

**WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**  
107 W. Locust Street  
Boonville, Indiana  
May 4, 2023  
7:00 PM

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

Attorney Cliff Whitehead and Administrator Krystal Powless were in attendance.

Auditor Michael Dietsch, 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/UCOK8y71XcLpK9le8WV4pr9w?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOK8y71XcLpK9le8WV4pr9w?view_as=subscriber)

Council President, Greg Richmond, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

All votes for this meeting were done by a Roll Call Vote.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call showed the following Councilmen present in person: Ron Bacon, Rob Dimmett, Ted Metzger, Brad Overton, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine. Councilman Richard Reid was present via Facetime and visible.

All votes were recorded by a roll call vote throughout the entire meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**PSLIT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

The Council, led by President Greg Richmond, held a Public Hearing to discuss modifying the Public Safety Local Income Tax rate in order to put money back for the correctional facility that is being planned for Warrick County. The Council needs to get the financing in place. Councilman Richmond stated that the proposed Ordinance was in front of all the members. He read the title for Ordinance 2023-01:

*“This is an Ordinance of the County Council of Warrick County, Indiana, modifying the Local Income Tax Rates.”*

President Richmond said it did not change the amount of money being collected from the paychecks. That all remains the same. It was stressed that this was not raising the tax. President Richmond then asked if there was any public that wished to speak on this matter.

Christy Powell, Town Manager for the Town of Newburgh, addressed the Council. She stated there were concerns in the reduction of money that they get from Public Safety. What the Public Safety LIT has done for their town the last two years has been transformational. It took some of the burden off of their EDIT which is what they used to run their entire police and fire. They were unsuccessful in an annexation and feel like they are unable to grow and be able to provide the services at the same level as it has been in the past. With this PSLIT, they have financed a fire truck and will have to pay the debt service when it comes in. They have also added a police car and are talking about adding an SRO to two of their schools. They are also building a training facility for their fire department. She also went over several other items they have purchased or were in need of. It has allowed them to do several things in their Public Safety Plan. The impact of this change for them would amount to about a \$65,000.00 decrease and would be detrimental to what they are doing as well as the concerns of it decreasing even more over time. Administrator Powless said that the decrease estimate was calculated on the same amount of money expected in 2024 as in 2023, but those numbers would increase, so, the decrease would most likely not be that high.

There was a brief discussion on Bill 78 and the effect if it passed. Councilman Bacon and Councilman Richmond both stated that the Bill did not pass.

Councilman Whetstine addressed the bill which had been a concern. It didn't pass, but it could come up again next year. Councilman Bacon agreed that it could. Councilman Whetstine said that this was done to protect money for the Jail. He doesn't like to see the reduction to the towns, but he does see the benefits from the towns contributing to the payment of the Jail. It will be utilized by the towns. He then asked if making this a two-meeting vote would allow others to speak to the concerns of the modification. He also asked how the Jail Project was progressing and if there was a pressing need to pass this today.

President Richmond asked Commissioner Phillippe to address this. Commissioner Phillippe said it was moving pretty slow. They are currently hunting for land in which to build. They are also still negotiating contracts with the Construction Manager. He didn't think that a short delay would hurt.

The Council members reviewed the vote necessary and what was considered unanimous. It was published that if it did not pass unanimously, it would come up for the second vote in June.

President Richmond stated that he was under the impression that this needed to move pretty quickly because the Jail Committee and others were wanting to make sure the finances were there. Commissioner Phillippe said that the Council gave the go ahead on the project with a \$57,700,000.00 number for the total project. They know what the payment is. Everything they're doing is based around that. There's a lot of work to go, but he thinks they have what they need at this time. Ms. Powless stated that the Council has promised the money, but that nothing has been put in place to set aside the money to make the payment. This would set that in motion. There was a brief discussion on the payments and some of the initial costs of the project.

Commissioner Whetstine again asked if waiting would be an issue. Commissioner Phillippe was not aware of anything pressing. President Richmond felt the urgency was because of the Senate Bill 78.

Councilman Bacon stated that in his opinion, they still need the money to make the payment. Nothing will change this need. Both he and President Richmond agreed that if the distribution was not passed, they would not be able to make the payments. Regardless of what they were waiting for, it won't change the need to get this done.

