

**FAYETTE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**January 7, 2025**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:**

That the Fayette County Council of Fayette County, State of Indiana, met in regular session on the above date at 6:00 p.m. with the following present: Council members Sharon Cranfill, Bob Stewart, Scott Bevington, Gabe Nobbe, Tim Patterson, Kay Riker-Peyton, and Mike Wenta along with Auditor Jane Downard and County Attorney Geoff Wesling (via Zoom) of said County and State.

Auditor Downard called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Auditor Downard asked for nominations or declarations for the office of president. Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to appoint Tim Patterson as president. Motion died for lack of a second. Councilwoman Cranfill then declared that she would like to keep the position of president for 2025. Councilman Stewart moved to appoint Sharon Cranfill as president, Councilman Bevington seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken with the following results: Wenta Yes, Riker-Peyton Yes, Patterson Yes, Nobbe Yes, Bevington Yes, Stewart Yes, Cranfill Yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Cranfill asked for nominations for the position of vice-president. Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to appoint Tim Patterson as vice president, Councilman Nobbe seconded the motion, a roll call vote taken with the following results: Wenta No, Riker-Peyton Yes, Patterson Yes, Nobbe Yes, Bevington No, Stewart No, Cranfill No. Motion failed 3-4. Councilman Wenta initially abstained and the vote was a tie, but Councilman Wenta changed his vote from abstaining to no. Councilwoman Cranfill then moved to nominate Scott Bevington as vice president, Councilman Nobbe seconded the motion, a roll call vote taken with the following results: Wenta Yes, Riker-Peyton No, Patterson Yes, Nobbe Yes, Bevington Yes, Stewart Yes, Cranfill Yes. Motion carried 6-1.

**MINUTES:**

Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to approve the minutes from the December 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting, Councilman Patterson seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

**MAIL/EMAIL:**

None

**COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Geoff Wesling did not have anything for the board at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None

**COMMISSIONER REPRESENTATIVE:**

No Commissioner representative was present.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS:**

An Additional Appropriation to County General Fund 1000 to Account 30970 Service Contracts in the amount of \$500,000 to cover labor and material for the Jail Annex/Female Work Release was presented for approval. Councilman Stewart moved to approve the additional as requested, Councilman Nobbe seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

**144s:**

A 144 was presented to give those employees of the Highway Department who belong to the RWDSU raises of \$1.44 per hour per the recent union contract negotiations. Councilman Stewart moved to approve the 144 as presented, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Courthouse Security has been discussed previously. Councilwoman Cranfill had shared a letter earlier in the day with her opinion that council should proceed with creating two additional POLE positions to allow for security officers. Only main doors with metal detector and security officers would be entrance doors; all other doors would be exit only. Discussion was held. The number of employees are set by the council so adding deputies would be a council decision, but other decisions regarding implementing courthouse security would be commissioner decisions. Geoff said if we are going to do this, he recommends we have a conveyor belt for people to put metal items like keys, phone, etc. before walking through the metal detector, and said he thinks there will be more upfront costs to implement a security system than council may be thinking. Council requested that Sheriff Zac Jones look into the existing equipment and get an estimate of what additional equipment may be needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sheriff Zac Jones gave copies of the Commissary Report that is to be presented twice a year. The report is from June-November 2024, and he encouraged anyone with questions to contact him. He explained they use the commissary fund profits to cover many expenses for the Sheriff and Jail and that keeps them from asking council for additional money from county general.

A proposed resolution was presented to transfer \$500,000 from the Rainy Day Fund to County General Fund to cover additional costs of the Jail Annex/Female Work Release. Councilman Wentta moved to take the \$500,000 from surplus county general funds instead, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 6-1 with Councilman Stewart voting against and all others voting in favor.

The list of 2025 Encumbrances totaling \$130,167.97 was presented for approval. Councilman Wentta moved to approve the encumbrances, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

Fayette County Economic Development Board One Appt by Council - 1 Year Term	Sharon Cranfill	12/31/25
Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commissioner One Appt by Council - 1 Year Term	Kay Riker-Peyton	12/31/25
Fayette County Alcoholic Beverage Board One Appt by Council - 1 Year Term	Sam Harvey	12/31/25
Fayette County Extension Board One Appt by Council - 1 Year Term	Kay Riker-Peyton	12/31/25
Fayette County 4-H Council One Appt by Council -1 Year Term	Kay Riker-Peyton	12/31/25
Fayette County E-911 Advisory Board One Appt by Council - 1 Year Term	Mike Wentta	12/31/25
Community Corrections Advisory Board One Appt by Council - 4 Year Term	Tim Patterson	12/31/25
Fayette County Tax Abatement Advisory Committee Council President or Designee - 1 Year Term	Scott Bevington	12/31/25
Fayette County Solid Waste Board One Appt by Council - 4 Year Term	Gabe Nobbe	12/31/28

Councilman Riker-Peyton moved to approve the proposed Board Appointments, Councilman Nobbe seconded, motion carried 7-0.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

Committee appointments for 2025 will be Budget and Finance Committee – Sharon Cranfill, Scott Bevington, Gabe Nobbe and the Salary and Wage Committee – Kay Riker-Peyton, Tim

Patterson, and Mike Wenta. Councilman Riker Peyton moved to approve the Committee Appointments, Councilman Nobbe seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

**PATRON CONCERNS:**

Discussion was held about having patron concerns on the agenda. Councilman Nobbe moved to allow patron concerns to be an agenda item, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Wenta moved to adjourn, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Sharon Cranfill



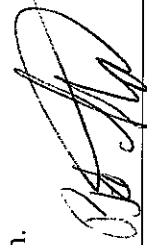
Scott Bevington



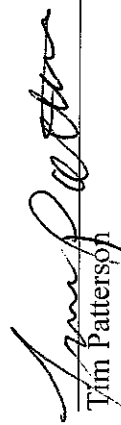
Kay Riker-Peyton



Gabe Nobbe



Bob Stewart



Tim Patterson

Mike Wenta



Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor