead of a county cell phone which saves \$1,000.00 on telephone and internet and will no longer be using the Fire Text system which provides a savings of \$500.00. Gentry's proposed budget increases the Coroner salary to \$25,000.00, pays \$3,000.00 to the Chief Deputy Coroner, \$1,500.00 each to (2) Contractual Deputy Coroners and puts \$1,000.00 in Emergency Special Deputies that will be paid only when they actually make a run. Gogel stated he thinks it would be wise to do the job for a little while and get a feel for what all is required before making any big changes. Benton stated that he figured a 2% average increase each year for 8 years and that brought the salary to \$14,640.06, plus add in the clerical and a portion of the deputy pay. Bunner asked Gentry if she was willing to agree on the \$14,640.06 for a few months then come back and discuss the rest and she said if that happens she will have to pick up another shift at her job and there will be no one on call for those 16 hours. She doesn't have people knocking down her door interested in doing this job. Benton stated that he was fine with the \$21,140.00. We are expecting this person to be on call 24 hours a day and its money within the budget. Bunner stated that we pay other part time positions a maximum of \$15,834.00 a year and we would be paying this part time position a lot more than that if we go with Benton's recommended amount. Bunner asked how many calls there are a year and Gentry stated she was unsure, but she thought around 50-60 calls per year. But, none of the nursing home or hospice calls have been getting reported.

Bunner stated that as discussed in the previous meeting when we look at other counties our size the \$14,640.00 would fall in line with what they pay, but the \$21,140.00 is far above what other similar sized counties pay. So is that being fiscally responsible paying more than any other county our size. Bunner stated that in government we have to pay for the position, not the ability of the person occupying the position. Haaff asked if we transfer this money around and remove these positions is she going to ask they be put back in; Gentry stated no. Benton suggested taking the \$14,640.00 and adding the \$4,000.00 from clerical for a total of \$18,640.00. Bunner stated that still puts us higher than other counties. Benton stated that \$20,350.00 was the highest paid in our population range. Gogel stated that our position includes health insurance and PERF as well. Haaff stated that if we bring it up to date at the \$14,640.00 and revisit in a few months then she can tell us what she's doing, not what she says she's going to do. Bunner stated to put it into perspective, if we increase to the \$14,640.00 it is a 19% increase in salary, whereas the \$18,640.00 suggested is a 52% increase. Ruxer made a motion to approve the \$14,640.00 with the understanding it will be revisited in a few months. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved with Benton opposed. Gentry stated she will have to pick up another shift and there is no one to cover those hours. Bunner stated that part of the responsibility of the position is to have some managerial oversight and being able to select someone to work for you. Every other coroner in history has made it work, and they have confidence in her that she will do the same.

Knepper made a motion to adjourn. Grundhoefer seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 A.M.



President



Attest: Auditor, Autumn Winkler







