

HENDRICKS COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 3, 2023

The regular meeting of the Hendricks County Council was called to order by President Eric Wathen on Tuesday October 3, 2023 with the following in attendance: Councilmen Caleb Brown, David Cox, Larry Hesson, Larry Scott, Eric Wathen, David Wyeth, Brad Whicker, Auditor Nancy Marsh, Financial Administrator Tami Mitchell, and Legal Counsel Rhonda Cook. Councilman Brad Whicker led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE AUGUST 1, 8, 9, & 29, 2023 BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

It was moved by David Wyeth and seconded by Caleb Brown to approve the minutes of the August 1, 8, 9, & 29, 2023 Budget Workshops as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by David Cox and seconded by Larry Hesson to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

IN THE MATTER OF THE
2023 HENDRICKS COUNTY RECYCLING DISTRICT BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The duly advertised 2024 Hendricks County Recycling District budget was presented by Hendricks County Recycling District Executive Director, Lenn Detwiler. The Public Hearing was opened by President Eric Wathen. Hearing no comments or objections from the assembly, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Detwiler reported that the Hendricks County Recycling District has been very busy this year moving to a new location and offering other recycling opportunities throughout the year. Mr. Detwiler stated the Hendricks County Regional Sewer Board will be considering an increase to the tipping fee. Mr. Detwiler stated 75% of the waste comes from out of the county. Councilman Caleb Brown, who serves on the Board along with Councilman Eric Wathen, stated that he hoped that some sort of mechanism could be put in place where the tipping fee could be reviewed on a regular basis. Mr. Detwiler stated that the County's fee, unchanged since 1992, adjusted for inflation, is \$2.17.

Auditor Marsh stated the adoption is scheduled for a special meeting on Tuesday October 17, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2023 HENDRICKS COUNTY BUDGET

The duly advertised 2024 Hendricks County Budget was presented by Auditor Nancy Marsh. The Public Hearing was opened by President Eric Wathen. Hearing no objections, the Public Hearing

was closed. Auditor Marsh stated the adoption is scheduled for a special meeting on Tuesday October 17, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2024 HENDRICKS COUNTY EXCESS LEVY APPEAL PETITION

Following up on a motion made at the July 5, 2023 regular meeting to proceed with the Excess Levy Appeal, Auditor Nancy Marsh presented the Excess Levy Appeal Petition for the Council's review and adoption. Auditor Marsh stated the County is eligible for an approximate levy increase of \$1,500,000 which, due to Hendricks County's strong assessed value, would result in a .0001 tax rate. It was moved by Larry Hesson and seconded by Larry Scott to approve the Excess Levy Appeal Petition and authorize the Auditor to Certify the Petition. Motion carried 7-0.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-30 AN ORDINANCE OF THE HENDRICKS COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF THE HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX INCREMENT REVENUE BONDS (WESTPOINT PROJECT), AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF TO RAINDROP, LLC, OR AN AFFILIATE THEREOF, AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING OTHER ACTIONS IN RESPECT THERETO

Barnes & Thornburg Bond Attorney, Adam Steuerwald, presented Ordinance 2023-30 *An Ordinance of the Hendricks County Council Authorizing the Issuance of the Hendricks County, Indiana, Economic Development Tax Increment Revenue Bonds (Westpoint Project), and the Provisions of the Proceeds Thereof to Raindrop, LLC, or an Affiliate Thereof, and Authorizing and Approving Other Actions in respect Thereto* for the Council's review. Mr. Steuerwald stated the project is complex and there will be a series of meetings and documents necessary to complete the Westpoint Project. Mr. Steuerwald stated that the new TIF District provides for a 50/50 pledge and a \$600,000 contribution to Liberty Township for fire apparatus and \$600,000 contribution to Morgan County EMS. It was moved by Brad Whicker and seconded by David Cox to introduce Ordinance 2023-30. Motion carried 7-0.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RECORDER'S REQUEST FOR GRADE CHANGE

Human Resources Administrator Erin Hughes presented the findings of First Person regarding the benchmarking of Deputy Recording Clerks as follows:

Grade 24 – With a midpoint of \$39,504, falls 1.62% above that midpoint; or
Grade 25 – With a midpoint of \$47,972, falls 4.53 below midpoint.

It was moved by David Cox and seconded by Larry Scott to approve the Grade of 25 beginning with the first pay in 2024. Motion carried 7-0.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY ADDITIONAL & REDUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

Council President Eric Wathen opened and closed the public hearing with no comments being heard from the assembly. Mr. Wathen introduced the Coroner's requests. Dan Chubb, Chief Deputy Coroner, stated that there had been a 33% increase in services in all types of deaths. It was moved by David Cox and seconded by Larry Hesson to approve #1 and #2 as requested. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Wathen introduced the Prosecutor's Stop Grant requests. Prosecutor Loren Delp explained #3 was a shortfall to the 2023 budget due to the wage changes and #4 was for the new grant for the 2024 budget. Financial Administrator Tami Mitchell stated the Stop Grant is a 2 year grant running from October 1 to September 30. It was moved by David Wyeth and seconded by Caleb Brown to approve #3 and number 4 as requested.

Court Administrator Catherine Haines withdrew #5 for the YAP Early Intervention Advocate for action at a later date. It was moved by Brad Whicker and seconded by Caleb Brown to table # 5 as requested.

Mr. Wathen introduced Facility requests #6, #7 & #8. Facilities Director Kevin Cavanaugh presented his request for additional funding for the Work Release Expansion. Discussion was held about the increased funding request and different options were discussed. Ultimately, it was the consensus of the Council that the expansion of the temporary long term structure would be the best and quickest solution. Community Corrections Director, Bridgette Collins-George stated that the need was immediate, and the Work Release is not suited for her needs because there is not an infirmary or panic rooms. Mr. Cavanaugh stated the building could be repurposed. Eric Weflen, with RQAW stated it will be a semi-permanent structure and it will look and feel like a permanent structure.

It was moved by Larry Hesson and seconded by Brad Whicker to approve #6 as presented. Motion carried 5-2 (LS/DW).

Facilities Director Kevin Cavanaugh presented #7 request for Professional Fees for architectural plans for the new Coroner's Offices, Multipurpose Building, and Animal Shelter Storage Building. It was moved by David Cox and seconded by Brad Whicker to approve #7 as requested from the GO Bond Proceeds Fund 4613. Motion carried 7-0.

Facilities Director Kevin Cavanaugh presented #8 for construction of the new Coroner's Office. Mr. Cavanaugh explained that the construction had not been funded. It was moved by Caleb Brown and seconded by David Cox to approve #8 as requested from the GO Bond Proceeds Fund 4613. Motion carried 7-0.

Council President Eric Wathen presented #9 for Work Release Project Income and #10 for Probation Home Detention. It was moved by David Wyeth and seconded by Larry Hesson to approve #9 and #10 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Auditor Nancy Marsh presented an Appropriation Reduction in the amount of \$7,000,000 in the 2023 Major Bridge Fund. Auditor Marsh stated that in calculating the 18 month budget, the 2023 appropriation needed to be reduced in order to fund the larger 2024 budget appropriation in Major Bridge. It was moved by Larry Scott and seconded by Larry Hesson to approve the #11 reduction in the amount of \$7,000,000. 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	Coroner	1001.10702.000.0107	Deputy Coroners	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
2	Coroner	1001.33800.000.0107	Autopsy & Lab Fees	\$95,000.00	\$95,000.00
3	Prosecutor Stop Grant	1001.10802.000.0108	Deputy Prosecutor	\$2,050.00	\$2,050.00
4	Prosecutor Stop Grant	8102.10802.000.0108	Deputy Prosecutor	\$52,551.43	\$52,551.43
5	Court Administration	1001.15311.000.0153	Early Intervention Advocate	\$9,029.00	Tabled

6	Facilities	1233.46601.000.0136	Work Release Expansion	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
7	Facilities	4613.30201.000.0136	Professional Fees Coroner's Office	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00
8	Facilities	4613.38502.000.0136	Construction Coroner's Office	\$710,000.00	\$710,000.00
9	Work Release P I	4909.32123.000.0154	Services & Charges	\$20,000.000	\$20,000.000
10	Probation Home Detention	4922.31900.000.0151	Contract Services	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
11	Major Bridge (Reduction)	1171.45369.000.0201	Bridge 290 Dan Jones	(\$7,000,000.00)	(\$7,000,000.00)

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2023.

