

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
March 16, 2021

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

President Duckwall called the meeting to order.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the January 12, 2021 minutes.
Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS

The Council received a request for additional appropriation for Local Road & Street for \$211,200 for equipment/vehicle lease. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$211,200 for equipment/vehicle lease. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

The Council received a request for additional appropriation for Local Road & Street for \$158,317 for equipment/vehicle lease. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$158,317 for equipment/vehicle lease. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

The Council received a request for additional appropriation for Deferral for \$666 for a correction to a salary that was listed incorrectly in the 2021 budget when submitted. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$666 for a salary correction. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

The Council received a request for additional appropriation for Highway Phase I for \$16,481 for a change to the Engineer salary. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$16,481 for an update to the Engineer salary. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

The Council received a request for additional appropriation for Statewide E 9-1-1 for \$2,577 for MEVO mobile kits for phone system. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$2,577 for MEVO mobile kits for phone system. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

The Council received a request for additional appropriation for Statewide E 9-1-1 for \$1,779 for a new laptop. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$1,779 for a new laptop. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SALARY ORDINANCE UPDATE

Auditor Brown explained the Health Department added the position of Swabber to their COVID Clinic and therefore, required the Salary Ordinance needed to be updated. The Swabber would be the same as a vaccinator and make \$18.00 per hour. In addition, Auditor Brown requested to make changes to the Payroll and Claims Deputy positions in her office. Auditor Brown explained Mary Betzner was recently promoted to Chief Deputy. Auditor Brown would like to take the extra pay previously made by Mary Betzner as the Settlement Deputy position and split between the Payroll and Claims positions. The adjustment would not increase the 2021 budget and would allow those positions to serve as back up rather than Auditor Brown performing those duties. Auditor Brown would like to adjust the Payroll Deputy to \$29,500.00 and Claims Deputy to \$28,500.00 and make it retroactive to March 1, 2021 when they took over those positions. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the salary ordinance update to reflect the Clinic Swabber and the change to salaries, retroactively to March 1, 2021 for the Payroll and Claims Deputy. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

TRANSFER

The Council received a transfer request for Statewide E 9-1-1 of \$2,000.00 from Education and Training to New Equipment to cover the cost of new laptops. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the transfer request for Statewide E 9-1-1 of \$2,000.00 from Education and Training to New Equipment to cover the cost of new laptops. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

PERU PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

Council President Duckwall stated the Council needed to make an appointment to the Peru Public Library Board and recommended Ellen Harvey. Councilman Wiles made a motion to approve Ellen Harvey to the Peru Public Library Board. Councilman Wood 2nd the motion and it passed 5-0-1 (Chittum abstained).

ENCUMBRANCE RESOLUTION

The Council received Resolution 3/16/2021 to Encumber funds from the 2020 budget year to 2021. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve Resolution 3/16/2021 to

Encumber funds from the 2020 budget year to 2021. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ABATEMENT REQUEST

Brooke Robertson, MCEDA came before the Council to present Resolution 3/16/2021B Approving the Request of Gen 3 Bio, Inc. for Tax Abatement. Ms. Robertson explained the incentive committee of MCEDA recommends the Miami County Council consider the following abatement for Gen 3 Bio, Inc.

- 5 yr tax abatement on approximately \$185,800.00 dollars in new equipment. The abatement will be at 60% each year for the 5 yr. period.
- Maintaining a minimum of 5 employees
- The estimated start date for the project is March 2021 with an estimated completion date of December 31, 2022.

Justification/Support: This new investment will assist in employing 6 new employees at an average rate of approximately \$27 an hour. This new investment will allow Gen 3 Bio., Inc. to start up and expand in the future in Miami County.

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve Resolution 3/16/2021B approving the Request of Gen 3 Bio, Inc. for Tax Abatement.

INCREASE IN WAGE REQUEST

Auditor Brown stated the Health Board requested an increase to the Health Nurse wages from \$21.71 per hour to \$27.00 per hour. Auditor Brown stated there is not enough room in the current Health budget, based on the levy and miscellaneous income, to support the change. The Health Board would need to cut another line item within their budget. President Duckwall suggested the Health Board review the current budget and come back with a recommendation for consideration. President Duckwall asked Auditor Brown to speak to the Health Board regarding the matter.

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

Sheriff Hunter came before the Council to request financial assistance in purchase new tasers for the jail. The department cannot obtain parts to repair the current models and many have broken. The cost of the new tasers is approximately \$50,000.00, but the Prosecutor has agreed to cover half the cost. Councilman Wood made a motion to approve the request to purchase tasers. Councilwoman Chittum 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Sheriff Hunter explained there is an issue with the water tanks and boiler at the jail that need replaced. The problem is the tank is 1000 gallons and full of lime. The Sheriff had a company come in to look at how they could remove the tank, as it will be a large undertaking. The tank and boilers are going bad, possibly creating a safety issue. Cost of the upgrade will be \$120,000.00 to be paid over 3 installments. Sheriff Hunter noted that Bryan Steam and Thrush will both be involved in getting the new boiler and tanks installed, which will be helpful if parts or service are needed.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE UPDATE

Councilman Wood requested an update on the old BMV remodel project. Auditor Brown stated the remodel to the old BMV building is underway. Demo is near completion for the new location for the morgue and the office space for the Health and Environmental Health have had a few minor changes. Auditor Brown stated she and the Health Nurse picked out flooring coverings last week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elaine Anderson asked about the financial impact of surrounding counties building their own jails. Sheriff Hunter stated Fulton County is almost complete with their new build and Wabash County is still in the early stages of planning. Sheriff Hunter does not think the changes will affect the county, as they do not house many inmates from Fulton. President Duckwall stated the county does not rely on the money from housing of inmates to sustain the county budgets. While it will have an impact, it should not negatively affect the budgets.

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Donaldson 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Brown

Miami County Auditor