

TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 16, 2023

REGULAR SESSION

The Tipton County Council Board met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room, 101 E. Jefferson Street, Tipton, IN.

Present: Those in attendance were Jim Ashley, Jim Purvis, Joe Van Bibber, Janice L. Smith, Michael Terry, Brad Nichols, and Kirk Retherford.

Not Present: Attorney, Mark Regnier.

The Council meeting was opened by Jim Ashley with Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

March 21, 2023

April 18, 2023

The Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2023, were approved on a motion made by Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilman Retherford. The motion carried.

The Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2023, were approved on a motion made by Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Councilman Retherford. Councilman Purvis stated that he had not had the opportunity to review the minutes. Councilman Nichols commented on the amount of the BOT Project being 3 million. Councilman Retherford retracted his second to the original motion. Councilman Purvis made the motion to table the April 1, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Smith, and the motion carried.

AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA:

Treasurer Townsend requested to be moved up on the agenda due to having a prior engagement. A motion to move this item up on the agenda was made by Councilman Terry and seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S DEPT/INTEREST EARNED:

Treasurer, Gregg Townsend discussed the legal changes in allowing the ARP Fund interest to be receipted into the County General Fund. (The audio on the recorded was muted for a time, approximately 2 minutes). Gregg discussed his mode of investment of county funds in Trust Indiana with the Relinquishment Fund and the Big Cicero and the interest earned with accounts. I.C. 36-9-27-1-13, discusses funds distributed on deposit. This code specifically requires that the drain fund realize its own interest. The Treasurer discussed the processes with Trust Indiana and the fluidity of funds to be withdrawn at any time. Trust Indiana is handled by the State of Indiana which offers an investing program for local county government.

Resolution NO. CCR2023-09, INTEREST EARNED:

The Resolution was discussed by the Council Members and which funds should be included. For this reason, the Resolution will encompass many funds and be stricken upon review at the next Council Meeting. It was decided to add the EDIT Fund 1112; and not the health department fund 1159 as this is supported when needed by the general fund or adjust the levy up in order to accommodate this fund. A motion to amend the resolution to include the EDIT Fund 1112 for accrual of interest deposit, was made by Councilman Purvis, and approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Terry. The motion carried. Auditor Pickering will amend the Resolution and have the Council sign at the next Council Meeting.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS AND REPORTS/OTHER ABATEMENT DISCUSSION:

Economic Development Coordinator:

Kirk Retherford thanked Shannon Cassons for her contributions to abatement calculations and working with the team. Economic Development Coordinator, Abbie Smith discussed the task force meeting with the Veridus Group to draft an evaluation process. Assessor Cassons provided five different assessment situations for review and comparison. Abbie and the Veridus Group have reached out to other entities to see if they have processed any AG related abatements and have found none leading the path on these abatements at this time. Steve McKinney will be giving a presentation on June 8, 2023, from 1-4 p.m. on the first floor meeting room. Abbie will email a process flow chart to the Council. As well, a draft of the policy and what the fee would be when applying for an abatement in the Auditor's Office. She is working on adapting the abatement rubric and to evaluate an abatement based on the revenue generated and revenue loss due to the abatement for review and recommendation.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:

Health Department/Ordinance #2023-06:

Health Department Director, Lindsey Ogden addressed the Council with an additional appropriation request in the sum of \$43,058.43, in order to repay IU Health who provided a clinic during the COVID In October 2022, the health department received an EFT in the sum of \$71,681.73. The health department partnered with IU Health for a COVID Clinic. IU Health has invoiced the health department in the sum of \$43,058.43 for which Lindsey is asking for an additional appropriation for the 1159, health fund in order to pay this invoice. There was comment regarding the additional appropriation could be made from either the 1159, health fund or the 9003, Covid 19 – Testing Site. It was decided to have the Auditor advertise for additional appropriations for both the 1159 and the 9003 fund and determine which fund to utilize at the public hearing on June 20, 2023.

Lindsey also discussed the funding allocation for the governors' public health. This will be an 80/20 match. The match is already in her 1159 fund. If her department would receive approximately \$120,000, she would need to provide a detailed plan to identify how the county will implement the plan and be submitted to the state by September 1, 2023. This should be done during the budget sessions to ensure the funding is available for an additional staff member. This is not a grant fund. Councilman Purvis made a motion to advertise in the 1159 fund in the amount of \$43,058.43. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vanbibber, and the motion carried. Councilman Purvis made a motion to also advertise in the 9003 fund in the sum of \$43,058.43, which was seconded by Councilman Retherford. The motion carried.