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

/s/ Larry Scott #6

/s/ David Wyeth #6

ATTEST: /s/ Nancy L. Marsh

IN THE MATTER OF REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Court Administrator Catherine Haines withdrew reallocation numbers 2, 3, & 4 until a later date. It was moved by Caleb Brown and seconded by David Cox to table Reallocation of Funds #2, #3, & #4 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

It was moved by Brad Whicker and seconded by Caleb Brown to approve #1, #5, #6, and #7 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.	Sheriff	1001.10517.000.0105	1001.10543.000.0105	\$29,137.05	Y
2.	Court Adm YAP	1001.32525.0153.0160	1001.15311.0153.0160	\$5,000.00	Table
3.	Court Adm YAP	1001.34500.0153.0160	1001.15311.0153.0160	\$1,287.00	Table
4.	Court Adm YAP	1001.37315.0153.0160	1001.15311.0153.0160	\$2,742.00	Table
5.	Work Release Grant	1122.15424.000.0154	1122.15499.000.0154	\$8,509.19	Y
6.	ARPA Healthy Families	8950.18708.000.0214	8950.18701.000.0214	\$44,442.00	Y
7.	Planning & Building	1001.13108.000.0131	1001.30800.000.0131	\$54,914.00	Y

Approved this 3rd day of October, 2023.

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 COUNTY'S PROPORTIONAL
SHARE OF THE PLAINFIELD YAP FUNDING**

Council President Eric Wathen stated Auditor Nancy Marsh had brought to his attention a problem with the YAP Funding for 2024.

It was stated that the original agreement was for the Town of Plainfield, Plainfield Schools, and the County to share in the funding of the new Plainfield YAP Program. Upon completion of Plainfield Schools commitment, they no longer participate in funding the program. The amount of contribution from the Town of Plainfield is not yet known but based on the budget presented, the total budget will be \$293,943 for 2024. Auditor Marsh stated that there is no funding source for the wages of the 3 employees currently in 9128 YAP Grant Fund.

Recognizing the Council will honor their 2024 budget commitment, it was moved by Brad Whicker and seconded by Caleb Brown to move the three employees from 9128 to General Fund for the 2024 Budget year and that the partners, current and future, supporting, participating, and benefiting in the Youth Assistance Program develop a collaborative effort to fund the Youth Assistance Program as it grows throughout the county, Motion carried 7-0.

• YAP Director	1001.15310.00153.0160	\$81,615
• Early Intervention Advocate	1001.15311.00153.0160	\$53,664
• Early Intervention Advocate	1001.15312.00153.0160	\$53,664

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY GARAGE PROJECT

County Engineer John Ayers, County Facilities Director Kevin Cavanaugh, and County Highway Superintendent Curt Higginbotham asked for the Council's guidance about the future project. Mr. Ayers stated he did not believe it is advisable to have a split operation and did not recommend doing anything at the new site at this time.

Mr. Ayers stated that after the first phase of the construction, an additional 14 million would be required to complete the project.

Councilman Whicker asked Mr. Cavanaugh if they had looked at remodeling the existing location. Mr. Cavanaugh stated he did not have that data available. Mr. Cavanaugh stated there is not as much usable land space at the current site and stated the new site will be needed to store products during the

reconfiguration and remodeling of the current facility. Mr. Cavanaugh stated the removal of the existing fuel station would be required to increase the development area. Councilman Hesson stated he didn't believe there was any advantage to 2 phases and recommended holding off until a better way was developed.

