

REGULAR SESSION
SCOTT COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH 9, 2021

The Scott County Council met in Regular Session on March 9, 2021 at 9:30 am in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Suite 128, Courthouse, First Floor. Those present were Council members Donnie Richie, Eric Gillespie, Lyndi Hughbanks, Diane Mullins (via phone), Rachael Hardin, and Raymond Jones. Member Ab Watts did not attend the meeting. Also present were Auditor Tammy Stout Johnson and Chief Deputy Auditor Teresa Vannarsdall.

The meeting was called to order by President Hardin who opened the meeting with roll call, led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation. President Hardin opened the floor for public comments. Hardin read a letter from Raleigh Campbell expressing interest in the Council Attorney role. Commissioner Lizenby added that Commissioner were open to sharing the same attorney for both Boards. Hughbanks expressed concern over the Commissioner's counsel not being familiar with the Council's business. Jones said he did not see the need for separate legal counsel, as long as Council had access to the Attorney in the rare instances where Council would need legal advice. Richie and Jones commented on their positive experiences with the Health Department's vaccination process.

CORONER ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

The request for the additional appropriation for the Coroner's Office location at Scott Memorial Hospital was discussed with Commissioner Lizenby. Lizenby informed members that Redevelopment Funds are a potential source for funding the project. The Redevelopment Commission had a meeting on February 26, 2021. Based upon the Northern TIF Districts Amended Plan, capital outlay for improvements to County Government facilities and improvements to emergency infrastructure are included in the Plan. The establishment of a proper Coroner's Office would fit the Plan in two (2) ways and expenditures would be consistent with purpose of Redevelopment according to the Commission's consultant. A motion was made to fund the Coroner's Office project, up to \$35,000 provided the Commissioners enter into a formal agreement with stipulations on termination and possession of personal property.

MOTION: Hughbanks moved to defer the matter to the Commissioners pending a binding agreement and the Redevelopment Commission for funding the Coroner's Office location project. Seconded by Watts. Motion carried unanimously.

AUSTIN TRIHAWK TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST (RESOLUTION #2021-004 & #2021-005)

Mary Jo Wallin-Orlowski with One Southern Indiana requested consideration for Real and Personal Property abatements for Austin TriHawk Automotive. The potential for the installation of a new line at the Austin facility would rest heavily on local incentives to compete with the sister plant. The request was for a 10-year graduated assessment increase, with the first year being 100% abated.

Jones commented that ATA had always compiled their data and kept every commitment made to the Council. Richie concurred with Jones. All agreed that it would be positive for the Austin plant to have the new line and thanked One Southern for their work.

MOTION: Jones moved to approve Resolution #2021-004, thus granting the graduated Real property abatement to ATA over a 10-year period. Seconded by Richie. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Gillespie moved to approve Resolution #2021-005, thus granting the graduated Personal property abatement to ATA over a 10-year period. Seconded by Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

Mary Jo Wallin-Orlowski thanked Auditor Johnson for her assistance with the abatement process.

UNITED WAY PRESENTATION

United Way Director Nancy Riley and UW Board member Michelle Matern presented information on United Way’s community outreach and projects support by the not for profit. Riley explained the mission of the UW which was to provide needs to empower people. Riley added that local gifts stay local unless the funds are redirected by the donor.

UW is focused on education, health, early childhood development and works with the community, businesses, government, and education outlets. One of the most recognizable projects is the Dolly Parton Imagination Library that provides pre-kindergarten children with free books each month. Matern commented that studies link compromised childhood literacy with the likelihood of becoming incarcerated.

Riley cited the decrease donations received through payroll deductions as a contributing factor for falling short of the contribution goal. Riley requested a \$5,000 donation from Scott County and hoped to continue the partnership going forward.

Jones cautioned that other requests will likely come in once the door is opened for donations and local grants.

MOTION: Hughbanks moved to table action on the \$5,000 grant request from the Scott County United Way until the next meeting. Seconded by Richie. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST FROM TIMBER FUND

Commissioner Jones discussed the current situation with the Coroner’s Office and the need to finalize arrangements with Scott Memorial Hospital for the office and morgue/autopsy space. Commissioner Jones explained the renovation costs would be approximately \$28,000 with additional funds needs for engineering and State permitting fees. Councilman Jones questioned whether tax dollars (public funds) could be spent for improvements on a privately owned building or property not owned by the County. Other members questioned if the agreement between the Hospital and the County would be sufficient to satisfy the State Board of Accounts.

MOTION: Hughbanks moved to table the additional appropriation request until the SBOA can render an opinion on the matter. Seconded by Richie. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO AUSTIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

A letter to Council from the City of Austin Economic Development Commission requested a member appointment to their Board. This appointment would be pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-12 establishing a five (5) member board with a one (1) year term. The letter also stated that Mayor Hawkins recommended District One Councilman Donnie Richie because the City is a part of his district.

MOTION: Jones moved to appoint District One Councilman Donnie Richie to the Austin Redevelopment Commission. Seconded by Gillespie. Motion carried unanimously.

2021 SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR HIGHWAY ENGINEER STIPEND

Council entertained a request to amend the 2021 Salary Ordinance to reflect the Commissioner’s hire of an Engineer to serve as the Highway Director. The State would provide a \$40,000 stipend to any County that employees a full time Engineer. Commissioners proposed to use \$55,000 of the budgeted Highway Supervisor compensation along with the \$40,000 State allocation to establish an annual exempt salary of \$95,000 for the new Highway Director.

MOTION: Gillespie moved to retain the budgeted amount for the Highway Supervisor at \$55,286.40. Seconded by Hughbanks. Motion carried with five (5) in favor and one (1) opposed (Hardin).

MOTION: Hughbanks moved to amend the 2021 Salary Ordinance by adding a Highway Engineer State Stipend line in the amount of \$40,000 under the Highway Supervisor line. Seconded by Gillespie. Motion carried with five (5) in favor and one (1) opposed (Hardin).

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 29, 2020 AND JANUARY 12, 2021
MEETINGS**

Minutes from the December 29, 2020 Regular meeting were presented for review and approval consideration.

MOTION: Jones moved to approve the minutes from the December 29, 2020 Special meeting. Second provided by Hardin. Motion carried with four (4) in favor, one (1) abstain (Hughbanks), and one (1) opposed (Gillespie).

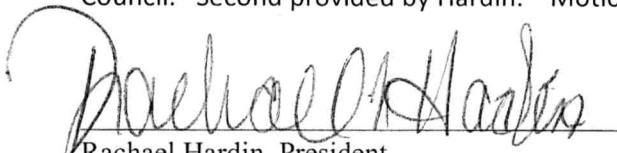
Minutes from the January 12, 2021 Regular meeting were presented for review and approval consideration.

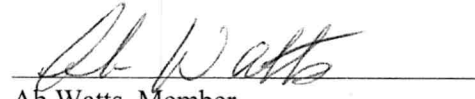
MOTION: Richie moved to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021 Regular meeting. Second provided by Hardin. Motion carried unanimously.

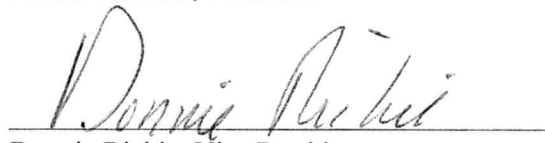
CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

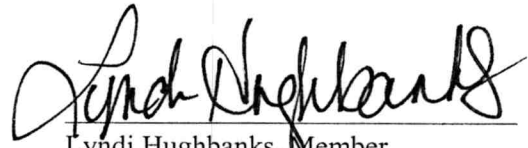
Hughbanks questioned the General Fund appropriations of the CARES Act funds that were largely spent on the EMS Department. Hughbanks asked why it was not spread among other departments. Richie responded that updates on equipment, etc. was needed because that service saves lives. Richie added that no one wanted EMS to be added to the tax roll, so needs were being met through the CARES money instead. Hardin suggested having EMS Director Shannon Mount attend the next meeting.

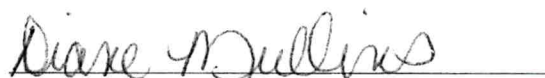
With no other business, Jones moved to adjourn the March 9, 2021 Regular meeting of the Council. Second provided by Hardin. Motion carried unanimously.

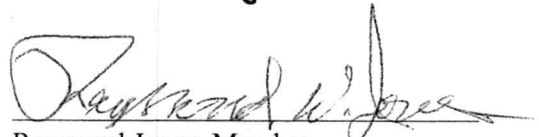

Rachael Hardin, President

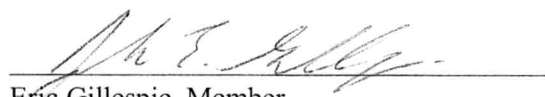

Ab Watts, Member

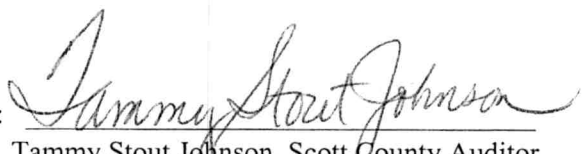

Donnie Richie, Vice President


Lyndi Hughbanks, Member


Diane Mullins, Member


Raymond Jones, Member


Eric Gillespie, Member

ATTEST: 
Tammy Stout Johnson, Scott County Auditor