

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

April 11, 2023

The following Council Members were present:

President Richard Ring
Vice President David Yarde
Member William VanWye
Member Robert E. Krafft
Member Amy Demske
Member Amy Prosser
Member Rick Collins

Others present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
Attorney Donald J Stuckey

Robert Krafft opened the meeting with prayer at 8:35 a.m.

The public hearing was opened at 8:36 a.m. and Regular council meeting paused.

MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING

Larry Williams | expressed his deep concern of what he considers irresponsible spending practices that he has observed within DeKalb County. As a concerned citizen he feels it is his duty to bring to the Council's attention the need for greater accountability and fiscal responsibility in managing taxpayer funds. He feels that DeKalb County is on the wrong track fiscally. Larry mentioned spending at both the County and the DeKalb Central School District, a prior letter he had sent out to everyone, the delay in the highway garage. Larry urges the County Council to take immediate action to address these concerns by implementing greater oversight and accountability measures.

Rick addressed that there were 2 other sites considered for the highway garage and the one site near Central and High School was rejected by the public because of its proximity to Fawn Creek Housing and High School and the County Farm was rejected by the County Commissioners and the Highway Department. Larry says he has talked to patrons that were in favor of the site by Central Dispatch/Fawn Creek contrary to what the Council/Commissioners had been told when looking at the site.

The public hearing was closed at 8:42 and regular council meeting reconvened.

MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-OCC-3

William VanWye made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-OCC-3: An Ordinance of the County Council of the County of DeKalb, Indiana, Authorizing the Issuance of Local Income Tax Revenue Bonds of 2023 (Tax-Backed) for the Purpose of Providing Funds for the Acquisition, Construction and Installation of a New County Highway Garage and Addressing other Matters Connected Therewith. David Yarde seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-OCC-4

David Yarde made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-OCC-4: An Ordinance of the County Council of DeKalb County, Indiana, Appropriating the Proceeds of the DeKalb County, Indiana, Local Income Tax Revenue Bonds of 2023 (Tax-Backed). Amy Demske seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

David Yarde made a motion to approve minutes dated March 14, 2023. Rick Collins seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Robert Krafft made a motion to approve Information Systems additional of \$13,000 into Technical Support (34100) within the General Fund (1001). David Yarde seconded and all approved.

Amy Demske made a motion to approve Community Corrections additional of \$4,000 into Overpayment of Fees-Refund (38999) within the Project Income Fund (1122). Amy Prosser seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF TRANSFERS

Rick Collins made a motion to approve the Auditor's Office transfer of \$124 from Other Service Fees (32780) to Computer Equipment (44420) within the Auditor's Ineligible Deduction Fund (1216). Amy Prosser seconded and all approved.

Robert Krafft made a motion to approve Change Academy's transfer of \$9,436 from Program Facilitator (11630) to Liability Insurance (33410) within the Change Academy School Funding Fund (4116). Amy Demske seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION 2023-R-6: DCC 4-1-3-38 AND DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2023-RCC-4

William VanWye made a motion to approve and all to sign Resolution 2023-RCC-4 a joint resolution with DeKalb County Commissioners for the Memorial of H. Charles (Charlie) Winans. David Yarde Seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF FINANCIAL REPORT BY FUND

The Council certified that they have received and reviewed the March 2023 Financial Report by Fund.

MATTER OF DEKALB COUNTY AIRPORT UPDATE

Randy Fox distributed a brief of new and old business for the Airport.
Council and Commissioner Brief 4/11/2023

New Business

- The auction of the contents of the Meese Chapel will run April 11 through the 25th, online only @ <https://www.littlejohnauctions.com>.
- The fencing portion of the Paving and Lighting Runway Extension Project is underway. The preparation for paving will then start the week of April 25th.

- The Board accepted one bid for the Self-Serve Fuel system site work on March 17. The bid was a bit higher than expected at \$370,838. The Board approved the bid, asked us to try to value engineer the project a bit. They will vote on the contract at our April meeting. The new self-serve tank and pump system is completed and sitting in the Garsite lot in Kansas City awaiting shipping.
- We are working on reestablishing our Cumulative Airport Building Fund as the state recommends we do on occasion.
- Sweet Aviation is doing great and their flight school and maintenance operation is picking up. The flight school far exceeds the activity we previously had already.
- We have updated our T-hangar lease as most of our leases are expiring in August. The Board will discuss price increases in the coming months.

Old Business

- None.

