

REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY INDIANA
JUNE 28, 2021 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Huntington County Council met in regular session on the 28th day of June 2021, in the G.A.R. Room, at the Huntington County Courthouse, Huntington, Indiana, at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of considering all business brought before it pursuant to notice given to the Huntington Herald Press on June 16, 2021.

Council Members present: Kendall Mickley, Terry Miller, Keith Eller, Phil Hibbert, Peyton Pike, Shane Bickel and Kittie Keiffer were present.

Terry Miller opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1: Phil Hibbert made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2021, council meeting. Keith Eller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 2: Doyle Krieg, Council's appointee to the Alcoholic Beverage Board, gave an update on how this committee is doing.

ITEM 3: Council President Kendall Mickley stated that the United Way provided an update letter amending the way their donation can be used.

ITEM 4: Mark Wickersham, Secretary to the County Council's Tax Abatement Advisory Board, presented 9 sets of CF-1 forms that reflect a combined capital investment of \$26,156,770.00 by the 5 companies who submitted the documentation. The Committee met on June 23, 2021, to review the forms received. All of the CF-1's were specifically reviewed by the committee, and the committee unanimously recommended approval by County Council of all the forms as presented.

DOC'S CRAIN & RIGGING	RES # 2019-07-31-2 PP	PERSONAL PROPERTY
GLADIEUX ENERGY LLC	RES # 2015-11-23-1 PP CC	PERSONAL PROPERTY
GLADIEUX ENERGY LLC	RES # 2014-07-28-RF	REAL PROPERTY
GLADIEUX ENERGY LLC	RES # 2013-06-25	PERSONAL PROPERTY
GLADIEUX ENERGY LLC	RES # 2011-08-22-1-CC	REAL PROPERTY
HEARTLAND REMC	RES # 2019-07-31-1 PP	UTILITY (UD) -5
INTRI-CUT TOOL CO LLC	RES # 2018-12-17-NC	PERSONAL PROPERTY
INTRI-CUT TOOL CO LLC	RES # 2015-06-22A	PERSONAL PROPERTY
MITCHELL S. MOUNSEY	RES # 2013-05-20-1	REAL PROPERTY

Terry Miller made a motion to approve all 9 abatements. Shane Bickel seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 5: Leslie Rentschler's items were moved down on the agenda as she was at another meeting, and advised Council that she may be late.

ITEM 6: Davin Smith, Circuit Court Judge, presented for Jenny Newton, Superior Court Judge. Davin requested an appropriation of \$10,000.00 in Fund 9669 - 2021 Problem Solving Court Grant in the 9669.11111.000.0000 Coordinator line. Terry Miller made the motion to approve this request. Shane Bickel seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Kendall suggested that Judge Smith proceed with ITEM 9 on the Agenda since he was already at the podium. Judge Smith requested a transfer of \$2,000.00 for the Circuit Court budget. This included a \$1,000.00 transfer from 1000.31800.000.0232 Interpreter and \$1,000.00 from 1000.36200.000.0232 Service Contracts, to be transferred into 1000.31502.000.0232 Psychiatric & Physicians. Terry Miller made the motion to approve this request. Kittie Keiffer seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Judge Smith also requested an additional appropriation of \$6,110.00 for 1000.31501.000.0232 Psychiatric & Physicians. Keith Eller made a motion for this request. Kittie Keiffer seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 7: Sheriff Chris Newton requested a transfer of \$10,000.00 from 1000.36100.000.0005 Equip/Vehicle repair to 1000.21402.000.0005 Garage/Tire supplies. Phil Hibbert made the motion to approve this request. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 8: Dispatch Director Tim Allen requested a transfer of \$8,000.00 from PSAP Fund line 4020.11625.000.0000 Dispatcher to 4020.12000.000.0000 Overtime. Terry Miller made the motion to approve this transfer. Kittie Keiffer seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 9: Presented earlier.

ITEM 10: Ed Farris, County Extension Educator, gave an update on the outcomes for the year, so far. After the COVID-related changes, they are getting back to normal with activities. Helping Hands Community Garden, 4-H, and Master Gardner Program handouts were provided for some of the different program. Dan Blocker also gave update for the upcoming 4-H.

ITEM 5: Leslie Rentschler entered the meeting so Council went back to ITEM 5. Leslie requested an appropriation of \$34,000.00 for the Project Income fund line 1122.44110.000.9609 Misc. Equipment to purchase new cubicles for staff members. Kittie Keiffer made the motion to approve this request. Phil Hibbert seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Leslie also requested an appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,375.00 for the Project Income line 1122.44110.000.9609 – Misc. Equipment. Shane Bickel made a motion to approve this request. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Leslie also stated that she met with her advisory board to discuss having an assistant director designated on staff who can make decisions when she is not available. Leslie also met with the job class committee and presented a job description for this position. The Training Coordinator she currently has on staff would like to serve in this new role. The additional stipend is \$13,100.00 and this will come out of the 1122 Project Income Fund.

Kittie Keiffer made a motion to open the salary ordinance. Keith Eller seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The total salary requested for the existing position/and new role, Assistant Director/Training Coordinator is \$50,000.00. Phil Hibbert made a motion to add this new line item, the stipend portion 13,100.00 will come out of 1122.11005.000.9609 Assistant Director and the balance \$36,900.00 will remain in the 9317.11315.000.0000 Training. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 11: Commissioner President Tom Wall requested a transfer of \$20,000.00 from line 1000.38540.000.0068 Care In-State to line 1000.36200.000.0068 Misc. Contractual. Terry Miller made a motion to approve this request. Keith Eller seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 12: Commissioner Wall gave an update on Victory Noll/O'Donnell Center. He stated that Parkview signed a contract for \$73,965.00 per year for their Lease at the facility. The County received approval to move in, with some changes to be made, including fencing, tree trimming and such. Bishop ^{Rhoades} Rose will be present on July 13th to bless the new facility.

ITEM 13: Council member, Phil Hibbert, left the room prior to Commissioner Tom Wall speaking about plans to restructure the maintenance positions for the County.

Tom explained that Victory Noll currently has a facility manager and the Commissioners feel that we need a Facility Manager out there as well, and that Phil Hibbert is the best person for that position. They do not feel that Greg Ricker, the current Facility Manager for the County is able to cover his current responsibilities and also the newly acquired O'Donnell Center.

After looking at the responsibilities of the position, the Commissioners presented a plan to Job Classification to give Greg an increase, and add an additional Facility Manager. In order to do this, Tom explained that the Commissioners took the vacant part-time position away from the DCD, which would help fund the new position.

Tom explained that by adding another facility manager for the County, they could cover Victory Noll/O'Donnell Center and also mirror what Greg Ricker is doing, be trained in what Greg is doing, and also do building inspections. Tom indicated that when Greg retires in a couple years, someone will be able to serve as a facility manager for both facilities and all of the county's buildings. The person that is hired will also be trained so that they can be involved with the Heating & Cooling systems that we already have in place.

To accomplish this, the Commissioners want to raise Greg Ricker's salary and hire Phil Hibbert to fill the second Facility Manager position.

Commissioner Wall explained that he has discussed with multiple people including Rick Hall (legal counsel for the State of Indiana Commissioner's Association), David Bottoroff (the Executive Director for the Association of Indiana Counties), and also Bob Garrett (County Attorney), whether there is any conflict of interest if Phil is a County Employee and a Council member. Tom indicated that he received confirmation that Phil can retain his position as a council member and also work for Huntington County as an employee without a Conflict of Interest occurring.

The Commissioners have budgeted for these two (2) positions in 2022. For the remainder of 2021, they plan to do some transfers to use the remaining money that was budgeted for the Maintenance Supervisor Pay, Maintenance Summer Help account line, and the Overtime Maintenance account line, as well as the remaining money from DCD's part-time account line. The Commissioners will come back to Council next month to request these transfers.

Tom also mentioned that the directives for the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) is constantly changing. He also informed Council that on August 31st, they will submit a report showing that nothing has been spent from the fund. They do plan to use some of the money to pay for cleaning for the next 2 years, and other items including paying benefits for other departments.

Tom stated that Huntington County will receive \$7,093,582 for ARP.

Terry Miller expressed concerns about the potential conflict of interest for Phil Hibbert to be hired for the Facility Manager position and remain as a member of the Council. Tom suggested that Phil would need to not vote on any matter involving Victory Noll or his wages. He also indicated that he was requesting the additional position to be approved by Council, and that it would be up to Phil to decide if he wanted to remain on County Council.

