

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
February 18, 2020

Councilman Duckwall – Present
Councilwoman Chittum – Present
Councilman Donaldson – Present
Councilman Wood – Present
Councilman Wiles – Present
Councilman Sailors – Absent
Councilman Nutt-Present

President Duckwall called the meeting to order.

Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the January 14, 2020 minutes. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS

None

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

The Council reviewed Ordinance 2/18/2020, creating a Rainy Day Fund. Council President Duckwall explained that the county currently had a Rainy Day Fund, but this would be to create the Rainy Day Fund subaccount to earmark funds for the Courthouse/Annex construction and renovation project. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve Ordinance 2/18/2020, creating a Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

The Council reviewed Resolution 2/18/2020B, authorizing the Auditor to transfer \$10,000.00 per month from County General and \$30,000.00 per month from CEDIT to the Rainy Day Fund. Council President Duckwall explained funds would go into a subaccount to earmark funds for the Courthouse/Annex construction and renovation project. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve Resolution 2/18/2020B, authorizing the Auditor to transfer \$10,000.00 per month from County General and \$30,000.00 per month from CEDIT to the Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

GRISSOM AIR MUSEUM

Jim Tidd, MCEDA Director introduced Tom Jennings and Tom Kelley with the Grissom Air Museum. Mr. Jennings and Mr. Kelley both spoke about the B 58 Hustler currently housed at the Air Museum. Mr. Kelley spoke about the local history associated with the B 58 Hustler, the tourism it and the museum brings from people all over the United States. Mr. Kelley went on to note that several volunteers worked many hours to paint, update and maintain the aircraft, but the Indiana weather is causing it to deteriorate. Mr. Jennings presented a proposal to build a facility to enclose the B 58 Hustler, which would include an observation deck, memorial and artifact area and in addition, allow for facility rentals and outdoor concerts. Total cost of the project is estimated between \$350,000.00 and \$400,000.00. Mr. Jennings and Mr. Kelley noted they have currently raised \$130,000.00 to date and are requesting financial support from the county from CEDIT funds of \$100,000.00 over 2 years. Auditor Brown will advertise the additional appropriation for March and the Council will make a formal decision at that time.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT/COURTHOUSE SECURITY

Captain Dave Vitek, Judge Spahr & Dave Birnell came before the board on behalf of the Security Committee to request hiring of a part-time officer to help with Courthouse Security. Judge Spahr thanked the Council for started the process putting money back to help with funding on the Courthouse/Annex construction or reconstruction projects. Judge Spahr noted that the Security Committee, consisting of 14 members meets under state statute to ensure Courthouse Security monitored. The Committee had submitted a list of improvements and instance that have taken place in Miami and surrounding counties. Judge Spahr explained coming to court is an emotionally charged event. The current Courthouse security is lacking, though no fault of the Sheriff's Department or any of the boards. The Committee is encouraging 1 point of access, x-ray machine and a metal detector. Captain Vitek explained that Sheriff Hunter, Auditor Brown and he have discussed potentially hiring another part-time Security Officer, as 1 person cannot be everywhere at all times to respond to situations. For now, the 2nd officer would be a step to moving towards a secure entrance. Captain Vitek stressed the importance of making sure, when we get to the point of a secured entrance, that we do things correctly and properly staffed. The Committee understands this process is going to take time and planning to make the necessary accommodations. In the meantime, getting the 2nd officer in place would allow time to get a strategic plan in put in place. Judge Spahr noted the Committee encourages the Board of Commissioner and Council to keep moving forward expeditiously. Captain Vitek stated that at the time the Committee met, a part-time person was discussed, but since that time and after putting some preliminary numbers together; it may be more cost effective to hire a full-time person instead. It is about \$10,000.00 to outfit a new officer and they would need to hire more than 1 part-time person to have a rotation of help. At this point, Captain Vitek is not sure 2 would even be enough. Captain Vitek has a few people in mind, who may be interested in the position. He went on to stress that making a secured facility would mean a climate change for everyone. It defeats the purpose and is a waste of money if it is not properly followed, without exception. Council President Duckwall asked when the Bailiffs moved from a traditional court officer to clerical staff. Judge Spahr stated it was well over 25 years ago. Paul Daugherty, Courthouse Security Officer noted that it is difficult to man an entire building along, especially when you have level 5 felons coming in that require constant supervision. Officer Daugherty is in support of another officer. Councilman Wood stated that he would like to see a committee put together to review the needs to keep the project moving forward. Auditor Brown noted the Board of Commissioners approved at their meeting earlier today to create the committee to keep the project moving. The Council will continue to talk about the 2nd officer and hopefully make a decision in March or April.

Captain Vitek also updated the council on the status of the jail security system. Captain Vitek noted that after many months, all issues have been resolved. Last Monday, Sheriff Hunter, Captain Vitek, Auditor Brown and Commissioners Hunt & West met with Intrasect and worked out a final payment agreement. Captain Vitek noted Intrasect honored the overtime the county incurred during the project and provided an additional \$25,000.00 credit. The Sheriff and Captain Vitek are satisfied with the outcome and authorized the final payment to be released.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE UPDATE

Councilman Wood stated that he has had several phone calls with complaints about the Planning and Zoning Office. Auditor Brown noted that the part-time inspector turned in his resignation effective today.

Miles Hewitt talked about the importance of the county placing some kind of netting around the rotunda on the 2nd and 3rd floors. These areas are of risk for people committing suicide or pushing people over the balcony.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Brown
Miami County Auditor