MATTER OF COUNTRY HERITAGE REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

Anton King gave a brief overview of the project and then Country Heritage owner Jeremy Lutter explained the changes that include additional renovations to the campus including additional manufacturing and production space that will include a new distillery as real property and the personal property will include wine press and tanks, distilling equipment, still, grinder, cooker and collums. Discussion took place between the Council and Mr. Lutter.

The Tax Abatement Committee recommended the following:

Real Property Tax Abatement for 8 years at the state standard % of 100%, 88%, 77%, 63%, 50%, 38%, 25% and 13% over 8 years with a 10 year savings of \$121,025.

Personal Property Tax Abatement for 4 years at the state standard of 100%, 75%, 50% and 25% over 4 years with a 10 year savings of \$29,589.

Amy Prosser read a definition of what an ERA is and does not feel it qualifies as an ERA.

William VanWye made a motion to direct the Council Attorney to prepare an EDA Resolution for the Country Heritage's Real & Personal Property. David Yarde seconded and motion passed (6,1) with Amy Prosser voting against.

Collins: aye Prosser: nay Demske: aye Yarde: aye Krafft: aye VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

MATTER OF INSPIRATION MINISTRIES: ANDREW FOSTER

Andrew Foster: CEO and founder of Inspiration Ministries handed out a list of their Board of Directors. The most important thing Andrew wants heard is that he is not the man he once was, he has been called and to lead by God. Andrew Foster is ultimately speaking on the Opioid Grant request. He apologized for not being at the last Council meeting as he did not know what the process was moving forward from his request to the Commissioners. Andrew Foster expressed his feelings on how the apparent 'roasting' of Inspiration Ministries unfolded from the time he met with the Commissioners to the discussion at the March Council meeting. David Yarde asked what type of treatment is provided that nobody else in the County provides. Andrew explained a treatment plan is created and intervention follow-ups within that plan, he says it's more than a 9 month drug and alcohol treatment. Amy Demske asked how the 30 staff members are certified, with a response from Andrew of what the State allows as training to become a peer specialist. Further discussion took place among the Council and Mr. Foster. Foster feels that his ministry easily saves DeKalb County over hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Ring Rick explained that the Council did not know that what the requirements were for the uses of the Opioid money and that the money was going to be pooled together among the units and the Council would like to see collaboration be done and then decide on the best way to spend the money for DeKalb County. Commissioner Hartman explained the Commissioners all three voted and recommend to the Council to fund the request.

Robert Krafft would like to make a motion to advertise for \$25,000 of the Unrestricted Opioid Money Fund for the May meeting. Amy Prosser seconded and discussion took place:

Robert Krafft expressed his work with Inspiration Ministries has been nothing but good and has not seen anything negative from the ministry. William VanWye wants to see what the money can be used for in the County before handing out the money to other sources. Rick Collins asked how we get to the point of knowing the amount of money we receive and what it can be used for. Discussion took place. Michelle Fosnaugh explained the grant that Inspiration Ministries applied for was a short deadline of 4 weeks and why the County did not apply for the same grant. Michelle explained that county agencies and the local JRAC were attempting to come up with a collaborative plan for the opioid settlement money involving cities and counties in the region, and collaboration does not allow for short timeframes. Michelle explained that they are trying to see what can be done with the remaining opioid settlement money.

The motion was defeated (2,5) with the following votes:

**Collins: nay Prosser: aye Demske: nay Yarde: nay Krafft: aye VanWye: nay
Ring: nay**

MATTER OF COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Central Communication – 2 Additional Dispatchers | Rick explained that he attended the Commissioners meeting last week to address a situation that has been an issue since its inception. When the County went to the Central Dispatch center, the County had promised Auburn and Garrett to have their own channels since all dispatch would be at the center. Rick also explained that when all the funding was discussed the County had the ability to set the 911 amount on phone bills, and then the State changed that ability and only the State can set that amount. The County also had an excess levy appeal that increased the revenue to the County and with the agreement from the City of Auburn and Garrett to reduced their levy for a total amount of \$305,915 increase to the County and also to not double tax the patrons of the County. The County has not been able to provide the City of Auburn or City of Garrett with their own dedicated dispatcher. Brian Humbarger presented next on the operations of how the calls come into the center and provided statistics of the center. Discussion took place among the members and Auburn City Chief Cory Heffelfinger spoke and gave additional explanation of the need for two additional dispatchers. Further discussion took place. Norm Yoder, proud ex-mayor of Auburn, also the chair of the Dispatch Board in the inception of the center. Norm explained that at the time the dispatch was being created all the dispatch centers had their own systems that did not communicate with each other. Norm also explained that with the decrease levy to the municipality then the City had to find money to fund the other duties that were not transferred to County Dispatch, as well as a cost to the County for increase of other duties. The agreement was that the City of Auburn and City of Garrett would have their own channels, and due to funding restraints that did not happen immediately but it was agreed that when the funding was available those municipalities would be given their own channels. Robert Krafft asked why this wasn't requested before and Norm said he understands the funding constraints but while he was Mayor he made his yearly trek over to Council with the request. David Yarde expressed his concern on upcoming budgets and gray areas of future funding needs.

