

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street
Boonville, Indiana
April 6, 2023
6:00 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.

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/UCOK8y71XclpK9le8VV4pr9w?view_as=subscriber

Council President, Greg Richmond, 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, Rob Dimmett, Ted Metzger, Brad Overton, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstone. Councilman Richard Reid was present via Facetime and visible.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

AIC DISTRICT MEETING

President Richmond wanted to announce the upcoming AIC District Meeting. It will be held May 17, 2023 at 4:30 PM CST at the Huntingburg Community Center in Huntingburg, Indiana. Dinner is provided. He plans on going. They are going to discuss legislation that affects all the counties.

UPDATE ON SENATE BILL 300 & SENATE BILL 78

President Richmond asked if Councilman Bacon had heard any updates on Senate Bills 300 and 78. Councilman Bacon said they were still working on them and if they are waiting on a hearing that probably means that there are issues with them and they are not together on it, but that doesn't mean it won't come up for a vote. He also said it didn't go to rule, so, it wasn't totally dead yet.

TABLED ITEMS

There were no tabled items.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MARCH 2, 2023

The minutes from the March 2, 2023 Council Meeting were presented. President Richmond had one correction to the minutes involving the motion made on Agenda Item 6. Items 6A through H were approved and the minutes stated the motion was made for 6A through 6F. He asked that the F be changed to H to correctly reflect what was approved. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to approve the minutes with that correction. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

LIT BUSINESS - EDIT

OHIO TOWNSHIP PARK

Economic Development Director Steve Roelle was present to ask the Council for a \$500,000.00 additional appropriation for the new Ohio Township Park. He had a visual presentation that had also been emailed to the Council members. He stated he and the Economic Development Advisory Council were very excited about this project. This is a twenty-acre visionary park that will feature active play space for all ages and abilities. Some of the features include a giant playground, splashpad, ballcourts, lawn games, multipurpose field, walking trails, fitness stations, and more. It will be a County and regional destination. It will contain some of the amenities that are the number one requested for this community. It is on the edge of the Wellness Trail along Libbert Road. It's scheduled to break ground in 2023 and open in 2024. Economic Development and the Advisory Board unanimously support the funding that is being asked for as it will reap great benefits. People want to live in communities that have these kinds

of amenities. This request of \$500,000.00 would come out of the EDIT Fund. There is money in the fund available for this. There will be an agreement in place for the project just as there would for any Economic Development Project for the funds. These funds would also be the last dollars into the project and there will be claw backs to protect those dollars. Mr. Roelle also stated that the \$500,000.00 is only about 4% of the project. He also said that Ohio Township would have to maintain and insure the project after completion. They were also awarded a \$3,000,000.00 READI Grant for this project. He then took questions from the Council about the project.

President Richmond asked for clarification on the long-range plan that the trails, eventually, would go from Victoria Woods to the Boonville Industrial Park. Mr. Roelle stated that he was correct. The goal is to get into Downtown Boonville. But, the next step, and it's already funded through Warrick Trails and County funding, is to get halfway to that trail this summer. Mr. Roelle has been in talks with Jordan Aigner and they are actively in the works with that trail extension.

Councilman Chris Whetstine asked if he misunderstood that they already had the money to fund this project. Mr. Roelle said, no, but this is a piece of the gap funding. Ohio Township will pick up about 65% of the bill. State and Federal Funding will be provided through the READI Grant and that this appropriation is helping to close that gap to make the park possible and have all those features and amenities. This will be the last dollars in contractually. He also stated as far as the READI Grant, they have been awarded the grant, but it has parameters. It can only be 20% of a project. So, other private and public dollars have to be brought in. It has been outlined where the rest of that money is coming from. This money will help check that box of compliance.

Councilman Metzger asked if this was the property behind the new fire station on Libbert Road. Mr. Roelle stated that it was. Councilman Metzger questioned the property being apart of the fire station. Mr. Roelle explained that the entire project outside of the firehouse is about a \$15,000,000.00 project. That acreage is a part of Ohio Township's contribution to this and have spent the money on it already.

