

# **COUNCIL MINUTES**

## **BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA**

### **June 10th, 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, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 8:30am.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilwoman Hostetter asked for a motion to approve the May 13th, 2025 minutes. Councilwoman Richey had three amendments to the minutes. The amendments are as follows:

1. Under "Legal Update" - "members" changed to "members'"
2. Under "New Business"- "EDP" changed to "EDP (Economic Development payment)"
3. Under "New Business"- add the word "specify" to "And lastly, specify which budget"

Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the minutes with the amendments. Councilman Lamar seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.

#### **LEGAL UPDATE**

Attorney Chou-il Lee gave an update on Senate Bill 1 (SB1) and House Enrolled Act 1427 (HEA1427). He stated that he is still trying to figure out what kind of an impact it will have on Boone County and when we will see any changes. SB1 initially passed and aimed to increase the exemption threshold for business personal property from \$80,000 to \$1,000,000 for the 2025 assessment year and then to \$2,000,000 for the 2026 assessment year and beyond. However, a recent amendment through HEA1427 repealed the \$1,000,000 exemption for the 2025 assessment year. This means that exemption remains at \$80,000 for 2025. The \$2,000,000 exemption for 2026 and beyond remains in place as of now. He will keep the council updated if anything changes in future legislative sessions.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Councilwoman Hostetter presented an invoice for the Chamber of Commerce. She asked the council members if they want to continue their membership and pay the invoice. Many of the Council members stated that they thought they should continue the membership. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the invoice. Councilman Lamar seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.

- Jennifer Sharkey with INLTAP (Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program) via Zoom, gave a presentation regarding wheel tax and excise surtax also referred to as LOHUT (Local Option Highway User Tax). LOHUT is a local tax option that counties can adopt to generate funding for road and bridge construction, reconstruction, repair, and maintenance. It's collected at the time of vehicle registration and then remitted to the counties, which distribute the funds to the county, cities, and towns within their jurisdiction. By adopting a wheel tax and excise surtax, Boone County will be eligible for more Community Crossing matching grant funds for the Highway Department.
- Susan Cowan with Baker Tilly gave a presentation of the CFP (Comprehensive Financial Plan). It included snapshots of each fund and projected balances through 2027. She also went over property tax rates, certified tax rates, and net assessed values. She stated that we don't yet know the impact from Senate Bill 1 that passed this year or how it will affect the county for future budgeting. She will continue to update the CFP as additional data becomes available.
- Brian Colton with Baker Tilly gave a presentation on the 2024 TIF Management Report. It included the TIF allocation areas and when they are set to expire, revenues and expenditures by TIF area, and debt payments.

### **RE-APPROPRIATIONS**

Mike Spidel, Veteran's Officer, presented a re-appropriation from the Soldier Burial line (6862) to the Flags for Veteran Graves line (1261) for \$1,349.42. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the re-appropriation. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

- John Merson, Area Plan Commission Board, presented an additional appropriation in the Comprehensive Plan Update line (3134) for \$300,000 which was tabled in the May meeting. After having discussions and seeing the payment schedule for the project, the Council decided that the \$100,000 already budgeted for 2025 will be enough to fulfill the payment schedule for this year and will budget for the rest of the project in 2026. Councilman Lamar made a motion to commit to paying for the project in 2025 and 2026. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0. Councilman Lamar also made a motion to approve \$0 for the additional that was originally requested. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.
- Nick Parr, Director of Highways, presented two additional appropriations in the Local Road and Bridge Fund. The first is for the Small Structure EA-021 line (9696) for \$198,850. The second is for the Bridge 44 Rehabilitation line (9695) for \$204,007.50. Councilman VanHorn made a motion to approve both additional appropriations. Councilman Lamar seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.
- Mike Martin, EMA Director, presented an additional appropriation in the Emergency Planning/Right to Know Fund in the Equipment line (0066) for \$20,000. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.

### **SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

- Auditor Crum presented a salary ordinance amendment for Community Corrections/Drug Court. The Drug Court Coordinator was being paid from fund 9987 but now needs to be paid from fund 9985. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the amendment. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.
- Auditor Crum presented a salary ordinance amendment for the EMA Administrative Assistant position. The previous full time assistant is going to stay part time to train the new full time assistant. The amendment is adding P/T and F/T to the position for a short time while the training is taking place. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the amendment. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Richey updated the group on the budget workshop meetings for the next few months. The July 15th workshop will focus on salaries and benefits. For this, she's having Amber Choate in HR prepare a snapshot of employees who are still below the minimum, at the midpoint, or at or above the maximum per the wage study. Amber is also preparing scenarios for next year's raises.

The council has three workshops scheduled for August. The objective for August 12th is to finalize salaries and benefits before the August 19th and 20th department meetings.

Councilwoman Richey also distributed the liaison list. Any remaining budget discussions will take place on September 9th and 10th, with the final approval of the 2026 budget set for October 9th.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

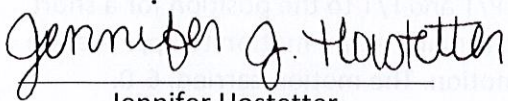
- Councilman Lamar wanted to thank everyone for being professional during the meeting as it was long.
- Councilman Plunkett stated that he and the rest of the Compensation Committee, along with the Council and Commissioners, are requesting that HR send an email to the department heads for job descriptions for every employee.
- Councilman VanHorn wanted to confirm when he needs to speak with the departments that he is the liaison for. Councilwoman Richey said between July and August.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Richey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.

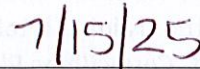
### **Minutes prepared by:**

Caryn Strode, Deputy Auditor.

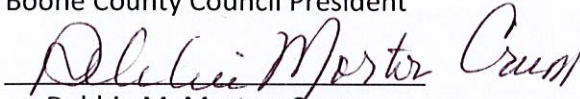


Jennifer Hostetter

Boone County Council President

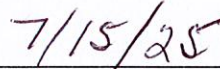


Date



Debbie M. Morton-Crum

Boone County Auditor



Date