

**COUNCIL MINUTES
BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

Council Member: 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, October 10, 2023, at 8:30am.

Councilwoman President Elise Nieshalla called the meeting to order. Council members in attendance were Kevin VanHorn, Aaron Williams, Jennifer Hostetter, Kenneth Hedge, Shari Richey, and John Riner.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Nieshalla asked for a motion to approve the September 12, 2023 Council minutes. Councilman Hedge made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeremy Burton with Comcast spoke on the rural broadband project to offer services to over 6,000 customers in rural Boone County. He requested a letter of support from the Boone County Council. The Council advised once they see the plans in December that they will consider the letter of support.

Chou-il Lee, the Council attorney, presented Ordinance 2023-02 to approve the transfer of Cares Act funds from Rainy Day back to County General. The ordinance notes that the funds must be appropriated back into the Cares Act fund (8901) from the Rainy Day fund (1186) then can be transferred to the County General Fund. Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

The Council was presented a 3 year excess levy appeal with a max levy of \$778,878. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to pass the max levy. Councilman Williams seconded. The motion carried, 7-0. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to keep the tax rate flat. Councilman Hedge seconded. The motion carried, 7-0. Auditor Crum then filed paperwork with the DLGF and waiting for the final response.

The Council had a letter of engagement from Lewis & Wagner for legal services. Councilman Hedge made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

SALARY AMENDMENT

The Health Department had a salary amendment in the Covid Reimbursement Fund for a total of \$20,000 for the Environmental employees. Councilwoman Richey made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Hostetter seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

IN THE MATTER OF RE-APPROPRIATIONS

SURVEYOR

Carol Cunningham presented a re-appropriation request for:

From:1000.0006.410.411.0.0621	Drain Inspector 2	\$3,000.00
To:1000.0006.410.411.0.0624	OT	\$3,000.00

Councilwoman Hostetter made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Williams seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

AREA PLAN

Stephen Elkins presented a re-appropriation request for:

From:1000.0101.430.431.0.3139	Litigation	\$2,000.00
To:1000.0101.420.421.0.0060	Office Supplies	\$2,000.00

Councilwoman Hostetter made a motion to approve the request. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

CIRCUIT COURT

Judge Schein presented an additional request for:

1000.0232.430.431.0.2132	Pauper Attorney fees	\$100,000.00
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Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

COUNCIL

Auditor Crum presented two additional requests for:

1000.0061.430.431.0.0001	Legal Service	\$40,000.00
1000.0061.430.431.0.0002	Consulting	\$40,000.00

Councilwoman Hostetter made a motion to approve both additional appropriations. Councilwoman Richey seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

ARP appropriation-Charter Communication for \$250,000.00

Councilman Hedge made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilman Williams seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

ARP appropriation-IT/Cyber Security improvements for \$350,000.00

Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilwoman Hedge seconded. Motion carried, 7-0.

ARP appropriation-Grassy Branch for \$1,500,000.00

Councilman Hedge made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilwoman Richey seconded. The motion carried, 7-0.

An update for November ARP appropriations were discussed which only included the Thorntown Library. Commissioners Donnie Lawson said he hasn't heard back from the library about their request of ARP funds for the roof.

Councilwoman Nieshalla announced that the 2024 Budget Workshop will resume after the council meeting for the adoption of the 2024 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Recorder Debbie Ottinger let the council know she may hire two part-time employees for her office which will be paid out of her Recorder's Perpetuation fund.

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

Minutes Prepared by Caryn Strobe, Deputy Auditor.

Elise Nieshalla
Boone County Council President

Date

Debbie M. Morton-Crum
Boone County Auditor

Date