Councilman Metzger asked if any revenue would be generated from this park. Mr. Roelle said that the park would be free and open to all, but there was a community room feature in the fire station that community groups will be able to rent that will have a lawn overlooking the lake. So, there is a rental space, but the park will not have a charge to it. Support of the park will come from Ohio Township's Park Fund with Township money. Mr. Roelle stated that it was a significant contribution that requires no ongoing contribution from the County, but will continue to benefit the County.

Councilman Whetstine asked if the grant money was awarded, which he was told it had been. But, Mr. Roelle stated it's a reimbursement grant. As the park spends money, they are reimbursed. This \$500,000.00 helps them get the awarded grant keeping them compliant with the parameters of the grant.

Councilman Metzger made the comment that there wasn't a lot out there. Mr. Roelle said there was a lot of open space out there, but there was also a lot of activity going on. It will be an economic development accelerator for the area and there's plenty of room to grow.

Councilman Whetstine asked if there was anything else they were waiting on or if this was the final stage. Mr. Roelle said they are at the tail end of the project getting started. They are securing the final funds so that the project happens and happens in the size, scope, and magnitude that is planned. This project will have an economic impact.

Councilman Rob Dimmett asked if there had been any improvement of Libbert Road. Last time he was through, it was a narrow road. Mr. Roelle stated there had not, but it is on the radar with the new fire station and growth. But, it's not on the calendar. It will have to get on the Highway Department's Improvement Plans as the growth happens. Although he helps support those things, it would be the Highway Department that would have to address that. Councilman Dimmett said it concerned him about the road as fire trucks are already running the road which is narrow. He wanted to make sure there was a game plan for improvement of the road in the future.

Councilman Brad Overton asked how the safety funding from Ohio Township was affected. Mr. Roelle said he could let them speak to it, but as he understood it, Townships have safety dollars and Parks have a Parks and Revenue Fund. So, you can't use money from one for the other. So, they can't take the public safety money and use it to cut grass at the park.

Mr. Larry Volz from Newburgh came before the Council to ask where the \$500,000.00 was coming from, property taxes or income taxes. Mr. Roelle stated it was coming from local income taxes. Mr. Volz felt that was what caused income taxes to go up this year. He then stated that the cumulative budget was up \$1,200,000.00; taxes are out of sight. His property taxes went up 20%. President Richmond told Mr. Volz that he intended to call him, but he had been unable. He would be glad to explain to him why his taxes are up and how everything works. They continued the brief discussion with Mr. Volz with Mr. Volz agreeing to meet with President Richmond to discuss the issue one on one.

Councilman Ron Bacon felt that all his questions had been answered. The rest of the money is coming from Ohio Township. He also reiterated that the County would be the last ones in as far as funding. If the other money doesn't go in first, then the County money won't go in. The money is allocated, but it is not spent until the very last and everything comes together. Mr. Roelle stated that the agreement will also state as much.

President Richmond called for the motion. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to approve the \$500,000.00. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. Councilman Whetstine asked if that motion could be amended to be contingent upon receiving final approval of the READI Grant and be the last dollars into the project. Both Councilmen Bacon and Reid amended their motions. The motion carried 4-3 with Councilmen Rob Dimmett, Ted Metzger, and Brad Overton opposing.

**COMMISSIONER BUSINESS
ARPA – OHIO TOWNSHIP INTERLOCAL**

President Richmond read into the record the additional appropriation from the ARPA funding for the Ohio Township Interlocal of \$99,393.15. There was no discussion. Councilman Overton made the motion to approve. Councilman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

JAIL SAVINGS – CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

President Richmond read into the record the additional appropriation for the Contractual Services in Jail Savings of \$9,000.00. There was no discussion. Councilman Overton made the motion to approve. Councilman Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**SHERIFF BUSINESS
DEPUTY TRAINING**

Sheriff Mike Wilder presented a salary ordinance for training in the amount of \$51,542.00 from May 1, 2023 through February 1, 2024. Administrator Powless stated that he has the money in his budget to bring the Deputy on. It is a salary ordinance only. Councilman Overton made a motion to approve. Councilman Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS

President Richmond read the following into the minutes:

- 5A. Transfer: Prosecutor
Transfer From: 1000.21150.000.0660 Postage \$169.98
Transfer To: 1000.44200.000.0660 Equipment \$169.98
- 5B. Additional Appropriation: Reimbursement (insurance)
Sheriff 1000.44300.000.0005 Motorized Equipment \$8,575.00
- 5C. Additional Appropriation & Salary Ordinance: Retiree pay out-handbook
Commissioners 1000.11410.000.0068 Administrative Clerk \$5,255.00
Administrative Assistant 240 hours \$8,936.84

There was no further discussion. Councilman Overton made the motion to approve 5A through 5C. Councilman Bacon seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

(April Appropriations is located on Page 4 of these Official Minutes)

**COUNCIL BUSINESS
PSLIT UPDATE**

Administrator Krystal Powless added this because there has been a lot of discussion to adjust the Public Safety side of LIT. This would not affect the EDIT side. It is also not an increase. It is adjusting the rate, setting a 0.20% rate for a correctional facility in order to get that payment set aside. It will come off the top before anything else is disbursed. The Public Safety LIT portion would be set at .30%. It is currently 0.50%. If that is the will of the Council, they need to direct Attorney Whitehead to draft the Ordinance. A Public Hearing would also need to be scheduled. Councilman Ted Metzger made the motion that Cliff Whitehead draft the Ordinance and set the Public Hearing for the rate change to the PSLIT. Councilman Ron Bacon seconded the motion. In the discussion on the motion, Administrator Powless clarified that this was just dividing the amount of 0.50%. Councilman Bacon stated that there was current legislation pending in the Statehouse that could change how they are able to spend that money. Having the Ordinance in place of who gets what, it sets aside that amount for the jail. That was the reason they did the PSLIT in the first place. This allows the money to be set aside and they know what they have. Right now, they are spending and shifting over what is left. This will take it off the top. The motion approved 7-0.

Attorney Whitehead wanted to inform the Council that this would be a two-step process for passing the Ordinance. First would be the Public Hearing. They are looking to hold the Public Hearing in May with the final vote in June. He said that Council could have the vote in May, and if it's unanimous, that would be the only vote. It would pass. If it was not unanimous, the second vote would be in June. Administrator Powless said they should try to get it done in May, so, the Public Hearing notification will be posted for the May meeting. Councilman Bacon stated that a May passage would aid them as far as having it in place before the current State legislation, which if passed, wouldn't go into effect until July.

TOUR OF COUNTY OWNED BUILDINGS

Councilman Whetstone stated that he, Councilman Dimmett, and Councilman Metzger went on a tour of some of the County-owned buildings with the Commissioners. He just wanted to recommend it. Now, they have a visual for when different topics come up.

DISCUSSION WITH CITIZEN LARRY VOLZ

President Richmond again addressed Mr. Volz and his concerns for the raise in property taxes. He will be meeting with him one on one in the near future to discuss the tax process, budgets, and how it all works and why the raises occur.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Warrick County Council meeting will be held on May 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners meeting room. Councilman Ted Metzger made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Greg Richmond
 Greg Richmond, President

Ron Bacon
 Ron Bacon

Ted Metzger
 Ted Metzger

Chris Whetstone
 Chris Whetstone

Brad Overton
 Brad Overton, Vice President

Robert Dimmett
 Robert Dimmett

Richard Reid
 Richard Reid

ATTEST:

Michael J. Dietsch
 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 purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

FUND	APPROPRIATION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
ARPA	8950.31605.000.0000	Ohio Typ. Inter-local	\$99,393.15	99,393.15
Sheriff	1000.44300.000.0005	Motorized Equipment	\$8,575.00	8,575
Jail Savings	4940.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$9,000.00	9,000
LIT	1112.31584.000.0000	Ohio Twshp Park	\$500,000.00	500,000
Commissioners	1000.11410.000.0068	Administrative Clerk	\$5,255.00	5,255

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 6 day of April, 2023.

Michael Dietsch AYE

Brad Overton AYE

Chris Whetstone AYE

Rick Reid AYE

Ron Bacon AYE

Ted Metzger AYE

Greg Richmond AYE

Richard Reid NAY

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31

ATTEST:
Michael Dietsch AS
 Auditor Warrick County