

**COUNCIL MINUTES
BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA
August 12th, 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, August 12th, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Hostetter asked for a motion to approve the July 15th, 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 spoke about the Notice of Fiduciary Capacity emails that have been received by council members and several others regarding “Power of the People”. He stated that they need to be treated as public records. Although the Council does not have to vote on or act on said emails. He also stated that the quotes of the constitution in the emails are correct saying that “the power is with the people”, meaning that during an election the people selects its representatives, and those representatives are to act in the best interest of the constituents who put them in office and that is where the “power” generates from in the constitution. Councilman Williams asked if they needed to respond to these emails. Attorney Lee stated they can email back that they have received the email as it is just an informational request and there is no mandate for an informational request. If one needs access to records, they will have to do a public records request per state statute.
- Attorney Lee stated that today is the first reading of the ordinance that implements the increase in Innkeeper’s Tax from 5% to 8%. No vote is needed today but will need a vote and a public hearing for the second reading of the ordinance next month.
- Attorney Lee also wanted to clarify a question from the meeting last month regarding the speaking rules for agenda items. When an item is being discussed, he stated that anyone that is directly related to or that has pertinent information regarding the matter at hand, can speak during that agenda item especially when a decision needs to be made. He also stated that the person wanting to come to the podium and speak on a matter needs to be recognized by the Council Chair as someone who would have pertinent information regarding that agenda item. Councilman Williams asked specifically, when the council members were having a discussion in the last meeting on a salary ordinance amendment and was told he couldn’t ask questions about it until the public comment section of the agenda, should he be able to speak during that agenda item. Attorney Lee stated that any council member should be able to ask questions and

have conversations to decide on an agenda item. Attorney Lee stated he would do better on getting up to clarify when someone should or shouldn't be able to speak freely.

NEW BUSINESS

- Beth Copeland, County Attorney, presented Resolution 2025-07 for the Board of Commissioners authorizing petition to establish regional sewer district for Boone County. This is procedural step that must be taken in order to continue with having a regional sewer district. The contract was entered into by the Commissioners and funded by the Council. IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Development) requires a petition from each of the governing bodies just to authorize the filing to take step one of this process. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Richey seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Auditor Crum presented Resolution 2025-03 for the Boone County Council to close certain funds. It is to close a fund (5206) which is the old Siho Insurance fund and hasn't been used since 2017. It has a balance of \$33,483.34 which will then be moved into the commissioners' insurance line in county general. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Councilwoman Hostetter stated that statute changed for the Sheriff's Commissary Report. It now requires the Sheriff to report fund expenditures four times a year (quarterly) to the county fiscal body the month following each quarter. She has put this on the agenda to establish a process for reviewing the report. She and Attorney Lee noted that the council only needs to acknowledge the report following each quarter. The council has acknowledged that they have received and reviewed the report for January-June 2025.

RE-APPROPRIATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

- Amber Choate, HR, presented an additional appropriation in the Commissioners/HRIS line (6846) for \$37,860.99 for the NeoGov contract for the remainder of 2025. Councilwoman Hostetter opened a public hearing for any public comment. Upon hearing none, she closed the public hearing. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Auditor Crum presented an additional appropriation for Superior Court II in the Interpreter line (2134) for \$2,500. Councilwoman Hostetter opened a public hearing for any public comment. Upon hearing none, she closed the public hearing. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.
- Auditor Crum presented an additional appropriation for the Health Department in the HFI fund in the Attorney line (0001) for \$33,000. Discussions were made regarding why the Health Department is using outside attorney services and not using the County

Attorney, Beth Copeland. After hearing from Abby Misner and Vickie Foster with the Health Department, it was noted that they are only using outside attorney services for the remainder of this year and then will begin using the county attorney starting next year. Councilman Williams asked a question to Attorney Lee regarding the Council President not participating in discussion/debate and to only facilitate the meeting. Attorney Lee stated that if the President would like to speak on a matter, they would have to pass the gavel to the Vice President. Councilwoman Hostetter opened a public hearing for any public comment. Jodi Stewart of Lebanon gave public comment in person. Commissioner Tim Beyer gave public comment via Zoom. Councilman Lamar made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Councilman Plunkett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1. Councilman Williams voted nay.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jodi Stewart of Lebanon gave public comment. She wanted to address the Council's Attorney regarding what he told the council earlier that they do not have to respond to notices that the public sends them. Councilwoman Hostetter stated to her that this is for comments only, not questions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

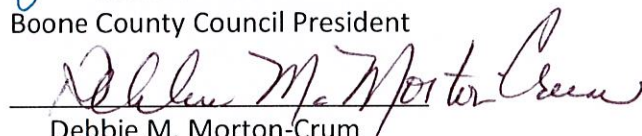
Councilwoman Richey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Lamar seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

Minutes prepared by:

Caryn Strode, Deputy Auditor.


Jennifer Hostetter

Boone County Council President


Debbie M. Morton-Crum
Boone County Auditor

9/9/25
Date

9-9-25
Date