County Highway/Ordinance #2023-07:

Bret Morris is requesting an additional appropriation in the sum of \$239,476.25, and advertise in the 4508 Fund. The funds are in the 4508 fund and need to be appropriated in the budget account line. If approved, this will be transferred to the 9401 fund for the CCMG 2022-2. A motion to advertise for a public hearing at the June 20, 2023, meeting was made by Councilman Terry and seconded by Councilman Nichols. The motion carried.

County Highway/Ordinance #2023-08:

Bret Morris explained that the amount of \$694,534.50 was received by EFT in the Auditor's Office for the CCMG 2022-2, matching grant. They are asking for these funds to be appropriated into the budget in fund 9400. A motion to approve the advertisement for public hearing on June 20, 2023, was made by Councilman Terry and seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The motion carried.

Revisit 1138 – Cum Cap Development – Generator/Ordinance #2023-02:

This item was previously tabled in a prior meeting. Councilman Ashley asked IT Director, Bill Steen who stated that Greg Sottong at OMNI confirmed the price of no more than \$200,000 which includes the pad, generator and is all inclusive with the exception of the fence. This would be \$126,000 plus the cost of the fence. Councilman Nichols stated that the unit has been ordered. He was hoping not to utilize the cum cap development fund 1138 until the coroner's facility was considered. He discussed possibly utilizing the 9200 Cagit Fund in lieu of the 1138 cum cap development fund. There was discussion regarding the best practice for the additional appropriation for the generator.

Councilman Ashley discussed items of priority and what was previously taken from the 1138, cum cap development fund. He further discussed other items of priority in the county.

A motion to advertise in the sum of \$140,000 in the 9200 fund for public hearing on June 20, 2023, was made by Councilman Nichols and seconded by Councilman Vanbibber. The motion carried. Considering cum cap can be spent on any improvement and 9200 is for the courthouse and security. Councilman Vanbibber made comment on protecting the Bond in the fund.

TRANSFER REQUESTS:

Resolution #2023.07:

IT Director, Bill Steen addressed the request for transfer of \$14,567.43 from fund 9200.31100.000.000 to 9200.44200.000.000. CDW Price has increased and he is looking at Pro-vantage in order to save cost. Council discussed the transfer in the sum of \$16,000.00. Councilman Purvis made a motion to allow the transfer of \$16,000, from outside professional services to equipment as stated above. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Resolution #2023-08:

Shannon Cassons asked the Auditor to submit her transfer to the Council. It was requested that \$1,428.00 be transferred to 1224.11900.000.000, salary to 1224.36300.000.000. A motion to approve the transfer was made by Councilman Vanbibber and seconded by Councilman Purvis. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Abatement CF1's were discussed and will be reviewed for approval at the June 20, 2023, Council Meeting. This item is tabled until the next meeting for review/approval. A motion to have the Economic Development Coordinator review the abatements, was made by Councilman Vanbibber and seconded by Councilman Terry. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Economic Development Coordinator, Abbie Smith addressed an old item from prior discussions regarding the salt barn and acted upon the request of the Commissioners to request funds from fund 4508 into the EDIT fund 1112, in the sum of \$193,499.97. Councilman Nichols stated no intent to reimburse the Edit fund. Councilman Ashley stated that this has been resolved in a prior meeting. There was further discussion. There is concern in regard to spending money from the 4508 relinquishment fund whereby, the interest earned was intended to preserve the fund in order to maintain the roads. A decision was made by the Council to decline a transfer from the 4508 fund to the 1112 Edit Fund. Councilman Purvis requested a final decision be made in regard to the matter. Councilman Retherford made a motion to advertise for an additional appropriation to then allow for a transfer to the salt barn from the 4508 fund. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Councilman Ashley requested a vote on the motion and second. The vote was as follows:

Joe Vanbibber	Nay
Brad Nichols	Nay
Jim Ashley	Nay
Jim Purvis	Nay
Kirk Retherford	Yes
Jan Smith	Yes

The motion dies for lack of a majority vote.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Councilman Purvis gave a brief overview from the planning commission regarding a dollar general in windfall, the mineral extraction amendment and a solar ordinance.

Councilman Terry discussed the RDC meeting and an economic development area and a bill the RDC has.

Councilman Ashley discussed the North Central Indiana Planning Commission where the county pays for the Council to belong to the group. The READI Project was discussed and Tipton is being considered for 3.5 million for the infrastructure project.

Councilman Vanbibber discussed the Solid Waste meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Leslie Hickman with Indiana Farm Bureau commented that she was attending the meeting now that everyone is in the fields.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Jan Smith and second by Kirk Retherford. The motion carried.

Tipton County Council

James D. Ashley, President

Michael Terry, Vice President

Kirk Retherford, Member

Brad Nichols, Member

Janice L. Smith, Member

Joe Van Bibber, Member

Jim Purvis, Member

Attest:

Melissa Pickering, Auditor
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