

**COUNCIL MINUTES
BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

Council Member: You are hereby notified that there will be a regular meeting of the Boone County Council at the Boone County Office Building, 116 W. Washington St., in the Connie Lamar Meeting Room, Room 105, in the City of Lebanon, on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 8:30am.

Councilwoman President Elise Nieshalla called the meeting to order. Council members in attendance were Kevin VanHorn, Aaron Williams, Kenneth Hedge, Shari Richey, and John Riner. Jennifer Hostetter was absent.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Nieshalla asked for a motion to approve the October 10, 2023 Council minutes. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman VanHorn seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman VanHorn presented the upcoming board appointments that are about to expire on 12/31/23. Kevin worked with IT in creating a new form, which is available on the county website, for applicants to fill out if they are interested in being on a board. Those applications are due by 12/05/23. The Council will vote on the new board appointments set to expire at the end of this year at the next council meeting in December.

The Council voted on and approved the dates and times for 2024 council meetings. Councilwoman Richey made the motion to approve. Councilman Hedge seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

Auditor Crum presented the 2024 County Fiscal Body Review (Levies, Rates, and Property Tax Cap Impact). All Council members present acknowledged they have received the information. The Auditor's office will send confirmation to all entities.

Chief Jim Caldwell with the Advance Volunteer Fire Department presented his request for an increase in local income tax for public safety of .01%. He stated that House Bill 1454 allows this increase for volunteer fire departments. He is requesting this increase to take place in 2025 which would help the deficit that the Advance Fire Department has year after year. Councilwoman Nieshalla stated there is more to come with this conversation and will be discussed in the 2025 budget process next year.

Nick Parr with the Highway Department presented three Financial Commitment Letters to the Council for projects that he intends on applying for federal grants. If granted the federal grants, they would cover 80%-90% for these future projects. The County would only be responsible for 10%-20% for each project after the grant match, if approved.

The first project is for Bridge 401. Councilman VanHorn made a motion to agree to support the local match. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

The second project is for Bridge 162. Councilman Riner made a motion to agree to support the local match. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

The third project is for intersection improvement at CR 300 S. and CR 975 E. Councilman Riner made a motion to agree to support the local match. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

SALARY AMENDMENT

N/A

IN THE MATTER OF RE-APPROPRIATIONS

TREASURER

Treasurer Nikki Baldwin requested a re-appropriation in her payroll lines.

From: 1000.0003.410.411.0.0014	Clerical/PT	\$5,000.00
To: 1000.0003.410.411.0.0023	OT	\$5,000.00

Councilman Hedge made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Williams seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

HIGHWAY

Nick Parr presented an additional request for:

9194.0000.440.415.0.9690	INDOT 2023 Matching Grant	\$434,650.00
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Councilman Hedge made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jeff Wolfe presented an additional request for:

1000.0068.410.412.0.5153	OASI (Social Security & Medicare)	\$240,000.00
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Councilman VanHorn made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Susan Reid with Baker Tilly gave an update on the proposed financial policies and the capital improvement plan. She spoke about the policy plan and gave an overview of the different types of policies they are working on. She stated that the financial policies tie in with the capital plan that is also being worked on for the county. Susan Reid stated that she will be meeting with department heads in December. The Council is set to adopt the financial policies in January 2024 after reviewing the final draft from Baker Tilly.

ARP APPROPRIATIONS

Drug Court services for \$80,000.00. Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

Trailside project for an additional \$450,000.00. Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilman Riner seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

Highway protective & remote equipment for \$110,000.00. Councilman VanHorn made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

Advance 180 Makeover for \$50,000.00. Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

Auditor Crum gave a brief update on the work processes with Baker Tilly/Scott Walker, GUTS, and CYMA. She stated they had a Zoom call the day before and discussed Scott working with our IT department and Curt with GUTS and CYMA to get the process started. She said she will have a follow up in January.

Auditor Crum and the Council discussed getting the salary ordinance approved at the December meeting so it can be submitted to the State. Auditor Crum said she will meet with department heads before the December meeting to confirm salaries for next year.

The Council reviewed the budget process and what can be improved for next year. Councilwoman Richey stated that getting information out to the whole Council in advance regarding salaries would be at the top of the list to make the process better. Auditor Crum suggested that salary discussions start in May and that salaries be decided at the beginning of the budget process. Councilman Williams suggested the budget process be much shorter of a timeframe.

Councilman Hedge made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Riner seconded. The motion carried, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

Minutes Prepared by Caryn Strode, Deputy Auditor.

Elise Nieshalla
Boone County Council President

Date

Debbie M. Morton-Crum
Boone County Auditor

Date