

COUNCIL MINUTES
BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA
May 13th, 2025

Council Members: 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, May 13th, 2025, at 8:30am.

Councilwoman Hostetter called the meeting to order. Council members also in attendance were Shari Richey, Kevin VanHorn, Aaron Williams, Dan Lamar, Dustin Plunkett, and John Riner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Hostetter asked for a motion to approve the April 8th, 2025 minutes. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

LEGAL UPDATE

- Attorney Chou-il Lee gave an update on Senate Bill 1 regarding loss of property tax dollars. After the last council meeting the State House passed House Bill 1427, which impacts the business personal property taxes. The State has not yet given the impacts of this new bill but Attorney Lee anticipates it to be beneficial result for the county. He will keep the Council updated when new information is released.
- Attorney Lee also asked the Council for an update on a previous item for Council comments at their meetings and adding it to the agenda. He stated that it would be good to have it on the agenda to give the council members a chance to discuss items that aren't on the agenda. He recommended putting a time limit on each item discussed. Councilman Williams doesn't agree with putting a time limit on council members' speaking time. Attorney Lee stated that the Council can suspend the rules for this section of the agenda and allow members to speak with no time limit. Councilman Lamar made a motion to add Council comments to the agenda and to limit the time to five minutes. Councilman VanHorn seconded the motion. The motion carried, 4-3. Councilman Riner, Councilman Plunkett, and Councilman Williams voted nay on the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

- Councilwoman Hostetter wanted to follow up on the email from the Commissioners regarding the benchmarking process for any new positions being requested for next year or any position outside of the current compensation study. That information needs to be sent in to the Commissioners by June 6, 2025 to give the Council 3 weeks to review. She stated that the Council intends to handle salaries and benefits in the July Budget Workshop.

- Beth Copeland, County Attorney, spoke about the county entering an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with IEDC last November. She is preparing a letter for a request for an EDP (Economic Development payment) to the county jointly between the Commissioners and Council. The letter needs to identify four specific categories as outlined in the entered memorandum. First, specifically identify the project for which funding is to be created. Secondly, describe the relationship of the project to the development activities. Thirdly, identify the amount. And lastly, specify which budget or funding account the EDP payment will be directed. She and Auditor Crum think the best way will be to create a non-reverting fund, though it would initially need to go into the county general fund. It would then be transferred and appropriated into a new non-reverting fund, which would be under the APC's budget. She is requesting that Councilwoman Hostetter and Commissioner Pell sign this letter to show unified support of the payment. If the county receives the payment, it is intended to be used for the comprehensive plan and thoroughfare plan projects. Councilman Lamar made a motion to support Councilwoman Hostetter and Commissioner Pell sign the letter. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Councilwoman Hostetter presented a request from Dan Patterson, Whitestown Council President, that this board needs to appoint a board member for the Whitestown Economic Development Commission. Councilman Williams has already been serving on that board for a couple of years. This council needs to make an appointment for the board every year. Councilman Riner made a motion to elect Councilman Williams to stay on the board. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

RE-APPROPRIATIONS

- John Merson with the Area Plan Commission presented a re-appropriation from the Executive Director line (3111) to the Planning Consultant line (3136) for \$55,000. Councilman Plunkett made a motion to approve the re-appropriation. Councilman Lamar seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Commissioner Beyer (via Zoom) presented a re-appropriation from the Legal Service line (0001) to the Indirect Contract Consulting line (6834) for \$90,000. Commissioner Lamar made a motion to approve the re-appropriation. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

John Merson with the Area Plan Commission presented an additional appropriation in the Comprehensive Plan Update line (3134) for \$300,000. After a lengthy discussion, the Council would like to see a schedule of payments anticipated for the contractor HWC, specifically how much may be needed in 2025. If it is under the \$100,000 already budgeted, then the rest can be budgeted for 2026. They would also like to see an executed contract. Councilman Williams made a motion to table until June after they get more information. Councilman Lamar seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Nick Parr, Director of Highways, gave an update on House Bill 1461. He stated that the bill was passed, and it affects road funding. It will have a high impact on Community Crossing grant dollars available for the State of Indiana. The amount of grant dollars available will go from \$350 million down to \$100 million for all entities to split. He stated that this will change the way he has to budget for next year and years to come. He noted that Boone County can pass a wheel tax to help cover some of the loss of grant money he previously received to fund his budget.
- Councilwoman Hostetter wanted to discuss a date change for the October 14th council meeting. The Council members have elected to change it to October 9th which will also be the budget adoption hearing after the regular council meeting. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the date change. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jeff Troupe gave public comments about the Hussey-Mayfield Library programs.
- Brian Daggy gave public comments about the loss of property tax dollars and the IEDC.
- Kristina Holden gave public comments about the Hussey-Mayfield Library programs and board members.
- Councilwoman Hostetter presented Sheriff Harris with an award for a county step it up challenge.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Riner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

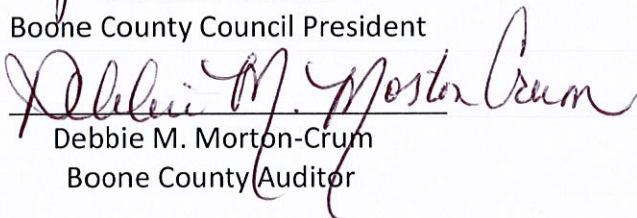
Minutes prepared by:

Caryn Strode, Deputy Auditor.


Jennifer Hostetter

Boone County Council President

6/10/25
Date


Debbie M. Morton-Crum
Boone County Auditor

6/10/25
Date