TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING – TIPPECANOE ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 08, 2017
8:30 A.M.

The Tippecanoe County Council met Tuesday, August 8, 2017 in the Tippecanoe Room of the County Office Building at 8:30 a.m. Councilmembers present were President John Basham, Vice President Bryan Metzger, Kathy Vernon, Kevin Underwood, David R Williams, Roland Winger, and Vicki Burch. Others present were Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney Doug Masson, and Recording Secretary Caitlin Thomas.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Basham called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Auditor's Financial

Auditor Plantenga reported the county began 2017 with a General Fund cash balance of $8,632,770.77. With projected misc. revenue, property taxes, the COIT transfer, and deducting circuit breaker credits the total available is $53,404,949.77. The beginning net balance is $1,321,654.77. We have approved additional appropriations of $150,173 so far this year and there is $277,351 in appropriations to review today. Deducting the miscellaneous revenues and the budget reductions, the total available is $1,177,180.77.

The Sheriff miscellaneous receipts are coming in nicely, and inmate housing revenue is over what we estimated for the year. He said 57.8% of the revenue has been received at 58% through the year. The General Fund ending balance is just a little less than $7 million. Misdemeanant Fund will probably see some appropriation requests next month. Under Rainy Day Fund, the receipt for $37,000 came from Court Services. Court Services Fund 2580 is the fund used for pay roll and day-to-day usage. Violence and Community Fund paid out $37,000 and still has a $55,000 balance. Jury Pay Fund has an uncommitted balance of $13,700. Self-Insurance Fund has gained almost $400,000 of cash balance for the month of July, which brings the balance to around $2.75 million.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Weston stated that, after several months of high interest, we are back down to the normal interest amounts. In July, we had $84,861.26 in interest between regular bank accounts and investments. Interest rates average 1.34% for the month of July and, unless there are any more fed fund increases, that would be the rate going forward. Interest from investments is up slightly and stable. Auditor Plantenga said there might be reimbursements for the Project Fund coming from the state. She said we are 58.3% through the year and have collected 63.8% of the revised budget.

Public Comment (*Agenda Items*)

No public comment.

Superior Court 2 – *Judge Meyer*
General Fund 1000

Appropriation	$	7,400	Pauper Attorney

President Basham said this appropriation would be moved up on the agenda. Judge Meyer explained they ended up with a short fall in that account due to higher need. This is for three different appeals, which were represented by pauper attorney. He said he would also have an appropriation next month in the amount of $18,000 for a bill related to representation in a trial last month. He also reminded the Council that a portion of this is reimbursed by the state because we participate in the Public Defender Commission.

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Resolution 2017-21-CL Approving Sheriff Semi Annual Commissary Fund Expenditures (01/01/17 to 06/30/17)

Auditor Plantenga said the statute states this should be filed with the Auditor semiannually and presented to the county fiscal body.

- Councilmember Williams moved to file the Resolution for audit, second by Councilmember Winger. Motion carried.

Resolution 2017-22-CL Application of Liquidspring LLC - Confirmatory Resolution

Kim Murray presented a request for the Council's support for a tax abatement for Liquidspring. This would be a capital investment of $1,963,000. She also presented a request from GIO 3 Holdings LLC for Personal Property and Real Estate abatements for a total capital investment of $4,330,000. Finally, she presented a request from American Fibertech Corporation for Personal Property and Real Estate abatements for a total capital investment of $4,225,000. She said the Fibertech representative was present if there were any questions from the Council. President Basham opened the floor to public comment. No public comment.

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve the compliance with statement of benefits as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Resolution 2017-23-CL Application of GIO 3 Holdings, LLC & All State Fasteners of Indiana – Confirmatory Resolution

President Basham opened the floor to public comment. No public comment.

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve the Confirmatory Resolution as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Resolution 2017-24-CL Application of American Fibertech Corporation – Declaratory Economic Revitalization Area

American Fibertech Corporation (SB-1 / Real Property)
American Fibertech Corporation (SB-1 / Personal Property)

Councilmember Williams asked if there should be two motions on this resolution. Attorney Masson said it would be one motion since in it all incorporated. This would approve both the ten year abatement for the Real Property and the seven year abatement for the Personal Property. President Basham opened the floor to public comment. No public comment. Councilmember Winger asked if the current tax abatement is in addition to what would be approved today. Attorney Masson confirmed it is in addition to not in place of the current abatement.

