

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

THURSDAY, September 5, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

Councilmembers present: President Bryan Metzger, John Basham Kathy Vernon, Ilana Stonebraker, Lisa Dullum and Roland Winger. Vice President Kevin Underwood was absent.

Others present: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, and Recording Secretary John Thomas.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. Overview of 2020 Tippecanoe County Budget – Bob Plantenga

Budget hearings were held last week where revenues were evaluated, and budget cuts were made to develop a 2020 budget for the County. Requests for General Fund exceeded expected revenues by \$7.8 million. Revenue estimates were increased by \$1.8 million primarily by health insurance money transfer and the requests were reduced by \$3.6 million. Final approval is Tuesday September 10, 2019. The General Fund revenue was 96% of the General Fund Budget because we typically do not spend all the Budget. The salaries of County employees were increased to reflect last year's salary study plus 3%. Health insurance costs remained unchanged for 2020 and have for the last four years. The new positions created by the Commissioners were funded and the Recorders salary was moved from the General Fund to the Recorder Perpetuation Fund. \$1 million was transferred from excess funds in the Health Insurance Fund to the General Fund. The upcoming 2020 presidential election required increases in the Election Department. Two unfilled positions in the Clerk's office were funded and Community Corrections added a probation officer and lost an administrative position.

III. Review & Approval of the Greater Lafayette Convention & Visitors Bureau 2020 Budget

Auditor Plantenga stated that the Council needed to approve their budget since the Bureau receive Innkeepers tax but does not have an elected board.

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve budget as submitted, second by Councilmember Basham. Motion carried.

IV. Public Comments on the 2020 Budgets

Attorney Masson stated that the 2020 Budgets are different than the proposed Local Income Tax for Public Safety that will be discussed next.

Auditor Plantenga stated that the State requires the County's budget reflect the last six months of 2019 as well as all of 2020.

V. Information, Guidelines, Discussion and Public input on the potential Local Income Tax for Public Safety Rate

- A. President Metzger stated that the remainder of the meeting will consist of discussion only on the potential tax and that no decisions will be made today. There will be additional discussion on the proposed tax and a vote taken by the Council at its next meeting on September 10th.
- B. Auditor Plantenga presented a PowerPoint presentation about the Local Income Tax for Public Safety. He summarized the: state statutes, tax council, rates, adoption process and dates, County's public safety costs, potential revenue generated, advantages and disadvantages and a state map showing the counties with the tax.

- C. Attorney Masson stated that the Council passes a resolution to introduce an ordinance to the Income Tax Council in favor of a new Local Income Tax for Public Safety. The other entities then have 30 days to vote. The comments today are informal, and the Council wants to hear from the community.
- D. Elected and appointed public officials in attendance expressing their public safety needs and concerns:
1. West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis
 2. Lafayette Police Department Chief Patrick Flannelly
 3. Sheriff Goldsmith
 4. West Lafayette Police Chief Troy Harris
 5. Community Corrections Director Jason Huber
 6. Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jason Biss
 7. Lafayette Fire Department Chief Richard Doyle
 8. West Lafayette Fire Department Chief Timothy Heath
 9. County Commissioner Tom Murtaugh
 10. County Commissioner Tracy Brown
 11. State Representative Sheila Klinker
 12. Township Trustee Jennifer Teising
- E. Comments by the general public on the proposed Local Income Tax for Public Safety:
1. Perry Barbee spoke in favor of the proposal.
 2. Trent Cole was against an income tax and felt the funds should come from other sources, such as EDIT or a new Food and Beverage Tax.
 3. Sadie Harper spoke in favor of the proposal.
 4. Zackery Baiel spoke about whether the community growth is sustainable, wanted to ensure the information presented is available to the public and felt it appropriate that mental health services be available ahead of the criminal justice system.
 5. Vicky Burch spoke in favor of the proposal.
 6. Jennifer Teising expressed concern for the high cost of housing in the county.
 7. Lafayette Police Department Chief Patrick Flannelly stated that all the information he presented is available on the City's web site.

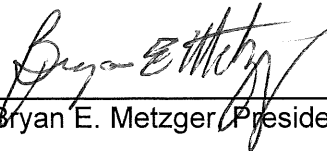
VI. Announcements

President Metzger stated that the Tippecanoe County Council's next meeting is Tuesday September 10 at 8:30 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room where the 2020 County Budget and the Local Income Tax for Public Safety will be considered.

VII. Adjournment

- President Metzger adjourned the meeting.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL


 Bryan E. Metzger, President

Absent
 Kevin L. Underwood, Vice President


Absent
 John R. Basham II



Lisa Dullum



Ilana Stonebraker



Kathy Vernon



Roland K. Winger

ATTEST:



Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor 10/8/2019

Minutes prepared by John Thomas, Recording Secretary