

**HENDRICKS COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Hendricks County Council was called to order by President Eric Wathen on Tuesday March 19, 2024 with the following in attendance: Councilmen Caleb Brown, David Cox, Larry Hesson, Larry Scott, Eric Wathen, Brad Whicker, David Wyeth, and Auditor Nancy Marsh. Legal Counsel Rhonda Cook was out of the country and not in attendance. Councilman Brad Whicker led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved by Brad Whicker and seconded by David Wyeth to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024 meeting as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was heard.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE MOU FOR COMPENSATION FOR  
HENDRICKS COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS**

Probation Director Chad Boruff and Court Administrator Catherine Haines were present to address the Council questions regarding number 9 on the *Memorandum of Understanding for Compensation for Hendricks County Probation Officers* which was tabled at the February 19, 2024 meeting. Councilman Caleb Brown reported he had spoken to Court Administrator Catherine Haines and had received clarification that the Judges had requested the Probation Officers be awarded the Judicial Conference COLA rather than the Hendricks County Council awarded COLA. Auditor Nancy Marsh stated she appreciated the written guidance as the subject was debated each year during the budget preparation. It was moved by Caleb Brown and seconded by Brad Whicker to approve the *Memorandum of Understanding for Compensation for Hendricks County Probation Officers* as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR REAL PROPERTY ABATEMENT  
FROM SCP MONROVIA, LLC. AND DESIGNATING RESOLUTION 2024-11**

Joe Jasin, Project Manager and Brian Bilger, Executive Director, of the Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership presented a request for a 10 year real property tax abatement which included the *Application for Designation of Economic Revitalization Area* and the *SB-1/Real Property, and A Resolution Designating Economic Revitalization Area and Qualifying Certain Property and Improvements for Tax Abatement for SCP Monrovia Investors, LLC*. Upon advice from the Council's legal counsel, Rhonda Cook, the phrase "the Tax Abatement Committee and" was removed and the phrase "substantially complies" was added to Section 3.

Councilman Larry Hesson recommended the language be changed in Section 2 from "all eligible real property" to "all eligible real improvements". Councilman David Cox noted that the SB-1 and the Application did not contain signatures. Brian Bilger stated that the applicant had been hospitalized

and the Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership would obtain the required signatures.

Mr. Bilger stated that they were working on a Tax Abatement Report, to be used by all Hendricks County units granting abatements, that would give some uniformity to the presentation of the required information.

It was moved by Brad Whicker and seconded by Caleb Brown to approve Resolution 2024-11, as amended, *A Resolution Designating Economic Revitalization Area and Qualifying Certain Real Property and Improvements for Tax Abatement*, as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

Hendricks County Engineer, John Ayers, presented an *Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Morgan County, Indiana and Hendricks County, Indiana* for the Council's review and approval. Mr. Ayers stated the agreement had been reviewed and approved by the Hendricks County Board of Commissioners on March 12, 2024. It was moved by Brad Whicker and seconded by Larry Scott to approve the *Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Morgan County, Indiana and Hendricks County, Indiana* as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

The Public Hearing was opened by President Eric Wathen. Hearing no comments from the public, the Public Hearing was closed.

Engineer John Ayers briefly explained the dire condition of the culvert and the emergency funding request for Culvert CE 061. It was moved by Larry Hesson and seconded by David Cox to approve Emergency additional apportionments 1 through 5 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION**

Whereas, certain extraordinary emergencies have developed since the adoption of the existing budget, so that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; therefore, to meet such extraordinary emergencies;

Be it resolved by the County Council of Hendricks County, Indiana, that for the expense of said County the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds as herein and for the purpose herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	APPROVED
1	Bridge/Highway	1135.45590.000.0201	Emergency Culvert CE061	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
2	Health	1159.20212.000.0214	Education Supplies	\$4,600.00	\$4,600.00
3	Public Defender	1200.30410.000.0166	Capital Defense	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
4	Westpoint TIF	4402.30200.000.0102	Attorney Fees	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
5	Westpoint TIF	4402.30201.000.0102	Financial Consultant Fees	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

**AYE**

**NAY**

/s/ Caleb Brown  
/s/ David Cox  
/s/ Larry R. Hesson  
/s/ Larry R. Scott  
/s/ Eric Wathen  
/s/ Brad Whicker  
/s/ David Wyeth

ATTEST: /s/ Nancy L. Marsh

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REALLOCATION OF FUNDS**

It was moved by Larry Scott and seconded by David Wyeth to approve the Reallocation of Funds numbers 1 and 6 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**REALLOCATION OF FUNDS RESOLUTION**

Be it resolved by the County Council of Hendricks County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the unit of Government of Hendricks County, the following sums of money previously appropriated for expenditures from a detailed account within a major classification, are hereby reallocated to another detailed account within a different classification as originally appropriated, all as herein specified.