Commissioner Phillippe stated that they had discussed a \$4,000,000.00 payment. They have received numbers by financial advisors that are averaging about \$4,200,000.00. So, he feels they are talking about a \$4,200,000.00 payment which could go up or down based on the term or the rate. He would prefer to have the lowest rate possible and the shortest term possible. But, there is not a set number.

Administrator Powless wanted to make sure to clarify that right now \$2,000,000.00 a year is being put back. If the redistribution is passed, they will be putting back \$4,200,000.00, based on estimates, a year. They currently are not putting enough back to make a \$4,000,000.00 payment. Councilman Bacon said it could be a little more or a little less as far as the payment, but what they are doing now is not going to be near enough to make the payment.

Councilman Dimmett asked what pausing this for a month would gain them. He feels that is the bottom line. Commissioner Phillippe said they could gain an understanding of what the financing would look like. It has been discussed, but not with the Council. Ms. Powless said that she and Commissioner Phillippe have had discussions and she felt comfortable with where they were as long as this passed. So, if this is not passed, the Committee will need to go back to the drawing board.

Councilman Whetstine said that he saw the need for passing it. He's just looking at today verses a month from now. He also questioned interest rates going up and the effect. Commissioner Phillippe said that he didn't know as they weren't ready to issue a bond yet. Councilman Dimmett thought he understood that to be on a floating scale.

Commissioner Phillippe questioned the Commissioners handling most of the things bond related. He would prefer Council input on terms. There was a brief discussion on terms and the maximums. Attorney Whitehead stated that twenty-two years was the maximum on terms with the 0.20% proposed amendment for the Correctional Facility. Ms. Powless clarified that this is separate from the term of the bond. Attorney Whitehead added that the percentage could be set at a different number or reduced, but he was unsure if you could renew it at the same rate after the twenty-two years.

Councilman Overton, expressing his opinion about waiting longer, said nothing will go down right now. The best that can be hoped for is the rates hold steady. But, they aren't going to drop anything right now. Councilman Bacon stated that everything that he's heard, they're going to continue to rise it until they get what they want.

Commissioner Phillippe said that they will try to have the shortest period possible written into that and make it possible to refinance if rates do go down. President Richmond talked about that being written into the language of the bond.

Chad Bennett, Ohio Township Trustee, also addressed the Council. He was concerned about the numbers for the townships and if the funding would still be available to them. Ms. Powless said that, since Senate Bill 78 didn't pass, they would have to come again and request the funding. The Council will have to look at the requests and decide what they will give them. Mr. Bennett just wanted to make sure there would still be funding for township requests. He stated that the money was very useful for them in providing services. He does appreciate that they are using the money to pay for the Jail and being fiscally responsible, but he also wants to make sure that funding is allowed for all the avenues of Public Safety that is happening in the County. President Richmond stated that taking money away from anyone was not their intent. Ms. Powless wanted to clarify that if they didn't pass this, she will have to find the money somewhere and there probably wouldn't be as much money coming to townships for requests.

Brad Overton made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Ron Bacon seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING  
PSLIT MODIFICATION  
ORDINANCE 2023-01**

President Greg Richmond asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01.

Brad Overton made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01 modifying the LIT distribution from 0.5% from Public Safety to 0.30% for Public Safety and 0.02% for Correctional or Rehabilitation Facilities. Ron Bacon seconded the

motion. Councilman Whetstone felt the need to explain, because District 1 was well represented with the Town Manager and the Trustee, that he saw more harm for District 1 in waiting with the possibility of interest rates going up and votes yes on the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Councilman Rick Reid abstaining as he was not present in person. Attorney Whitehead considered the Ordinance passed as there was a unanimous vote with the members present in person.

*(Ordinance 2023-01 is located on Page 6 of these Official Minutes)*

**NEW BUSINESS  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
APRIL 6, 2023 REGULAR MEETING**

The minutes from the April 6, 2023 Regular Session meeting were presented. Councilman Ted Metzger made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Ron Bacon seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**HEALTH BUSINESS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION  
PART-TIME POUND KEEPER – OVERTIME ANIMAL CONTROL  
TRANSFER – SALARY ORDINANCE**

President Richmond read into the record the requested amount from the Health Department: 3A, Additional Appropriation for Part Time Pound Keeper for \$2,800.00; Overtime Animal Control, \$5,000.00; 3B, transfer from Animal Control Expense, \$4,107.00, to Overtime Animal Control, \$4,107.00; 3C, Salary Ordinance for Animal Control, \$5,000.00.

Health Department Director Aaron Franz was present to discuss what was being asked by the department. Addressing the Overtime Animal Control, he said that it's hard to keep up with everything that is going on. They are trying to keep some extra hands out there.

President Richmond asked if his full-time people were on call during the weekend. Mr. Franz stated that they were. President Richmond then asked how part-time helped with that. Mr. Franz said that they keep kennels clean, some to do runs, or take in animals. One is a retired veterinarian who maintains his license. The money will be coming from his Health Department Fund and not from County General

Ron Bacon made the motion to approve 3A, 3B, and 3C. Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**STORAGE GROUND BOX**

Mr. Franz asked for guidance from the Council on some of their needs at Animal Control. Ms. Powless passed out paperwork from O'Bryan Transport. They are needing more storage and are wanting to purchase a ground box. What they would like to purchase would be reinforced throughout and have openings at both ends, forty foot in length. The cost is \$7,500.00. They will deliver for free. There wasn't a big difference between new and used. The downside to the used was you get what they had. You can't pick. There are several benefits to this and they would like to get rolling on it. Councilman Dimmett discussed some other options with Mr. Franz. Mr. Franz stated one of the big differences are that these are reinforced and not all are. They should also be able to set up electric. Consensus was given to advertise the amount for June.

**HEALTH BILL DISCUSSION**

President Richmond stated that there was a seminar coming up concerning the bill the General Assembly passed that affects Local Health Departments. He wanted to make sure Mr. Franz was up on everything in the bill. There was a brief discussion on the new bill and how that was going to affect the Health Department locally. Mr. Franz stated that they were still finalizing numbers for the counties, but that money disbursements will be made. Counties will have to opt in, but the Commissioners have to make that choice. Many of his concerns have been addressed. Once the Commissioners agree to participate, he said they have a list of services the State wants them to offer. Decisions will have to be made as some things will not be practical for Warrick County. Things that are demanded, they will have to find a way to put it in practice here. Many things they do already. Mr. Franz thinks they'll end up doing a few community quorums.

**STRAY DOGS**

Councilman Metzger asked about people calling on July 5<sup>th</sup> involving stray dogs due to the holiday. He asked about a possible flyer or plan on what people can do with the strays in order to reunite them with their families. Mr. Franz said that he would check into doing something like that.

**CIRCUIT COURT BUSINESS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION  
ADULT PROBATION – CIRCUIT COURT PROBATION**

President Richmond read the following additional appropriations for Circuit Court: 4. Adult Probation-Circuit Court Probation, \$2,500.00. Administrator Powless stated that Judge Granger couldn't be present and this is just a matter of housekeeping. The Chief Probation Officer retired and one of the current Probation Officers was promoted to the Chief Position. This is the compensation. Everything was used in the line item for the former Chief's retirement payout. Brad Overton made a motion to approve. Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS**

President Richmond read the following into the minutes:

5A. <u>Salary Ordinance: Sheriff pay out- handbook Deputy</u>	112 sick, 80 vacation 13.25 comp hours	\$5,135.36
5B. <u>Salary Ordinance &amp; Additional: Prosecutor Retiree pay out- handbook First Deputy Criminal Division Prosecutor</u>	160 hours PTO 1000.11211.000.0009 First Deputy Criminal Div.	\$6,986.40 \$6,987.00

There was no further discussion. Councilman Brad Overton made the motion to approve. Councilman Ted Metzger seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

*(May Appropriations are located on Page 5 of these Official Minutes)*

**COUNCIL BUSINESS  
OTHER BUSINESS  
TOURISM REPORT**

Shari Sherman, with the Tourism Board, gave an update. Since 2018, they have brought in over \$773,000.00 in tourism money with the Innkeeper Tax. It can only be used to promote tourism in Warrick County. In 2020, they created a strategic plan for what they are wanting to accomplish. Outdoor activities have been a big part of that plan. They have also focused on some billboards along the interstates and worked with INDOT for wayfinding signage. One area of focus was the Covert and I-69 intersection, north and southbound, to promote Historic Newburgh. They wanted to focus on the three museums in, but the requirement is that they have to be open six days a week to be able to put up a sign. Another focus was the I-64 and Lynnville exit, both east and west, for Boonville Square, Lynnville Park, Scales Lake, and Coal Mine Museum. The signs are not cheap. There are initial costs and then rental fees. The Tourism Board has also created a grant program and has given out about \$65,000.00 so far to promote tourism. Many will use the money to buy billboards outside of the county in order to bring people in. All the billboards that Tourism sponsors has to have the Visit Warrick logo on them. She feels as they get in more hotels there will be even bigger and better things to do. There were no questions from the Council.

**UPCOMING AIC MEETING**

President Richmond wanted to remind Council members that there was an upcoming AIC meeting coming up in Huntingburg. He will be attending.


**UPCOMING INDIANA COUNTY COUNCIL STATE-CALLED MEETING**


President Richmond also let members know that there was an upcoming State-Called meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Carmel, Indiana.

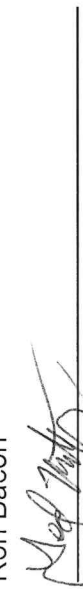
**ADJOURNMENT**


The next Warrick County Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners meeting room. Councilman Ted Metzger made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.


**WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL**


  
 Greg Richmond, President


  
 Ron Bacon

  
 Ted Metzger

  
 Chris Whetstone

  
 Brad Overton, Vice President

  
 Robert Dimmett

  
 Richard Reid

ATTEST:

  
 Michael J. Dietsch, Auditor  
 Warrick County, IN

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kristine Georges, Official Recording Secretary*

SEC. 1 BE IT ORDAINED (RESOLVED) BY THE WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL, WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE TAXING UNIT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY ARE HEREBY APPROPRIATED OUT OF THE FUNDS NAMED AND FOR THE PROPOSED SPECIFIED SUBJECTS TO THE LAWS GOVERNING THE SAME:

*ORIGINAL*

FUND	APPROPRIATION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Health	1159.11250.000.0000	Pound keeper	\$2,800.00	2,800
	1159.18220.000.0000	Overtime	\$5,000.00	5,000
Adult Probation	2000.11480.000.0000	Circuit Court Probation	\$2,500.00	2,500
Prosecutor	1000.11211.000.0009	First Deputy Criminal Div.	\$6,987.00	6,987

Taxpayers appearing in the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the State Board of Tax Commissioners. The Board will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action.

Adopted this 4 day of May, 2023.

*Mike Dietsch*  
AYE

\_\_\_\_\_ NAY

*West Bennett*

*Brad Overton*

*Way Leckman*

*Ch. White*

*Richard Keid (KP)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

*Mike Dietsch*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor Warrick County

Mike Dietsch

ORIGINAL

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL  
 ORDINANCE NO. 2023 - 01  
 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA  
 MODIFYING LOCAL INCOME TAX RATES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Warrick County Council of Warrick County, Indiana (the "Council") that a need now exists to adopt certain local income tax rates imposed within Warrick County, Indiana (the "County") in the following way:

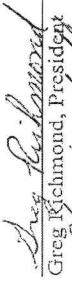
Allocation Rate Category	Existing LIT Rate	Proposed LIT Rate
Certified Shares (IC 6-3.6-6)	0.0%	0.0%
Public Safety (IC 6-3.6-6)	0.50%	0.30%
Economic Development (IC 6-3.6-6)	0.5%	0.50%
Property Tax Relief Rate (IC 6-3.6-5)	0.0%	0.0%
Special Purpose Rate (IC 6-3.6-7)	0.0%	0.0%
Correctional or Rehabilitation Facilities (IC 6-3.6-2.7)	0.0%	0.20%


The Local Income Tax Rates proposed above will become effective on October 1, 2023.


BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a public hearing was held on the proposed local income tax rate modifications on May 4, 2023. Proposed notice of the public hearing was provided pursuant to IC 5-3-1.

ADOPTED by the Warrick County Council this 4 day of May, 2023.


Warrick County Council


  
 Greg Richmond, President


  
 Chris Whetside

  
 Ron Bacon

Warrick County Council


  
 Brad Overton, Vice President

  
 David Hochmeister, Rob Dinnme H

  
 Ted Metzger

Richard Reid

ATTEST:

  
 Michael Dietsch, Auditor  
 Warrick County, Indiana