

**COUNCIL MINUTES
BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA
April 8th, 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, April 8th, 2025, at 8:30am.

Councilwoman Hostetter called the meeting to order. The 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 February 11th, 2025 council minutes. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the amended February council minutes. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Councilwoman Hostetter asked for a motion to approve the March 11th, 2025 council minutes. Councilwoman Richey wanted to make some amendments to the minutes. The amendments are as follows:
 1. Under "amendment to the agenda" - "imminent" spelled incorrectly changed to "eminent".
 2. Under "public comment" 2nd paragraph - "Notice of fiduciary capacity of as public trustee an agent" changed to "Notice of fiduciary capacity of public trustee as an agent". Also, capitalize "The People" in the same paragraph.
 3. Under "public comment" 3rd paragraph - "she thinks they need to be careful of defamation and do better" changed to "she thinks the entire Council needs to be careful of defamation and/or libel and do better".
 4. Under "public comment" 5th paragraph - "what documents the Council President needing" changed to "needed". Also, in the last sentence - "She is wanting all agenda requests to be given to the Council the Monday a week before the council meeting" changed to "She wants all agenda requests to be given to the Council the Monday, a week prior to the council meeting".
 5. Under "new business" - "comprehensive plan" and "thoroughfare plan" do not need to be capitalized.

Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the March minutes with the revisions. Councilman VanHorn 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 as there have been amendments to it at the State House. The bill has not been passed yet. He also gave an update on the State getting a new public access counselor and wants to discuss rules for the council members attending and speaking at other public meetings. He stated that even if some council members are attending virtually, as soon as one member speaks, that is still considered a meeting because of the electronic meeting statutes. Councilman VanHorn asked about certain rights, Attorney Lee stated that they are governed by certain rules. Also, there is no right for anyone to speak except for the officials holding the meeting. The only time there is a right for someone to speak is when it is a public hearing. He stated the best practice would be, if they attend other meetings, they don't speak. Lastly, he spoke about adding a Council comment section to the agenda to speak about items that aren't on the agenda. His recommendation is to put a limit on the time allowed to speak.

NEW BUSINESS

- Andrea Hatfield and other staff members gave a presentation on the annual report for the Extension Office for 2024. Aliza Myers, a 10-year member of 4-H, gave a presentation on her journey with the program.
- The Council was presented with Resolution 2025-05, a joint resolution, from The Town of Jamestown regarding new legislation within Senate Bill 1 which states that the Boone County Council is not in support of the new bill. Councilman Lamar made a motion to adopt the resolution. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

RE-APPROPRIATIONS

- Commissioner Tim Beyer (via Zoom) presented a re-appropriation from the Human Resources line (6880) to the HR Assistant line (6881) in the amount of \$4,342.76. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the re-appropriation. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- He also presented a re-appropriation from the Legal Services line (0001) to the County Attorney line (6813) in the amount of \$134,616. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the re-appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Lastly, he presented a re-appropriation from the Legal Services line (0001) to the Retirement line (5154) in the amount of \$20,000. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the re-appropriation. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Max Mendenhall, Director of Capital Investments, presented an additional appropriation in the LIT Correctional Facility fund in the Construction line (4710) in the amount of \$108,731.21. Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

- Councilwoman Hostetter presented a salary ordinance amendment to the Council to reflect an increase in pay for the HR Assistant to \$26.27/hour. Councilman VanHorn made a motion to approve the amendment. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Councilwoman Hostetter also presented a salary ordinance amendment to the Council to reflect the new In-house Attorney to reflect an annual salary of \$175,000. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the amendment. Councilman Lamar seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Plunkett gave an update on the APC comprehensive plan. He stated that the APC Board had three consulting companies present their bids for services. They chose to go with HWC at \$275,000 with a not to exceed \$400,000. He stated that they are figuring out the pay schedule as there is only \$100,000 appropriated in 2025. It's possible that they can budget and pay the remaining balance in 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Nick Parr, Director of Highways, wanted to discuss House Bill 1461 which would decrease the amount of available funding for the Community Crossings matching grant program. It would require municipalities to implement a wheel tax to receive the grant funding and make the county responsible for bridges. This bill has not passed yet and he will keep the Council updated.
- Auditor Debbie Crum requested Council President Hostetter, and whoever else from the Council, to attend the entrance conference for the 2024 audit.
- Councilman Williams wanted to note that the Council should be cautious on the upcoming decisions regarding a policy Attorney Lee discussed putting into place on time restrictions for council members when speaking in the meeting. He stated they are all duly elected representatives of people throughout the county and that has never been done before. He finds it worrisome that they are considering time limits and restrictions for elected officials on what they can speak about, and that it is recommended by their legal counsel. He believes they shouldn't entertain a policy as such.
- Councilwoman Richey wanted to give kudos to the new in-house counsel, Beth Copeland, for putting together the remainder of the spreadsheet that she had started back in February to determine if an in-house counsel position would be a more cost-efficient

option versus the previous county attorney on contract. She stated that her decorum and thoroughness in getting the information, in fact, does show a more cost-effective solution. She also wanted to give kudos to the Commissioners for finding her as well.

- Councilman Williams wanted to give kudos to the EMA Department and the Sheriff's Department for their response to severe weather Boone County recently experienced.

ADJOURNMENT

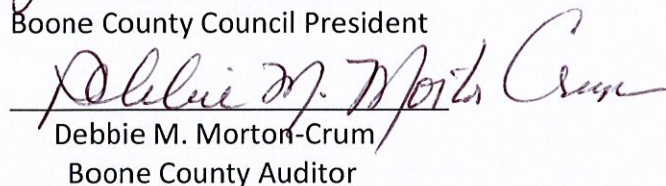
Councilman Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

Minutes prepared by:

Caryn Strode, Deputy Auditor.


Jennifer Hostetter

Boone County Council President


Debbie M. Morton-Crum
Boone County Auditor

4/8/25
Date

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Date