WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL

~~WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS~~

WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

99 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 200

SALEM, INDIANA 47167

APRIL 7, 2025

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET IN JOINT SESSION ON APRIL 7, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WAS LOCATED AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 99 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 200, SALEM, INDIANA. IN ATTENDANCE WERE COUNCILMEMBERS MARK ABBOTT, GERALD FLEMING, PRESTON SHELL, BRAD GILBERT, ANDREW DAVISSON, TODD ARMSTRONG, KAREN WISCHMEIER, COMMISSIONERS PHILLIP MARSHALL, TODD EWEN, TONY CARDWELL, ATTORNEY ALYSSA COCHRAN, AUDITOR KYRA STEPHENSON AND DEPUTY AUDITOR MICHELE FLEENOR.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ABBOTT CALLED THE COUNCIL TO ORDER.

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT MARSHALL CALLED THE COMMISSIONERS TO ORDER.

COUNCILMEMBER GILBERT LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED BY PRAYER LED BY COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING.

COUNCILMEMBER SHELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAVISSON. THE MOTION PASSED.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PROJECT

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN AND COMMISSIONER'S LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PROJECT, DAVE UMPLEBY, PRESENTED AN UPDATE TO THE COUNCIL ON THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PROJECT. THE COUNTY INTENDS TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF WORK ON THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL INCREASE PROJECT EXPENSES BY APPROXIMATELY $400,000. THE COUNTY OWNS APPROXIMATELY 19 ½ ACRES OF UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY AT THE AIRPORT. COMMISSIONERS INTEND TO COVER THE EXPENSE OF THE EXPANDED SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE HIGHWAY PROJECT BY AMENDING THE ORIGINAL BUILD OPERATE TRANSFER (BOT) AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION TO RELFECT THE EXPANDED SCOPE OF WORK. THE ADDITIONAL WORK WILL BE PAID FOR VIA TRANSFER OF THE 19 ½ ACRES OF PROPERTY NEAR THE AIRPORT, PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE § 36-1-11-9. COMMISSIONERS SEE AS BENEFIT AS THIS WILL INCREASE LIKELIHOOD OF THE PROPERTY BEING DEVELOPED AND WILL START COLLECTING PROPERTY TAX ON THE PROPERTY. AS REPORTED BY DAVE UMPLEBY, THE TRANSFER OF THIS PROPERTY DOES NOT REQUIRE COUNCIL APPROVAL, PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE § 36-1-11-3. PRESENTING TO COUNCIL ONLY FOR TRANSPARENCY.

DISCUSSION OCCURRED AND COUNCIL MEMBERS QUESTIONED EXPANDING SCOPE AND ASSOCIATED COSTS. NO ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL.

READI 2.0 GRANT FUNDING/EXTENSION/4H/COMMUNITY BUILDING

ANGIE BUCHANAN AND COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN PRESENTED ON THE READI 2.0 4H COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT. REQUESTING FROM COUNCIL MATCHING FUNDS SO THE PROJECT CAN PROCEED. MS. BUCHANAN EXPLAINED ENTIRE PROCESS BEHIND PROJECT PROPOSALS, APPLICATIONS, EVALUATION AND RATING OF PROJECTS THAT WERE ULTIMATELY SELECTED TO PROCEED AND RECEIVE STATE READI 2.0 FUNDING. THIS INVOLVED MONTHS LONG PROCESS, DURING WHICH ONLY CERTAIN PROJECTS WERE SELECTED BY THE RDA TO MOVE FORWARD. TO RECEIVE STATE SUPPORT, THE STATE REQUIRES SOME DEGREE OF MATCHING BASED UPON THE AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS BEING PROVIDED. APPROXIMATELY $1.2 MILLION OF STATE READI 2.0 FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY 4H PROJECT. ENTIRE PROJECT COST NOW ESTIMATED TO BE $1.5 MILLION. REQUESTING THE COUNTY PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS OF $300,000. IF MATCHING FUNDS NOT PROVIDED AND APPROVED, THE PROJECT CANNOT GO FORWARD AND THE RDA WILL REALLOCATE THE FUNDS FOR THE 4H PROJECT. THE COUNCIL CANNOT CHOOSE TO USE THE STATE READI 2.0 FUNDS FOR ANOTHER PROJECT OR IN ANOTHER WAY. IT EITHER GOES TOWARDS THE PROJECT APPROVED BY THE RDA OR IT IS LOST.

DISCUSSION OCCURRED AND COUNCIL MEMBERS ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, FUNDING, AND TIMING OF NEEDING TO APPROVE MATCHING FUNDS. AFTER THE DISCUSSION CONCLUDED. COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITMENT OF $300,000 IN MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ARMSTRONG. THE MOTION PASSED 4-3 WITH COUNCILMEMBERS DAVISSON, SHELL AND WISCHMEIER OPPOSING.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT DISPATCHERS

911 DIRECTOR KELLY SARGENT AND SHERIFF BRENT MILLER APPEARED BEFORE THE COUNCIL TO REQUEST THE RECLASSICATION OF TWO DISPATCH POSITIONS INTO SHIFT LEAD POSITIONS. THE CHIEF DISPATCHER POSITION IS VACANT AT THIS TIME AND SARGENT WOULD LIKE TO USE THOSE FUNDS TO FUND THE ADDITIONAL DOLLARS NEEDED FOR THE SHIFT LEADS. THE SHIFT LEADS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING NEW EMPLOYEES AND FILLING IN SHIFT VACANCIES. THE POSITIONS WOULD FLEX THEIR SCHEDULES TO REDUCE/AVOID UNNECESSARY OVERTIME. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL WAS TO TABLE THE ISSUE UNTIL THE MAY MEETING.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

FIRST READING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS WERE BEFORE THE COUNCIL AT THE REGULAR MARCH MEETING. THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOW UP FOR APPROVAL AT THE APRIL MEETING, COUNCILMEMBER GILBERT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

OPIOID RESTRICTED FUND 1237	$200,000
OPIOID UNRESTRICTED FUND 1238	$100,000
MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND 1176	$ 50,000

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHELL. THE MOTION PASSED.

DEPARTMENTS

CLERK ROCKEY – ELECTION UPDATES WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF NEEDING NEW ELECTION SOFTWARE.

SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES – UPDATE ON HIGHWAY.

EXTENSION – ANNUAL REPORT

AUDITOR – REMINDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS OF THE COUNTY SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY.

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS AT HAND, COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAVISSON. THE MOTION PASSED.

COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARDWELL. THE MOTION PASSED.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

Todd M. Ewen

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER TONY CARDWELL

ATTEST:

AUDITOR KYRA STEPHENSON