

**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA**  
**July 15th, 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, July 15<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, John Riner, and Aaron Williams (via Zoom).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilwoman Hostetter asked for a motion to approve the June 10th, 2025 minutes. Councilman Plunkett had two amendments to the minutes. The amendments are as follows:

1. Under "Adjournment"- "Councilwoman Plunkett" to "Councilman Plunkett"
2. Under "Council Comments, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point"- add "along with the Council and Commissioners"

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

**LEGAL UPDATE**

Attorney Chou-il Lee spoke about the new law that went into effect in July to live stream and record public meetings, which this council has been doing for a few years, and it is important to stick to the rules of procedures previously adopted. That includes the person who is speaking is the person that is going to be recognized by the Council Chair and to also make sure that anyone in the room or anyone online can tell what is going on and being said during the meeting. Councilwoman Hostetter also added that anyone, even Elected Officials, to hold any comments for the public comment section of the agenda. Attorney Lee also noted that Councilman Williams was now online, which requires him to show on the video and to hear his vote and would require a roll call vote for every item being voted on.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Auditor Crum presented an invoice from Taylor, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter (TMSC) for a signed attorney representation letter from former County Attorney Bob Clutter for the State Board of Accounts audit. He then sent an invoice for \$750, and she is asking for it to be paid from county general. Councilman Riner made a motion to pay the invoice from county general. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done and the vote passed with a vote of 6-1 with Councilman Williams voting nay.
- Attorney Chou-il Lee presented Resolution 2025-01 which is a resolution establishing an investment and depository policy for Boone County. Councilman Lamar made a motion

to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done and the vote passed 7-0.

- Commissioner Scott Pell presented Resolution 2025-02 which is a resolution of the Boone County Council to allow Board of Commissioners to obtain appraisals. He would like to get an appraisal on the bowling alley in front of the Justice Center and possibly purchase it. The county already owns a small piece of the parking lot and would like to possibly purchase and be in control of the whole property since it is in front of the new Justice Center. This resolution is just to allow them to obtain appraisals, not to purchase any property. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done and the vote passed 7-0.
- Jim Caldwell, Advance Fire Department Chief, requested the Council's support for next year's budget due to House Bill 1454 and their ability to allocate funds to volunteer fire departments to ensure the safety of those in the area. It would assist in training, maintaining volunteers, new gear, and maintaining/upkeep of equipment. He is requesting an additional .001%. He stated this request is for Advance, Jamestown, Thorntown, and Kirklin Fire Departments.
- Beth Copeland, County Attorney, presented for Amber Choate, HR, for the NeoGov funding request. She stated that the Commissioner's approved and added two or three new modules on behalf of the county and Sheriff. They also elected to discontinue the Learn module and transition the OSHA training module back into the IPEP system which better fits the county's needs. The Sheriff's Office is also adding background checks to an existing module they already use. She stated that there is already funding for the extra modules in the 2025 budget. She wants the Council to have a meaningful conversation and ensure that they plan to keep utilizing NeoGov and continue to fund it before they renew the contract in August. The first year contract is \$66,710.99. There is no vote required for this item.

### **RE-APPROPRIATIONS**

None.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

None.

### **SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

Councilwoman Hostetter informed the Council that the salary ordinance amendment approved in April for the salary increase for the HR Assistant wasn't noted that it was retroactive back to January 1, 2025 per the payroll change form. It wasn't noted in the motion during the vote in April that it was to be retroactive back to January 1, 2025 and that vote needs to be made today. Councilman Plunkett made a motion to approve. Councilman Lamar seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done and the vote passed 7-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Hostetter stated that after the conclusion of this council meeting, they will start the first budget workshop. She also wanted to remind everyone of the other upcoming budget workshop dates. They are August 12, August 19, August 20, September 9, September 10 (if needed), and October 9. She noted that they are still waiting for an update from Baker Tilly and liaison meetings can start taking place now as Form 1's are due next week.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Prosecutor Kent Eastwood gave public comment on NeoGov. He stated that he is in support of using NeoGov and would like to move forward with it.
- Treasurer Nikki Baldwin gave public comments on the Board of Finance meeting in January in which Bob Clutter was the county attorney at the time. It was discussed in that meeting to revise the investment policy, but since he is no longer with the county, that policy did not get done. She just wanted that to be noted that it was on their agenda and talked about it in January.
- Recorder Debbie Ottinger gave public comments on the public speaking policy that the council has in place. She would like the council to consider adjusting the speaking policy as some people who have direct knowledge of an agenda item should be able to speak during that agenda item and not have to wait until the public comment section to speak on that item as that could be after the council votes on an item potentially. She asked if Attorney Chou-il Lee could make some exceptions on that policy so there is flexibility for someone directly involved to be able to speak while the council is discussing the item.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Riner stated that he agreed with Debbie Ottinger on the speaking policy. If it pertains to that person's office or job, they should be able to speak during the council discussion. Councilwoman Hostetter stated she would discuss this with Attorney Chou-il Lee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Lamar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done and the vote passed 7-0.

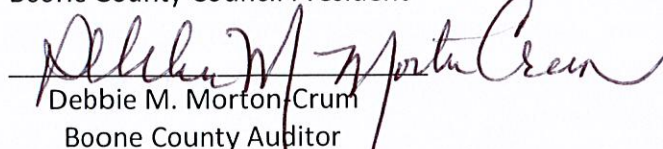
### **Minutes prepared by:**

Caryn Strode, Deputy Auditor.

  
Jennifer Hostetter

Boone County Council President

8/12/2025  
Date

  
Debbie M. Morton-Crum  
Boone County Auditor

8/12/2025  
Date