Mr. Ayers stated that it is not an extravagant design and the involved department heads are comfortable with what they have been given.

Mr. Whicker stated that the decision rests with the Board of Commissioners and the funding is under the Council's purview.

Commissioner Dennis Daws stated the Board of Commissioners had recommended the purchase of the land to move the whole Highway operation to the site. Mr. Dawes stated he trusted the leadership of the departments connected to the project and his recommendation was to move the whole operation to the new site.

Mr. Scott stated his position was that the new site be used but not done in phases. Mr. Scott stated, from past experience, \$32,000,000 is out of site and there are alternatives that will last and still provide the function.

Mr. Higginbotham stated that a Taj Mahal has not been designed and a facility like White County would be nice, and prices are not going to get any cheaper.

Mr. Cox had provided the Council with a Meeting Notes with FBi Buildings, Inc. regarding their White County Highway Department built in 2019 at the cost of \$15,000,000 and the Whitestown project in the fall of 2023 at a projected cost of less than \$11,000,000.

Mr. Brown stated the County needs to build an adequate facility to last 20-30 years and due to the rising costs and inflation, it is irrelevant to compare a 2019 project to today.

Mr. Cox stated he agrees with Commissioner Dawes about proceeding with the new facility at the new location and he recommended DLZ and FBi, Inc. (or similar type) get together and work out a way to bring the price down.

Mr. Ayers stated he is getting conflicting opinions. Mr. Wyeth stated that it was determined to be at the new site back in March. Mr. Wyeth stated there is a way to do it and that needs to be figured out. Mr. Wyeth recommended the administrative offices be away from the main building due to noise. Mr. Ayers stated that is why the truck storage is designed to be separate.

Recognizing that the funding is under the Council's purview, Council President Eric Wathen asked if anyone on the Council had the desire to go above the approximately \$18,000,000 necessary to stay under the County's referendum threshold. No Council member responded affirmatively that they had an appetite to go above \$18,000,000.

Commissioner Dawes stated the Board of Commissioners was meeting with the Hospital Board and gauge their desire to purchase the property or if they would entertain selling the small piece of property adjacent to the current site if it was ultimately decided to use the current location.

Mr. Higginbotham stated the last appraisal was around \$2,000,000 and since there is so much unusable land, he did not think it would be much higher. Mr. Cavanaugh asked that, if sold, would be proceeds be additional

dollars for the project. It was the consensus of the Council that the proceeds from the sale of the property would not be added to the project.

OTHER COUNCIL COMMENTS

The September Status of Funds was distributed to the Council.

Auditor Nancy Marsh stated the 2024 Hendricks County Recycling Budget, and the 2024 Hendricks County Budget Adoption Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Councilman Scott stated he has enjoyed being on the Hendricks County Bicentennial Celebration Committee and they have many events planned. Mr. Scott stated that Hendricks County was formed officially on April 1, 1824. Mr. Scott stated that there will be a kick-off party in the near future to be held at the Lizton Lodge.

Councilman Wyeth stated he did a ride around with a Hendricks County Sheriff's Deputy on a Friday evening and was amazed at the professionalism of the deputy and the department and was stunned at the law enforcement interaction with drug offenders in the county, Mr. Wyeth stated he is proud of what we have done.

Councilman Hesson stated that Auditor Nancy Marsh was elected as President of the Association of Indiana Counties at the AIC Annual Conference.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon motion made by Brad Whicker and seconded by Larry Hesson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday October 3, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.


HENDRICKS COUNTY COUNCIL


Caleb Brown

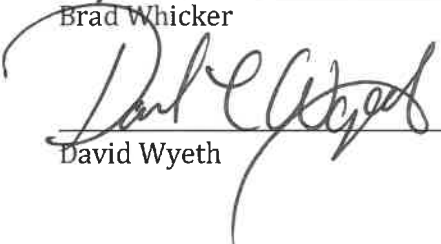

David Cox


Larry R. Hesson



Larry R. Scott


Eric Wathen


Brad Whicker


David Wyeth

ATTEST:


Nancy L. Marsh, Auditor