William VanWye made a motion to approve the hiring of two additional dispatchers to begin July 1, 2023. Amy Demske seconded and motion passed (5,2) with Amy Prosser and David Yarde voting against.

Job Classification Committee Recommendations | Dotty explained the topics discussed at the Job Classification Committee Meeting. The following recommendations from the Job Classification Committee were submitted to the full council:

- ~Information Systems – Help Desk Administrator to Applications Support Analyst | **approve revised job description, NO classification change**
- ~Maintenance – Maintenance Associate | **approve position, job description, status, classification and fund this position**
- ~DCCC – Juvenile Educational Programs Coordinator | **approve updated job description/status/classification to be effective July 1, 2023 (FISCAL Grant)**
- ~DCCC – Juvenile Educational Program Facilitator | **approve updated job description, NO classification change**
- ~DCCC – Residential Services Facilitator/Residential Facility Officer | **approve this updated job description**
- ~Sheriff Office – Office Administrator/IDACS Coordinator | **approve updated job description, title, classification, wages | COMOT-C to PAT-B to start immediately**
- ~Paying PTO out at anniversary date | **recommend to keep current PTO policy**

David Yarde made a motion to approve the Job Committee Classification updated job descriptions with NO classification changes. Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

2024 Budget Guidance | Rick discussed changing how budgets are provided to the Council from the departments, the need to look at funding for the highway department-wheel tax, and the possible increase to the LIT tax rate to its maximum levy to start saving money for a new jail by reducing the Public Safety LIT rate by the same amount so that there would not be an increase to the taxpayers. By doing this the Public Safety LIT revenue is shared with the Cities and Towns and their revenue will decrease, however the amount the city and towns is reduced will be put into a savings for the new jail building needed in the future.

Council's 2024 budget guidance is for the departments to provide budgets at 5% on the operational line items, the Council will do the wage increases for all departments.

MATTER OF 2023 SALARY & HOURLY WAGE ORDINANCE: 2023-OCC-5

Rick Collins made a motion to approve The 2023 Salary & Hourly Wage Ordinance: Ordinance 2023-OCC-5 by title only on the FIRST Reading. Amy Prosser seconded and all approved

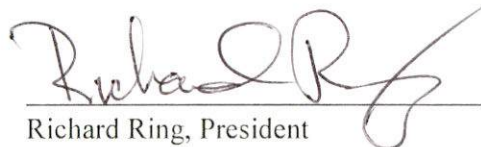
Amy Demske made a motion to suspend the rules to pass The 2023 Salary & Hourly Wage Ordinance: 2023-OCC-5 by title only on the 2nd and 3rd Readings. William VanWye seconded and all approved.

William VanWye made a motion to approve The 2023 Salary & Hourly Wage Ordinance: Ordinance: 2023-OCC-5 by title only on the SECOND and THIRD Readings. Amy Prosser seconded and all approved.

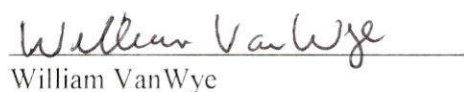
MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

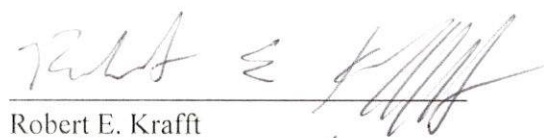
Rick Collins made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 a.m. Amy Prosser seconded and all approved.


DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL:

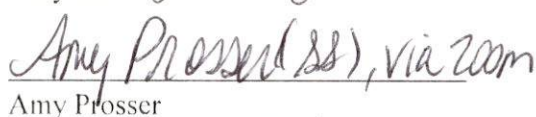

Richard Ring, President

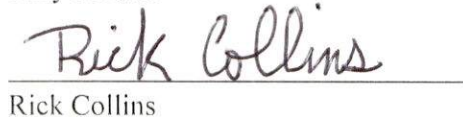

David Yarde, Vice President


William VanWye


Robert E. Krafft


Amy Denske


Amy Prosser (ss), via zoom


Rick Collins

ATTEST:


Susan Sleeper
DeKalb County Auditor