

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL  
25 NORTH BROADWAY  
PERU, INDIANA 46970  
February 15, 2022

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

Vice-President Chittum called the meeting to order.

Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer. Vice-President Chittum led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**MINUTES**

Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the January 12, 2022 minutes. Councilman Nutt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 6-0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS**

Vice-President Chittum presented the list of additional appropriations for review as follows.

CEDIT Shares – Workers Comp	\$ 130,004
CEDIT Shares – Comp and liability	\$ 221,329
Community Corrections Project Income – Ins.	\$ 7,159
Cum Bridge – Insurance	\$ 1,631
Health – Board stipends	\$ 2,700
Health – Ins.	\$ 8,423
Public Safety – Auto Operation	\$ 7,823
Highway Phase 1 – Insurance	\$ 6,842
Highway Phase II – Insurance	\$ 26,044
Highway Phase III – Insurance	\$ 5,476
Reassessment – Insurance	\$ 3,684
Public Defenders Supplemental (Conflicts)	\$ 1,427
Statewide E911 – Verizon/Frontier	\$ 2,060
Statewide E911 – AT&T	\$ 39,500
Statewide E911 – Motorola agreement	\$ 18,600
Adult Probation – Drug testing lab	\$ 1,200
Local Source 911 – Operating supplies	\$ 1,632
Victim Advocate – PT Victims Advocate	\$ 1,200

Auditor Brown explained the list of additional appropriations came after the Council approved raises for employees for 2022. The Council cannot adopt more than advertised, so the Council cuts a line item and then advertises for an additional appropriation at the beginning of the following year to reinstate the appropriation. Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the list of additional appropriations as presented. Councilman Wiles 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 7-0.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### **-REQUEST TO INCREASE WAGES-9-1-1 DIRECTOR**

Vice-President Chittum presented the request to increase the wages for Molly Grant, 9-1-1 Director. Auditor Brown explained the Council, during budget hearings reviewed the “matrix” proposed by Sheriff Hunter and Director Grant to separate the wages of Dispatchers based on years of service. Sheriff Hunter and Director Grant presented 4 options, with the Council approving option #1. While the Council reviewed the proposal, it was determined Director Grant had already maxed out on the “matrix” and a pay adjustment was not only warranted, but also needed. Auditor Brown stated the Council had focused on raises for employees and simply missed reviewing the salary for Director Grant. Auditor Brown went on to explain the proposed salary for Director Grant would be \$50,000. Auditor Brown noted in 2011, the former 9-1-1 Director made \$43,000 when she resigned and Director Grant not only serves as Dispatcher, but also has the role of the Administrator and constantly fills in and works odd shifts. Vice-President Chittum reiterated the matter of addressing Director Grant’s salary was an oversight by the Council. When it was brought to the Council’s attention that it was missed at budget adoption, the Council decided to wait until the new budget year to address. Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the salary adjustment to \$50,000 for Director Grant. Councilman Nutt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 7-0.

#### **-REQUEST TO INCREASE WAGES-SOIL AND WATER**

Mary Lou Watson, Soil and Water Director came before the Council to request a pay adjustment of \$5,000. Vice-President Chittum noted the Budget Committee met to discuss the request and were not in favor of approving the adjustment, as the time to make a request is at budget hearings. Vice-President Chittum recommended Soil & Water present the request at the 2022/2023 budget hearings.

Auditor Brown explained the Council took the stance several years ago that all pay adjustments would be considered at budget hearings. In addition, the Council also wanted to be extremely caution in approving pay adjustments from other funding sources. The Council did not want to set precedent of approving pay adjustments from the outside funding sources and face the possibility of departments losing funding and then expecting County General to pick-up the difference. Department Heads and employees would not want to take a pay cut.

Troy Hattery, Soil & Water Board President stated the board realized it was a mistake, but wanted to see what the pay scale would be after raises were provided. Mr. Hattery went on to explain the contract with the Federal Government, how they could utilize the funds to supplement Ms. Watson salary and the length of the contract of 5 years. Mr. Hattery noted the funding includes the additional work Ms. Watson is performing and Soil and Water will continue to receive the funds whether the county approves the pay adjustment. Mr. Hattery noted that if the contract ended, Soil and Water would not ask the county to fund the increase from County General. Ms. Watson also stated if Soil and Water no longer received the funding, her salary would be decreased. Councilman Sailors expressed concern regarding use of outside funding sources to help supplement salaries as that can open the door for other offices to do the same and departments would not understand why they cannot do the same with their extra funding sources. Councilman Sailors also noted the request should be addressed at budget hearings. Ms. Watson feels her situation is different and did not feel that other departments need to understand the difference. Councilman Nutt made a motion to approve the request for pay adjustment for Director Watson of \$5,000. Councilman Donaldson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the vote was 3-3-1 (Chittum abstained). Vice-President Chittum asked Auditor Brown what happened with the outcome of the vote. Auditor Brown stated no action was taken and the request is neither approved nor denied. Councilman Wiles inquired as to why Councilwoman Chittum abstained, which resulted in Vice-President asking if she could change her vote. Auditor Brown stated a vote could not be changed after the fact and deferred the question to President Duckwall for guidance. President Duckwall stated if Vice-President Chittum wanted to change her vote then all members should have the option of changing their votes. All other Councilmembers wanted their votes to stand. Vice-President Chittum then changed her vote to result in approval of the request to increase Director Watson's wages by \$5,000 by a vote of 4-3.

### **SALARY ORDINANCE UPDATE**

Auditor Brown presented 2022 Salary Ordinance Amendment #3 to reflect the change in part-time wage to \$15.00 per hour for Dave Birnell from Clerk Perpetuation as approved in January by the Council. Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the 2022 Salary Ordinance Amendment #3. Councilman Nutt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 7-0.

### **REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE**

None

### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE UPDATE**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Courtney Schmidt, Purdue Extension Director introduced herself to the Council and explained she replaced Josh Wintrotte. Director Schmidt specializes in farm

management with Health and Human Sciences. Director Schmidt provided a newsletter and impact report for the Council to review.

Councilman Sailors made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Donaldson 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted

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**Mary Brown**  
Miami County Auditor