

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
July 20, 2021

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

President Duckwall called the meeting to order.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Budget Hearings – August 31 – September 2, 2021 at the Miami County Courthouse GAR room.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the June 22, 2021 minutes.
Councilman Sailors second the motion and it passed 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS

The Council received a request for additional appropriation from Highway Restricted for \$57,952 for the Wayne Street Bridge. President Duckwall asked if the wheel tax could be used for this such project. Janice Hughes, Highway Bookkeeper stated that Wheel Tax could be used for bridges. Bookkeeper Hughes stated that Community Crossing Matching Grants are being requested for the project and any money awarded would be reimbursed back in the fund. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$57,952 for the Wayne Street Bridge. Councilman Nutt seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Councilman Wiles inquired as to the balance of the Highway Funds, including Cum Bridge. Bookkeeper Hughes provided an estimated amount, but would need to check get back with them. Bookkeeper Hughes is working trying to receive grants to help with all the expected work needed to be done. Councilman Woods stated that he was sure more money was needed all the paving needed competed.

The Council received a request for additional appropriation from Highway Phase I for computer equipment for \$10,000. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$10,000 from Highway Phase I for

computer equipment. Councilman Sailors seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Wheel Tax – Wayne St. Bridge

The Council received an additional appropriation request of \$370,000 from Wheel Tax for the Wayne Street Bridge. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$370,000 from Wheel Tax for the Wayne Street Bridge. Councilman Sailors seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Wheel Tax –Community Crossings Matching Grant for Eagles Pointe/400 S.

The Council received an additional appropriation request of \$250,000 from Wheel Tax for the Community Crossings Matching Grant for Eagles Pointe/400 S. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$250,000 from Wheel Tax for the Community Crossings Grant for Eagles Pointe/400 S. Councilman Wiles seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Highway Phase II – Twp. Bridges/Inventory Bridges

A correction was made on the agenda to reflect the additional appropriation request was for Highway Phase II and not Phase I. The Council received an additional appropriation request for \$150,000 from Highway Phase II for \$150,000 for Township/Inventory Bridges. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$150,000 for Township/Inventory Bridges. Councilman Nutt second the motion and it was approved 6-0.

Clerk Perpetuation – Dossett Consulting –IV-D services

The Council received an additional appropriation request of \$4,500 for consulting services. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request for \$4,500 from Clerk Perpetuation for consulting services. Councilman Wiles seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

County General – Planning & Zoning Software

The Council received an additional appropriation request of \$35,650 from County General for software for Planning and Zoning. Corey Roser, Plan Administrator spoke about the need of the new software Schneider Geospatial for the office. The new features to be able to file permits and data in the office. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional request for \$35,650 for Planning and Zoning Software. Councilman Nutt seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Corey Roser from Planning & Zoning stated the Planning and Zoning Board is looking into the fees for permits. Administrator Roser will present to the appropriate boards any proposed changes. The fees have not been changed for at least 27 years.

Illegal Dumping for Equipment for County Highway Dept. \$83,000
The Council received an additional appropriation request of \$83,000 for the purchase of equipment for the Highway to use for the Illegal Dumping program. Highway Superintendent Kerry Worl stated the equipment to purchase for the program would be a Skid steer and trailer. Audience member Elaine Anderson noted that she did not believe the additional appropriation had been advertised. Janice Hughes stated that she would send a message to Mary Brown our Auditor and verify. President Duckwall stated this topic has been discussed prior and the Council could approve based on proper advertising. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$83,000 for the purchase of the equipment for the illegal dumping program. Councilman Nutt seconded the motion and it passed 6-0

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Superior Court II – Judge Dan Banina

Judge Dan Banina explained that he sent an email and attachment to the Council prior to the meeting about the need for staff in his office. Superior Court II has been around for at least 12 years and for 10 of them, Judge Banina has shared a Bailiff with the other courts. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Judge Banina is currently without a Bailiff and having difficulty finding a qualified individual to fill the position, especially because it is part-time and not full-time. Judge Banina requested the Council consider making his current part-time Bailiff position into a full-time position. Council President Ralph Duckwall stated that Judge Banina would need to address his concerns and issues for a full-time staff at the budget hearings in August and the Council can then determine if extra spending could take place.

MCEDA – Abatements for EVO & Chinook

Brooke Robertson, MCEDA spoke about Resolution 7-20-2021, which would offer an abatement to Chinook RV. Resolution 7-20-2021 would provide Chinook RV with a 60% tax abatement for a period of 5 years. Chinook RV must comply with the following to qualify for the abatement yearly. A \$120,000 investment in personal property, which will include manufacturing equipment and \$430,000 in real property improvements to be located in Miami County. The company must continue to employ a minimum of 75 employees at its operations. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the tax abatement for Chinook Motor Coach under Resolution 7-20-2021 as presented. Councilman Nutt seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Brooke Robertson, MCEDA spoke about Resolution 7-20-2021 B, which would offer an abatement to EVO Exhibits. Resolution 7-20-2021 B would provide EVO Exhibits with a 60% tax abatement for a period of 5 years. EVO Exhibit must comply with the following to qualify for the abatement yearly. A \$129,000 investment in personal property will include manufacturing equipment. The

company must maintain a minimum of 15 employees at its operations. Council President Ralph Duckwall stated the abatements were reviewed with the abatement committee and they agreed about them. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the tax abatement for EVO Exhibits under Resolution 7-20-2021 B as presented. Councilman Nutt seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

MCEDA-KC-46A

Brooke Robertson, MCEDA presented a letter of support for the KC-46A Main Operating Base at Grissom Air Reserve Base (ARB). A letter was drafted to be sent to the Honorable John Roth, Acting Secretary of the Air Force with a package of information in support of Miami County and the Grissom location. Ms. Robertson stated that many other locations across the United States are vying for the opportunity to have this operation at their locations. Ms. Robertson hopes the success of Grissom ARB will stand out in the decision process. MCEDA will work with housing, as this will affect our community as a whole. Ms. Robertson stated that the Board of Commissioners of Miami County signed a letter on 07/19/2021 in support to be included in the package. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to sign the letter for support of the KC-46A Main Operating Base for Grissom Air Reserve Base location. Councilman Nutt seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

President Duckwall requested Ms. Robertson update the Council on any new items for the future for Miami County. Ms. Robertson spoke about the new restaurants that are opening or have opened. In Peru, Seven Pillars located in the downtown area, in Converse a new Imagine Burgers & Brew and Denver has the new Farm House Cafe. In addition, a 175-unit apartment is being reviewed for the location area down on the Riverwalk area near the new YMCA. 2 Days Boutique move to Peru in the downtown area and had a local artist, Ashlee Shropshire paint a beautiful mural on the building.

Councilman Wood asked about an update on Arizona Isotopes. Ms. Robertson stated that everything is going great and the company will be working on hiring employees. Ms. Robertson stated that there is a need for housing and if the KC-46 is approved for Grissom location that will mean more people to the area. It means a lot to the economy when new infrastructure comes to our area.

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Donoho expressed concern about the road closure in the area of 400 N in Miami County. The changes that the state is doing could lead to the road being closed because this is a heavily trafficked area. If this does happen, the bridge that would need to be used to travel south would need to have repairs. Mrs. Donoho stated she has spoken to the State Highway Dept. and they are supposed to let them know when more meetings are scheduled so they can voice their concerns. Mr. Donoho stated their camera shows the number (50 to 60) cars that use this road. Mr. Donoho stated that he waited over

5 minutes to head south on US31 because of the traffic and is worried about all the closings of the side roads off US 31 in Miami County and the impact on the residents. President Duckwall and Councilman Nutt noted the state is making all the decisions and the county has spoken out about not agreeing with the state's plan, especially about the J-turns and closing of roads. The county has not been informed of what overpasses the state may want to do.

A question was asked by Elaine Anderson on who is allowing more business to build on US 31. Corey Roser, Planning and Zoning Administrator explained the state offices do all approvals and permits for any state highway such as US 31. Brooke Robertson, MCEDA also stated that any new business wanting to come to Miami County or a current business looking to expand is notified of the uncertainty of how the state will allow for access on US 31. President Duckwall also spoke about rumors of the elimination of stoplights, but is not sure what the state is deciding for Miami County.

Elaine Anderson asked about why the Chinook RV company chose to expand here from the northern Elkhart area. Ms. Robertson the northern area where most of these types of companies are located are currently in a pay bidding war, which makes it difficult to find and maintain a consistent workforce. Ms. Robertson stated that Miami County has a very loyal work force, which is what attracted the company to expanding here. The company received over 300 applications to fill 25 positions.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE UPDATE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Betzner

Miami County Chief Deputy Auditor