Jay Wiegand with American Fibertech Corporation stated the property was purchased in 1993. When he invested in the company in 1999, the company was in dire financial straits. Today, they are at about $70 million in revenue and they have four locations. They employ nearly 400 employees across the company. They work with several different plants here in town. At the Clarks Hill address, they manufacture new pallets and recycle old pallets. They were heat treating and drying pallets, which uses sawdust from their sawmill in a wood boiler to provide the heat for the process. This creates an efficient and low carbon footprint. They are looking to add 50 more jobs over the course of this period. They currently have several positions open that they are working to fill. This expansion will give them more leg room.

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve the Resolution as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits

Wildcat Creek Partners LLC (CF-1 / Real Property)

Butch Huber introduced himself as the representative from Wildcat Creek Partners and Ludo Fact. He said their initial building was about 4,200 square feet and they are continuing to grow. They were approached by Ludo Fact, which is the largest manufacturer of games and puzzles in Europe, with a merger proposal and the deal was completed a little over a year ago. Since then they have been producing the boxes for board games and puzzles as well as the puzzles and boards themselves. They have been very active in local events both in Lafayette and Indianapolis. The compliance statement is for the expansion of the building to 6,500 square feet.

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve the compliance with statement of benefits as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – July 11, 2017

County Extension –General Fund 1000			
Transfer	$	1,500	Other Professional Services *to* Salaries / Overtime
Surveyor – CEDIT Fund 1112			
Transfer	$	71,631	Culverts & Drains *to* Transfer Out
Prosecutor – Pre-Trail Diversion Fund 2560			
Transfer	$	15,000	Salaries / Part Time
	$	1,148	Social Security *from* Other Professional Services
Juv Alt – General Fund 1000			
Transfer	$	7,000	Salaries / Full Time
	$	3,500	Salaries / Part Time
	$	1,110	Social Security
	$	800	PERF / Retirement *to* Buildings & Property
Cary Home – General Fund 1000			
Transfer	$	2,462	Minor Equipment *to* General Machinery & Equipment

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Councilmember Metzger. Motion carried

Additional Appropriations:

Circuit Court

General Fund 1000

Appropriation	$	10,000	Pauper Attorney

President Basham said this item was pulled from the agenda. Councilmember Winger said this is due to the face they still have a balance of $4,700. They will be coming back for requests at a future date as that fund gets closer to a zero balance.

Superior Court 1

General Fund 1000

Appropriation	$	15,000	Jury Expense

Councilmember Winger said that Judge Williams has been here before to let us know about this need. Rather than expending the $10,000 out of the Jury Pay Fund balance of $13,000, it would be best to take this from the General Fund and plan better next year.

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Superior Court 3

General Fund 1000

Appropriation	$	200,000	Pauper Attorney

Councilmember Williams moved to approve the appropriation, second by Councilmember Metzger. Councilmember Williams moved to amend the motion to $100,000, second by Councilmember Underwood. Councilmember Williams said it would be better to approve these amounts in smaller steps. Motion to amend carried. Motion to approve the amended appropriation carried.

SUP 3 NCJFC Fund 8637

Grant Appropriation	$	745	Training
	$	1,755	Travel & Mileage

- Councilmember Metzger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Williams. Motion carried.

Superior Court 4

General Fund 1000

Appropriation	$	1,350	Pauper Attorney

Councilmember Winger says keeping pace with invoicing coming in for Pauper Attorney services.

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Prosecutor

FSSA APS Fund 9252

Grant Appropriation	$	149,366	Salaries / Full Time
	$	39,000	Salaries / Part Time
	$	14,412	Social Security
	$	16,731	PERF / Retirement
	$	54,779	Health Insurance
	$	536	LTD Insurance
	$	336	Life Insurance
	$	1,047	Office Supplies
	$	3,300	Gasoline & Oil
	$	525	Utilities
	$	5,500	Travel & Mileage

	$	28,825	Institutional Care
	$	500	Repair Vehicle & Equipment

Councilmember Winger said this is an annual grant appropriation and they recommend approval.

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Public Defender – *Amy Hutchison*

General Fund 1000

Appropriation	$	30,000	Other Professional Services

Public Defender Hutchison said case loads are increasing astronomically and this is reflected in the expenses. She confirmed they have already spent the budgeted $20,000 plus $20,000 in their 1200 cash account. She believes that 1200 will increase their supplemental defender fund each month and she is hoping to use that instead of taking it all out of the General Fund. Councilmember Winger said they have met with the office to discuss next year's budget and they may consider hiring more employees to avoid the costs associated with hiring that work out.