Shane Bickel made the motion to change the Maintenance Facility Manager salary to \$57,000.00 per year and to add an additional Maintenance Facility Manager. Keith Eller seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Phil Hibbert abstained.

Phil Hibbert re-entered the room.

ITEM 14: NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Tom advised council that Dr. Pflieger needs some help at the Health Department. He indicated that it was brought up at the Job Class Committee earlier in the day, and they were willing to provide a favorable recommendation to combine two (2) part-time positions into a full-time position. The Commissioners agreed to pay for the benefits for the position with ARP Funds for 3 ½ years. The max rate of pay for the new position is \$19.93 per hour.

Shane Bickel made a motion to create a full time position (Medical Assistant/Bioterrorism Grant Coordinator) to be paid out of the 9118 Bio Terrorism fund & the Health Dept 1159 Fund's Part-time line. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Kittie Keiffer requested an opportunity to comment and she clarified that she does not have an objection to the additional position of Facility Manager, nor does she have an objection to who the Commissioners feel is the best person for the job. She expressed concerns about a potential conflict of interest for Phil Hibbert to become a County Employee and remain on County Council. Kittie stated that she understood that the information that Tom received regarding this situation indicated there was no conflict; however, the information that she reviewed indicated that it would be a conflict. She believes it is ultimately up to Phil to decide whether he accepts the position of Facility Manager, and she feels that he would be the best person for the position, but she is uncomfortable with the possible perception to the public that could result.

Terry Miller initiated further discussion about the Public Health Administrator position for the Health Department and he believes the position is needed. Tom commented on the potential to use money from the ARP for the next 3 years. Kendall Mickey commented that there was a Director in that department and a decision was made several years ago to dissolve the position, and that he believed it was a poor decision at the time.

Terry Miller made a motion to close the salary ordinance. Keith Eller seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wall commented that they could find the money out of the American Rescue Plan to pay for the Public Health Administrator position. Council members commented that he should bring it up at a future meeting.

Kittie Keiffer asked Commissioner Wall about possibly creating a Community Committee for the American Rescue Plan. She indicated that a handout she received during a recent County Council conference, suggested that counties form a committee to discuss how the funds could benefit the County. Tom was not in favor of doing this, as the Commissioners have plans on spending the money for specific needs at Victory Noll, sewer needs, and also a 4% recovery of revenue losses to County General. He believes that there is other money available for businesses that need assistance.

ITEM 15: COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Kittie Keiffer- Discussed during meeting.

SOLID WASTE: Phil Hibbert – New Truck Ordered

3A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Phil Hibbert – There was a Zoom meeting, but Phil could not get connected.

JOB CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: Kittie Keiffer, and Keith Eller – Discussed in meeting

LOCAL ANTI-DRUG COALITION EFFORT (L.A.C.E) / EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM: Shane Bickel – N/A

LIME CITY DEVELOPMENT: Terry Miller- N/A

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Keith Eller – N/A

PLAN COMMISSION: Terry Miller –Development Plan Solar Energy possibly in Jackson Township

C.E.D.I.T ADVISORY: Peyton Pike – Changed to Peyton, Kendall did not attend

HCUED: Kendall Mickley – \$25 MILLION done in private investment this year which added 175 jobs impacted

TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW: Kittie Keiffer – No meeting

WHARRM: Phil Hibbert –Hand out supplies

COMMISSIONERS HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Kendall Mickley – No meeting

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Phil Hibbert – N/A

HCPSD COMMITTEE: Ron Kline –Discussion with Tim Allen

INTERNAL CONTROLS COMMITTEE: Kittie Keiffer – No meeting

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: Terry Miller & Kittie Keiffer – An appraisal was done on Norwood; Junction 9 will receive help with cleanup; combo of sewer district ongoing

ITEM 16: ADJOURNMENT – Keith Eller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil Hibbert seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ADOPTED THIS 26th, DAY OF JULY 2021

ATTEST: Jill M. Landrum
JILL M. LANDRUM, AUDITOR

T. Miller
TERRY MILLER

Absent
SHANE BICKEL

Resigned 07.13.2021
PHIL HIBBERT

Kendall Mickley
KENDALL MICKLEY

Peyton Pike
PEYTON PIKE

Kittie Keiffer
KITTE KEIFFER

Absent
KEITH ELLER