	DEPARTMENT	FROM	TO	AMOUNT	Y/N
1.	Clerk Perpetuation	1119.36600.000.0101	1119.20100.000.0101	\$2,000.00	Y
2.	Health 93.268 Grant	8131.18690.000.0214	8131.18633.000.0214	\$2,070.00	Y
3.	Health 93.268 Grant	8131.18690.000.0214	8131.20211.000.0214	\$2,520.00	Y
4.	Health 93.268 Grant	8131.31900.000.0214	8131.20211.000.0214	\$8,430.00	Y
5.	Health 93.268 Grant	8131.33000.000.0214	8131.20211.000.0214	\$1,250.00	Y
6.	Health 93.268 Grant	8131.39900.000.0214	8131.20211.000.0214	\$1,800.00	Y

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

**AYE**

**NAY**

/s/ Caleb Brown  
/s/ David Cox  
/s/ Larry R. Hesson  
/s/ Larry R. Scott  
/s/ Eric Wathen  
/s/ Brad Whicker  
/s/ David Wyeth

ATTEST: /s/ Nancy L. Marsh

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE STATUS OF FUNDS**

The Status of Funds was reviewed and noted that the reported funds have strong balances.

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA) FOR COBRA ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES**

Council President Eric Wathen stated he had received a call from Jasmine Chong, Senior Account Executive with Apex Benefits, notifying the County that Nyhart will no longer manage the COBRA FSA Accounts effective May 1, 2024. Mr. Wathen stated that it is rare for an employee to seek COBRA coverage with a Flexible Spending Account. Mr. Wathen stated that UMR had quoted a price to manage the COBRA FSA accounts of five cents (.05) per employee, per month. It was moved by David Wyeth and seconded by David Cox to recommend UMR replace Nyhart to provide COBRA FSA management to the Hendricks County Commissioners. Motion carried 7-0.

### **IN THE MATTER OF 2025 WAGES**

Auditor Nancy Marsh stated that since county budgeting is an 18 month process, it would be extremely helpful to have the percentage of increases established prior to May, when the departments receive their 2025 budget instructions. Conservation was held about the method of distribution. Mr. Wathen reported the Midwest CPI rate on December 31, 2023 was 3.2%. Discussion was held on whether to calculate 3.2% as a COLA and a 1.3% as a Performance pool separately. It was the consensus to calculate the total percentage of 4.5% at this time with a final decision made at the April 16, 2024 meeting.

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE WORKSHOPS DATES FOR THE 2025 BUDGET**

Auditor Nancy Marsh distributed a 2025 budget workshop calendar for the Council's review and approval. Hearing no objection to the calendar, it was the consensus to set the budget workshops on August 6, 7, & 8, 2024.

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|------------------------------------|--|
| ➤ April 16, 2024                   | Regular April Council Meeting - Decides Percentage(s) and Method |
| ➤ May 20-24, 2024                  | Auditor Sends out Memo with the 2025 Budget Instructions         |
| ➤ June 28, 2024                    | Deadline to Return Budget(s) to Auditor                          |
| ➤ July 16, 2024                    | Regular July Council Meeting                                     |
| ➤ <b>August 6, 7 &amp; 8, 2024</b> | <b>Budget Workshops 9:00 to 3:00</b>                             |
| ➤ August 20, 2024                  | Regular August Council Meeting                                   |
| ➤ September 17, 2024               | Regular September Council Meeting – Budget Public Hearing        |
| ➤ October 15, 2024                 | Regular October Council Meeting – Budget Adoption                |
| ➤ November 1, 2024                 | Deadline to Submit Adopted Budget in Gateway                     |

### **COUNTY COMMENTS**

The Council acknowledged receipt and review of the Coroner's Annual Report.

Councilmen David Wyeth, Larry Scott and Larry Hesson reported on the Hendricks County Bicentennial Kick Off even held on March 14, 2024 at the Lizton Lodge, Mr. Scott stated the Committee has multiple different events planned and encouraged people go to the website of [Hendricks200.com](https://Hendricks200.com) for more information. Mr. Hesson stated the Lizton Lodge is an excellent facility.

Councilman Larry Hesson stated the West Central District of the Association of Indiana Counties is tonight, March 19, 2024 at the Walden Inn in Greencastle, Indiana.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion made by David Wyeth and seconded by Larry Scott, the meeting was adjourned Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

**HENDRICKS COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
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Caleb Brown  
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David Cox

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Larry R. Hesson

  
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Larry R. Scott  
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Eric Wathen  
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Brad Whicker  
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David Wyeth

ATTEST:

  
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Nancy L. Marsh, Hendricks County Auditor