

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street
Boonville, Indiana
January 14, 2025
6:00 PM

The Warrick County Council met in regular session in the Warrick County Courthouse, 107 W. Locust Street, Boonville, Indiana.

Attorney Rhett Gonterman and Administrator Krystal Powless were in attendance.

Auditor Chief Deputy Barbi Shelton and Recording Secretary Kristine Georges attended and recorded the minutes.

The public could view the meeting via Warrick County Government YouTube channel at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOK8y7IXcLpK9le8WV4pr9w?view_as=subscriber

Council President, Brad Overton, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Councilmen present in person: Ron Bacon, Patricia Brooks, Rob Dimmett, Brad Overton, Richard Reid, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine.

President Overton welcomed their newest member, Councilwoman Patricia Brooks, to the Board.

It was announced that the livestream was not working due to technical difficulties.

2025 APPOINTMENTS
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The current President is Brad Overton. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to nominate Brad Overton to the position. Councilwoman Patricia Brooks seconded. Councilman Greg Richmond nominated Ron Bacon with Councilman Chris Whetstine seconding his motion. President Overton called for a vote on the first motion for him to continue as President. The vote passed 4-3 with Ron Bacon, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine opposing. Councilman Brad Overton will continue to serve as President.

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Councilman Chris Whetstine made a motion to appoint Ron Bacon as Vice President with a second by Councilman Greg Richmond. Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to appoint Rick Reid with a second by Councilwoman Pat Brooks. The vote was 4-3 for Ron Bacon with Patricia Brooks, Brad Overton, and Rick Reid against. Councilman Ron Bacon will serve as Vice President.

COUNCIL ATTORNEY

Councilman Chris Whetstine made a motion to appoint Rhett Gonterman with as second by Councilman Ron Bacon. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to appoint April Edwards with a second from Councilwoman Pat Brooks. The vote carried 5-2 for Rhett Gonterman with Rick Reid and Patricia Brooks opposing.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Current members are Ron Bacon, Rob Dimmett, and Chris Whetstine. All three were willing to serve again. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to appoint Pat Brooks to the Committee. President Overton asked for a second. Councilman Richmond didn't think a second was necessary. This was confirmed by Attorney Gonterman. President Overton called for the vote on Ron Bacon, Rob Dimmett, and Chris Whetstine remaining. The vote carried 5-2 for them to remain on the Committee with Rick Reid and Patricia Brooks opposing.

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD

Currently serving is Steve Williamson. Councilman Bacon said he is willing to serve another term. Councilman Rob Dimmett made a motion to retain Steve Williamson. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Currently, Council Member Richard Reid is serving and was willing to continue. Councilman Ron Bacon made a motion to retain Rick Reid. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded that motion. The motion carried 7-0.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Currently is Mike Moesner. He is willing to serve another term. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to retain Mike Moesner. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

BOONVILLE WARRICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Currently is Janet Metzger. She is willing to serve another term. Councilman Ron Bacon made a motion to retain Janet Metzger. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Currently is Council representative Rob Dimmett. He is willing to continue serving. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to retain Rob Dimmett. Councilwoman Pat Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Currently is Council representative Ron Bacon. He is willing to continue serving. Councilwoman Pat Brooks made a motion to retain Ron Bacon. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Currently serving are Steve Smith, Aric Pryor, and Courtney TenBarge. All are willing to serve another term. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to retain all three. Councilman Ron Bacon seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Councilman Ron Bacon made a motion to appoint Greg Richmond. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to appoint Patricia Brooks. Councilman Brad Overton seconded the motion. The vote failed for Councilman Richmond 3-4 with Pat Brooks, Rob Dimmett, Brad Overton, and Rick Reid opposing. The vote passed for Councilwoman Pat Brooks 4-3 with Ron Bacon, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine opposing. Councilwoman Brooks will serve.

OHIO TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD

Currently serving is Brad Bingham. He is willing to serve another term. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to retain. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Currently serving is Gene Weisheit. He is willing to serve another term. Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to retain. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT BOARD

Currently serving are Elizabeth Mayes and David Zengler. Both are willing to serve another term. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to retain. Councilman Ron Bacon seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

TOURISM COMMISSION

Currently serving are Rick Miller and Jan Allen. Both are willing to serve another term. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to retain. Councilwoman Pat Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

TRI CAP

Currently serving is Melanie Lutz who does not wish to serve another term. Councilman Rick Reid asked for the appointment to be tabled and made the motion to do so. Councilman Brad Overton seconded the motion. The motion to table carried 7-0.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Currently serving as Council representative is Greg Richmond. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to retain. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS
TAX PHASE IN - WARRICKNEWCO
PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION 2025-01**

Economic Development Director Steve Roelle presented a Tax Phase-In for Warrick NewCo better known as ALCOA Warrick Operations. Tax Phase-In is a two-step process. This month is the Preliminary Resolution and next month will be the Confirming Resolution. This has gone through both the Economic Development and Redevelopment Commission Boards. It's an investment by ALCOA in the Warrick site. The Council received all the information in their packets. Mr. Roelle introduced the plant manager, LP Clement, who was present for questions. ALCOA has been in the county for over sixty years. The United States used to have thirty smelters. There are only four remaining smelters in the US. This is one of the four. Aluminum is still highly used in aerospace, automotive, aviation, and food packaging. While most of those businesses are going outside the US, tonight, they are looking forward to the next sixty years. One part of this is for a small ingot manufacturing line with \$9.4 million dollars which can be abated and the other is for a rod mill with a \$30.3 million dollar investment in personal property with their total investment being even larger. This will keep them competitive and in Warrick County. They currently employ seven hundred people with another one hundred fifty at the power plant. This will be for personal property only. Mr. Roelle

went over some other details of the project such as timing, being supported by the different Boards, and that it will add forty-one new jobs. There are also local contractors involved at ALCOA on a regular basis. This is in a TIF District so the proper procedures have been followed. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to approve Preliminary Resolution 2025-01. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. Administrator Krystal Powless read the title for Resolution 2025-01 into the record:

Resolution 2025-01, A Preliminary Resolution Declaring an Economic Revitalization Area for Personal Property Tax Phase-In, Warrick NewCo, LLC.

The motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2024 EXECUTIVE SESSION
DECEMBER 10, 2024 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The minutes from the December 5, 2024 Regular Session Meeting, December 5, 2025 and December 10, 2025 Executive Sessions were presented. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Patricia Brooks abstaining.

Councilman Greg Richmond later in the meeting stated that he was present for the December 10, 2024 Executive Session and asked for the correction.

PARK & RECREATION BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – SCALES LAKE TRAIL

President Overton read the following into the record:

Park and Recreation	1219.31664.000.0000	Scales Lake Trail	\$100,000.00
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Parks Superintendent Ben Labhart was present. This is for the Trails Project. The walking trail will go from the front of park to the beach. He reviewed some of the details. There were no questions. Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1 with Rick Reid opposing.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

President Overton read the following into the record:

Public Health Services	1161.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$449,238.64
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County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearnsman was present. No one was present from the Health Department. These are funds that have come from the State. The Health Department came before Council during budget time and wanted to add positions, but they didn't have them in place yet. So, the Council appropriated \$800,611.00 toward the HFI (Health Fund Incentive) for 2025. The total award from the State Health Department is giving the County is \$1,249,849.64. Of this, \$449,238.64 was not appropriated. In order for the Health Department to keep the funds, she was told that they needed have that money appropriated to a fund number. The only other place she thought it could go was Contractual Services because they don't have personnel at this point. But if it is not appropriated then the State could take the money back.

President Brad Overton asked if it was appropriated would any usage come before the Council. She said if it stayed in the 3000's, they would have to keep it in there and come to Council for transfers. But if there was somewhere else to put it, she would have put there. He said that his issue is there is no one from Health Department present and this is the same issue that they have continued to have with them. They came to the Personnel Committee Meeting and they had no plan in place for the use of all this money. This is all very bothersome to him. He wants to know where this money can go so they don't lose the funds, but it doesn't get used without Council approval.

Administrator Krystal Powless said she received a letter from the State when the money was sent and it says it's supposed to be accounted in the Local Health Fund, and it is. It is in the cash in the Local Health Fund. It's just not appropriated into a line item. That is the only statement they have made or that it had to be appropriated.

Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman said that she had an email from when she was working with them actively from Michele from the State and it said it didn't have to be appropriated to a certain thing, but you have to appropriate it somewhere for it to be kept. Ms. Powless wanted to make it clear that the money is not in limbo, but it is in the cash in their fund, it's just not been appropriated to a line item.

Councilman Bacon said that he was in agreement with President Overton. They don't have a program to appropriate it to. They don't have an unlimited pot of money just to do whatever they want. He wants to know the programs they want to bring up and put into place for the County. That's what he wants to know and the Health Department has no answer and no one is present. Unless it can be appropriated somewhere where they can control it, they need to control what they're going to do with it.

There was a discussion on the timeline. Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman was advised by someone from the State to do it at the first meeting of the year. There was a brief discussion.

Councilman Whetstine asked if it could go somewhere other than Contractual Services. Administrator Powless said that it could, just not at this meeting. It would have to be advertised. She then went over what the Health

Department could do or not do if it was appropriated to Contractual Services. President Overton pointed out that they could hire someone contractually with that money. Ms. Powless said that they could.

Councilman Dimmett asked if they left it where it is now, they would lose it. Ms. Bennett-Stearns said, not necessarily. It was just stated to her that it had to be appropriated. Ms. Powless said that was why she questioned it, because it has not had to be done in the past and they haven't lost the money. They are able to then fund the projects for a little bit longer. Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman agreed and said they did appropriate it all last year. They also have carry over money of a couple hundred thousand and there hasn't been direction from the State on that. She also doesn't know if they're paying people out of the 2024 money, but she can't get the information on that. There was a brief discussion on losing the money and Council having the control over the funding.

President Overton said that this is what aggravated him is that this is supposed to be for County services to help people that might need something and they are wanting to fund employees for mystery whatever it might be. He is in favor of letting it sit in the cash and if something happens to it, it's on them. They can take the heat for that. Moving it into Contractual Services is not reasonable.

Councilman Whetstine said he was good with tabling it.

Councilman Bacon said that they aren't going to lose any programs, because they don't have any programs. The money is sitting there, not obligated, they have not said what they want to use it for. They just want to use it. That's just not the way things should operate. Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman agreed.

Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to table. Councilman Ron Bacon seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

President Overton said if they do come back, they need to come back with a plan. Otherwise, the money is going to sit in the cash reserves.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – PER DIEM

President Overton read the following into the record:

Health	1159.18300.000.0000	Per Diem	\$3,800.00
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Administrator Powless said that they had numerous meeting last year. They had to pay the Per Diem to the Board members. They ended up paying some of the meetings from last year from this year's budget. This is the amount of money they will be short in the Per Diem if they have the normal number of meetings. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Patricia Brooks abstaining.

HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS

President Overton read the following into the record:

4A. <u>Additional Appropriation</u> – change in longevity of new employee Recorder	1000.11211.000.0004	First Deputy	\$2,400.00
4B. <u>Salary Ordinance</u> – Handbook Policy Sergeant- Sheriff		Retiring	\$18,270.96

Councilman Chris Whetstine made a motion to approve. Councilman Ron Bacon seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

(January Appropriations are located on Page 6 of these Official Minutes)

COUNCIL BUSINESS
ATTORNEY CONTRACT

The Attorney Contract for the new Council Attorney Rhett Gonterman was presented. This contract is for the same amount as the previous Council Attorney which is the same amount budgeted for 2025. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

MEETING DATE RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION 2025-02

Administrator Powless presented the new Resolution. She said the schedule for the meetings was approved in December, but there were some errors made. They have been corrected. This cleans everything up. Councilman Ron Bacon made a motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS
SHERIFF – COMMISSARY REPORT

Sheriff Mike Wilder presented the Commissary Report. He stated that it has been turned into the Auditor and has to be presented to the Council in a meeting two times a year. He gave a brief summary, touched on a few items they pay for out of Commissary, and welcomed them to review the report at any time in the year.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

THANKS FOR WORK DONE DURING WINTER STORMS – PRESIDENT OVERTON

President Brad Overton wished to thank all the Highway workers for everything they've done during the winter storm as well as Emergency Management and anyone else that has lent a hand. He also welcomed Councilwoman Brooks and Attorney Gonterman.

INFORMATION FROM ROBERT STONE – COUNCILMAN ROB DIMMETT

Councilman Rob Dimmett had books from Robert Stone. The USDA talked to them about doing the Little Pigeon Project. Years ago, back in the 1980's, Robert Stone owned a lot of land on the southwest part of town, ALCOA, and did a lot of work for the Big E Pit. Mr. Stone has a copy of all the information and stuff from the watershed and info that he got that is similar to what is going to happen with the Little Pigeon. The information even has all the chemicals that has been thrown into the creeks. Mr. Stone wanted him to make copies to give all the Council members.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – COUNCILMAN RON BACON

Councilman Ron Bacon gave a legislative update. He is still on the legislative committee for the Association of Indiana Counties. They are watching legislation that's going on at the State. It will hopefully not have a detrimental affect on the Counties. It's early in the process. The Governor would really like to do something with the property tax. They are watching this closely. They are keeping up every two weeks. He will bring it to the Council if it's anything that will affect Warrick County.

Councilman Bacon also said that Senator Becker has a Bill 144. This would require Council to review their retirement plans, every department, every year. He was a bit confused on that. But that had caught his eye as he was unsure why it needed to be done. Sheriff Wilder said that he knew there are several Counties that are underfunded. He said it has been in the news that Vanderburgh County is a bit underfunded. Sheriff Wilder also said that Council does fund their pension. But, it is something that he stays on top of. They do meet with companies and continually look over things to make sure they are getting the best thing. Councilman Bacon said they do fund the retirement and are taking care of it. It was then discussed about some counties not being properly funded.

Councilman Bacon said he will continue to keep everyone up to date. Councilwoman Brooks stated that they really have to watch what is going on because it can definitely affect the County and she appreciated him for his work.

FARM BUREAU MEET THE LEGISLATURE – SHARI SHERMAN

Shari Sherman wanted to invite everyone to the upcoming Farm Bureau, Meet the Legislature on February 1, 2025. The Chamber is partnering with them to get the word out. She will send the Council information on the event.

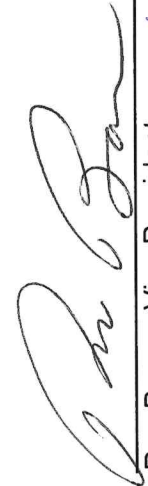
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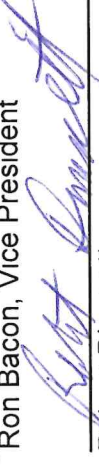
The next Warrick County Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room. Councilman Rick Reid made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Ron Bacon seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL


Brad Overton, President


Ron Bacon, Vice President


Robert Dimmett


Greg Richmond

Patricia Brooks

Richard Reid

Chris Whetstone

ATTEST:


Michael J. Dietsch, Auditor
Warrick County, IN

