

# **FAYETTE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **March 5, 2024**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:**

That the Fayette County Council of Fayette County, State of Indiana, met in regular session on the above date at 6:00 p.m. with the following present: Council members Sharon Cranfill, Bob Stewart, Scott Bevington, Tim Patterson, Kay Riker-Peyton, Mike Wenta and Jim Wulff along with Auditor Jane Downard and County Attorney Geoff Wesling of said County and State.

President Cranfill called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

Councilman Stewart moved to approve the minutes from the February 6<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, Councilman Bevington seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

**MAIL:**

None

**COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Geoff Wesling did not have anything for council at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None

**COMMISSIONER REPRESENTATIVE:**

Commissioners Dale Strong, Dale Munson, and Tracie Bever were all present. Commissioner Strong updated the council on today's commissioner meeting. Commissioners approved a 144 for the hire of Austin Carr to fill a vacancy as a Building and Maintenance employee and start on March 18th. They approved a leasing agreement for specialty chairs for 911 Dispatch. A proposed zoning ordinance regarding parking was rejected and remanded back to the Area Planning Commission for revisions. A public hearing was set for the proposed amended fee schedule for building permits on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. They are going to move from a per project cost fee to an actual square footage fee to be more fair and equitable. Commissioners waived the current fee for a foundation for the Reid Hospital project. They addressed a couple of disputes regarding the highway department. They received the Sheriff's annual jail report, got a report from the Animal Shelter Director, and approved the Emergency Management Director requesting additional appropriation requests to be presented to council this evening. Commissioners approved extending the Cemetery Mowing contract with Jay McAtee for another year.

Commissioners heard from Chad Groning regarding the request from the Volunteer Fire Departments for an interest free loan if they are awarded a reimbursement grant, and commissioners are forwarding a favorable recommendation to council to approve the loan. Last week some officials from the Department of Corrections came to tour the jail annex and work release building and seemed to be impressed and encouraged with what the County is doing. Commissioner Strong shared that the black steel bench in the hallway was purchased through donations in memory of Mark Nobbe. It will be bolted down on the sidewalk outdoors hopefully next week. Council members Stewart and Bevington asked about the Glenwood Water Project, and Commissioner Strong said he has not heard anything from Rush County but would reach out to Mary Richardson and follow up.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS:**

Wade Walling presented two additional appropriation requests to County General Fund 1000 Emergency Management, one to Account 30500 Repair of Equipment in the amount of \$2,482.49 and one for Account 30831 Radio Maintenance in the amount of \$4,250.00. Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to approve the two additional appropriations as requested reducing the repair of equipment to 1,882.49 and the radio maintenance as presented, Councilman Bevington seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0. Wade also spoke on the solar eclipse and his expectations for large crowds that day.

Dave Ryckman said the new building at the Animal Shelter is almost done. He presented two additional appropriation requests to Animal Shelter Donations Fund 4102, one to Account 30301 Veterinarian Charges in the amount of \$24,000, and one to Account 30860 Grant Match in the

amount of \$17,500. Councilman Bevington asked if he knew when the building would be completed, and he said he did not. Dave said he will be ordering a plaque to recognize the donors. Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to approve the additional appropriation requests as presented, Councilman Wenta seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

An additional appropriation request was presented to Statewide 911 Fund 1222 Account 30860 Grant Match in the amount of \$15,221.94. Councilman Wenta moved to approve the additional as presented, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

**144s:**  
None

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
None

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
Chad Groning spoke on behalf of the three volunteer fire departments regarding their request for an interest-free loan from the county until they receive reimbursement if they are awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to approve the loan of money pending grant approval, Councilman Bevington seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

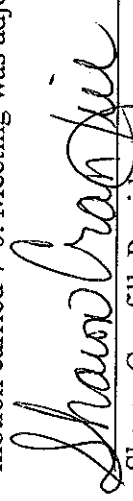
Sheriff Zac Jones presented his Annual Jail Report for 2023. He briefly discussed each of the various sections.

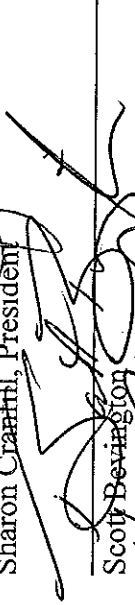
Veterans Service Officer Ron Stevens spoke to council about getting the word out regarding a homeless veteran. He is a double amputee, not service-related, and needs a place for him and his wife to live. His wife was recently in a car accident and spent some time in a coma so is still recovering. He asked if anyone knows of available housing to contact him. He also shared that he has been successful in helping several veterans get benefits, and that he is seeing benefits come in for several that filed under the PACT Act. He thanked council for their support.


**PATRON CONCERNS:**  
None

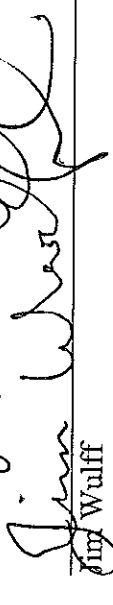
**ADJOURNMENT:**

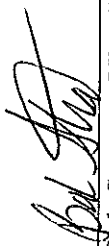
Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to adjourn, Councilman Stewart seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.


  
Sharon Cranfill, President


  
Scott Bevington

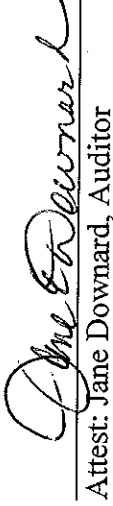
  
Kay Riker-Peyton

  
Jim Wulff

  
Bob Stewart, Vice President

  
Tim Patterson

  
Mike Wenta

  
Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor