

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
June 18, 2019

Councilman Duckwall – Present
Councilwoman Chittum – Present
Councilman Donaldson – Present
Councilman Wood – Present
Councilman Wiles – Present
Councilman Sailors – Present
Councilman Nutt – Present

Councilman Duckwall called the meeting to order.

Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Duckwall announced that the July Council meeting would be held at the 4H Fairgrounds.

MINUTES

Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the May 14, 2019 minutes. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS
COUNTY GENERAL**

The Council reviewed the request for an additional appropriation from County General of \$16,380.00 for attorney fees for the dam litigation. The request was tabled from the May 14, 2019 Council meeting. The Council also received a request for additional appropriation for \$7,448.00. County Attorney Steve Downs explained that he contacted Barnes & Thornburg after the May Council meeting, proposing a substantial discount to 1/3 of the current invoice. Barnes & Thornburg returned an offer of a 10% reduction on the fees charged for the dam litigation services. Attorney Downs stated that he would need specific authority from the Council to take any further action to settle. Attorney Downs went on to state that the County previously paid invoices at the \$600.00 per hourly rate until receiving the invoice for \$16,380.00, which is when he was asked to start investigating. Attorney Downs noted that the County entered into a contract without a specific hourly rate. Attorney Downs believes that Barnes & Thornburg would like to continue working for the County in the future and may be willing to discuss the reduction of rates and suggested a reduction of 25%. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the \$16,380.00 invoice with a 25% reduction for a new total of \$12,285.00. Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the \$7,448.00 invoice with a 25% reduction for a new total of \$5,586.00. Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

CEDIT

The Council received a request for an additional appropriation from CEDIT for \$35,000.00 for Maconaquah School Corporation to support a welding program for students. Jim Tidd, MCEDA stated representatives from Maconaquah School Corporation came before the Council and Commissioners during a work session to present the program in partnership with Ivy Tech, which would ultimately help meet the demands of local industries. Mr. Tidd reminded the Council that 68 students are currently enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year and will earn 12 Ivy Tech credits each year they complete the course. Further, after the State credits the school for the course, but it leaves a shortfall of about \$500.00 per student, which is why the school is requesting the funding support. Maconaquah School Corporation invest \$350,000.00 to upgrade their welding shop because they believe the students and local industries can all benefit from it. President Duckwall expressed concern about students not remaining in the program and the county losing the money invested in the program. Superintendent James Callane noted that the School Corporation wants the Council to hold them accountable for the funds/program. He would

like to bring in students who have participated in the program, as well as, provide statistics of the program. Superintendent Callane went on to state any excess funds from what the county contributed at the end of 2 years would be returned. Mr. Tidd stated that Workforce Development may be able to offer some assistance, but because the program was just presented to them, it could take some time before they may see any funding. Mr. Callane went on to state that the goal is for students to walk out with certifications and be job ready for the community. In addition to the welding program, the school is also working to add other trade courses through their partnership with Ivy Tech. Councilman Wood made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$35,000.00 from CEDIT for the welding program at Maconaquah School Corporation. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 6-1 (Donaldson opposed).

TRANSFER

The Council received a request from Assessor Karen LeMaster to transfer \$11,252.00 from Deputy Assessor position that has not been filled to Pictometry to cover the contract for 2019. Assessor LeMaster explained that the state cut the 2019 budget that was submitted and the former Assessor cut the contract, which left the account short. Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the transfer of \$11,252.00 from the Deputy Assessor account to Pictometry. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SALARY ORDINANCE UPDATE

Auditor Brown presented an updated salary ordinance to eliminate the 2nd Captain position at the Sheriff Department and replace it with a 2nd Investigator position. The 2nd Captain position paid \$2,076.46 bi-weekly and the new Investigator position would be \$2,047.96 bi-weekly. Sheriff Hunter explained that the change was not due to disciplinary issues, but rather an agreed upon adjustment. The change avoided Sheriff Hunter coming back to the Council and asking for another position or additional funding. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance to reflect the elimination of the 2nd Captain and create a 2nd Investigator position. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jim Tidd, Miami County Economic Development Director came before the Council to request approval to establish an Economic Development Commission. Mr. Tidd explained that MCEDA wants to establish the Commission in anticipation of helping finance incentives for a buyer of the shell building. Mr. Tidd went on to note that TIF funds would be pledged in lieu of issuing a bond for acquisition and buildout of the building. In order to do so, the Council must establish an Economic Development Commission. The Commission solely reviews the incentive for projects that would pledge TIF funds and determine facts of findings and would remain in place for any future projects that would not use a bond. The Commission would be made up by an appointment by the Board of Commissioners, County Council and Peru City. Mr. Tidd noted that there is nothing in statute to say that an Elected Official cannot serve on the Commission, but recommends each Board appoint someone other than an Elected Official. Mr. Tidd stated that the push to get the Commission established is due to trying to meet the deadlines to close on the project by August 1, 2019. The Commission would need to be appointment before July 1, 2019, as they will meet prior to the next Council meeting on July 23, 2019. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to adopt Ordinance 06/18/2019 at 1st reading. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed with 2nd reading. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0. Councilman Wood made a motion to move to adopt Ordinance 06/18/2019 at 2nd reading. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0. Councilman Sailors made a motion to appoint Councilman Wood for the appointment by the Council. Councilman Donaldson 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0-1 (Wood abstained).

COUNCIL DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE UPDATE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Herrell, on behalf of the Macy residents, wanted to thank Councilman John Donaldson for his work in the community with the clean-up efforts after the Memorial Day tornado.

Jim Tidd updated the Council that the sub-committee of the County Council performed the abatement review and approved all the abatements that were in compliance. President Duckwall noted that the sub-committee did not approve the abatement for LSI for the last year due to the closure of the business in Miami County.

Sheriff Hunter stated he increased the housing of out-of-county inmates from \$35.00 per day to \$40.00. Sheriff Hunter added that there were some different pricings for different counties, he did not agree with it and would make it fair across the board.

Robert Dane, Maconaquah School Board Member thanked the Council and Jim Tidd for their help on the welding project for the school.

ADJOURN

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Brown
Miami County Auditor