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Supplemental Public Defender Fund 1200

Appropriation	$	20,000	Other Professional Services

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

CASA – *Coleen Connor*

General Fund 1000

Appropriation	$	11,443	Salaries / Full Time
	$	876	Social Security
	$	1,282	PERF / Retirement

Director Conner said program has grown exponentially and they are currently at 14 staff members. Throughout this time, they have had only one full time and one part time clerical staff members. They have tried to offset this by using volunteers. Councilmember Vernon asked if she has considered hiring another part time person instead of full time. Director Connor said with the increase in case loads, this is the best way to proceed.

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Metzger. Motion carried.

2017 Salary Statement	$	33,057	Clerical Support – Comot II – New Position

- Councilmember Metzger moved to approve the salary statement as presented, second by Councilmember Williams. Motion carried.

Surveyor – *Zach Beasley*

Phase II Donation Fund 4128

Appropriation	$	800	Other Supplies
	$	1,000	Other Professional Services

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Assessor – *Eric Grossman*

2017 Salary Statement – Assessor	$	9,000	Certifications

Eric Grossman said they are required to have certifications. Legislatively, they get bonuses that are generally paid out at the end of the year. The law has changed to require those bonuses to be paid in their salary and the Auditor recommended these to be paid out incrementally through the remaining paychecks. Auditor Plantenga said this has to be part of the paychecks and since Eric's salary cannot be changed in the middle of the year, he is basically forfeiting that bonus.

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the salary statement as presented, second by Councilmember Burch. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation – Stan Lambert

Councilmember Winger said he serves on the Wabash River Enhancement Board and he thought it would be appropriate to have Stan Lambert come and catch the Council up today on what is going on.

Mr. Lambert said he will be focusing on the Central Reach Design in this presentation. The board is a 501C3 agency created by Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Purdue to assist with the planning and implementing enhancement of the Wabash corridor. They have completed corridor master planning for the entire 30 mile section of the Wabash. Urban river front is divided into three reaches: North Reach, Central Reach, and South Reach. The Central Reach is bounded on the west side by River Rd. and on the east side by the drop from 3rd St to 2nd St. He presented the plans listed below.

Skylink Bridge – This will be a bike and pedestrian bridge connecting at Brown Street overlook to Brown Street on the Lafayette side. There will be ramp access down to connect with the Wabash river heritage trail. The goal with this is to create a loop trail system to connect both sides of the river. It will provide an iconic structure for the downtown area.

Riverside Promenade – This will be an elevated walkway and they are currently working on phase 1. It will connect with the bridge and extend south to connect with the railroad depot. The second part will also connect with Riehle Plaza and will feature a completely accessible route along the river. They are hoping to be done with the promenade in October.

East Short Overlooks – Several overlooks will be installed to open up new perspectives of the river.

Riehle Plaza – The plaza will become more park like with more greenery and a terraced area for formal and informal gatherings. There will be a splash park in this area.

Tapawingo Park – The ice rink will be moved to the north side of the building to create a multi-season destination. It will become a splash park in the summer and include a ribbon trail and traditional ice rink in the winter months. The park will also feature an urban beach, large playground, and open public space with an amphitheater.

Wetlands Walkway - In the lower wetlands, there will be a raised walkway to enable the public to explore that unique feature of the water front.

Councilmember Winger said he has been very impressed by the advance work that has been completed. The plan is audacious, but doable. He thanked Mr. Lambert for coming to present.

Auditor Plantenga said the budget books are in the Councilmember's boxes. The recent Otterbein Library Board appointment has resigned and Benton County Council will be appointing someone later this month. The Council will probably have an appointment next month as this is a joint appointment.

Unfinished/New Business

None.

Commissioner FYI

Commissioner Murtaugh reminded the Council about the Keep Stockwell Beautiful event on August 19. The courthouse progress is still on track for completion at the end of October. The scaffolding around the dome has already come down. The Farm Bureau dinner for elected officials will be held on September 19 at The Trails.

President reminded those present that the budget hearings will be held after the Council's September meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Councilmember Burch moved to adjourn, second by Councilmember Williams. President Basham adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

John R. Basham II, President

Bryan E. Metzger, Vice President

Vicki Burch

Kevin L. Underwood

Kathy Vernon

David R. Williams

Roland K. Winger

ATTEST:

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor 9/12/2017

Minutes prepared by Caitlin Thomas, Auditor Office Assistant