

FAYETTE COUNTY COUNCIL

March 4, 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, Scott Bevington, Bob Stewart, Gabe Nobbe, Tim Patterson, Kay Riker-Peyton and Mike Wenta (via Zoom) along with Auditor Jane Downard and County Attorney Geoff Wesling of said County and State.

President Cranfill called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

MINUTES:

Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to approve the minutes from the February 4th regular meeting, Councilman Nobbe 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:

Commissioner Dale Strong reported that commissioners approved a rental agreement for the tillable acreage of the county farm at \$265 an acre for two years with an option to renew for an additional year. They also approved a mowing contract for pioneer cemeteries for \$22,000. They approved a 144 request for 911 to hire three part-time employees, and a 144 for Area Plan to hire Billy Hughes as a part-time building inspector. They gave their approval for a contract for the Recorder's Office with US Imaging. They approved an engineering agreement for Everton Water, a permit for QC Communications to do some fiber optic work on Sykes Road, and a contract with Malcon for fuel tax returns. There is a meeting on rural broadband coming up and Commissioner Strong invited all to attend that meeting.

Councilman Stewart asked for an update on the new facility. Commissioner Strong said he was over there today and the contractor said he is confident they will be done by the end of the month.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS:

Judge Paul Freed presented an Additional Appropriation to County General Fund 1000 Superior Court to Account 30821 Depositions in the amount of \$6,000 and another Additional Appropriation to County General Fund 1000 Superior Court to Account 30440 Mental Health Evaluations in the amount of \$25,000. Judge Freed explained that he spent the entire 2025 Mental Health Evaluations budget in the first 75 days. Councilman Bevington moved to approve both additional appropriations as presented, Councilman Stewart seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

Judge Freed addressed the raise request for Brandon Burgess and the fact that council cut the requested raise by \$1,000. He said that the Advisory Board had recommended the raise amount and he wasn't sure why council cut it. He said it was bad morale for the board for their recommendations to be ignored, and that the funds were off-budget as they are grant and project income funds. Councilman Bevington said his preference would be to table the issue and not adjust salaries mid-stream. He thanked Judge Freed for sharing his concerns. Councilwoman Riker-Peyton moved to table the raise issue, Councilman Nobbe seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

An Additional Appropriation to Pretrial Diversion Fees Fund 4980 to Account 30503 Extradition in the amount of \$20,000 was presented. Councilman Bevington said he spoke to Prosecutor Jones earlier today and she was unable to attend the meeting but said they have had several out-

of-state extraditions recently so that is why they are requesting the additional funds. Councilman Nobbe moved to approve the additional as presented, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

An Additional Appropriation to County General Fund 1000 Coroner to Account 10103 Director in the amount of \$12,000 was presented. Discussion was held. Councilman Stewart moved to disapprove the additional appropriation as presented, Councilman Bevington seconded the motion, a roll call vote was taken with the following results: Riker-Peyton No, Patterson No, Nobbe Yes, Stewart Yes, Bevington Yes, Cranfill Yes, Wenta Yes. Motion carried 5-2.

EMA Director Wade Walling presented an Additional Appropriation to SARA II LEPC & Right to Know Fund 1152 to Account 20290 Other Supplies in the amount of \$20, to Account 30210 Printing and Advertising/Legal Notices in the amount of \$50, to Account 30303 Other Services in the amount of \$104, to Account 30014 Public Education Supplies in the amount of \$25, to Account 30203 Internet Service in the amount of \$25, to Account 30771 Emergency Notification System in the amount of \$25, to Account 30970 Service Contracts in the amount of \$25, and to Account 40400 Equipment in the amount of \$1,000 for a total of \$1,274. Councilman Nobbe moved to approve the additional as presented, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

Clerk Dawn Hughes presented an Additional Appropriation to County General Fund 1000 Election Board to Account 30303 Other Services in the amount of \$4,900. The former clerk had signed a contract that she was unaware of so she did not budget for the service fees. Councilman Nobbe moved to approve the additional as presented, Councilman Bevington seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0.

Dawn shared that going to vote centers saved a little over \$13,000 from the previous election.

144s:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Cranfill said we are still reviewing and planning for Courthouse Security. Judge Freed spoke about the need for security. Councilman Stewart gave his opinion that security wasn't needed. Councilman Wenta said we need to do our due diligence and get price quotes and consider all options. Councilman Nobbe agreed we need to continue to look into providing security. Judge Freed said he would like to see the Probation Department moved into this building. Councilman Nobbe asked Sheriff Jones about a burner launcher and whether or not that would be an option, and Sheriff Jones said that might be a deterrent but it's not a solution. Councilman Patterson asked what we were going to do, and Councilwoman Cranfill explained that there is a committee working on investigating costs and potential funding.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recorder Lisa Witt spoke to commissioners earlier today about digitizing deeds, and the commissioners agreed to the quote from US Imaging pending council approval. The cost of the first two phases is \$117,349.58. Lisa will be completing an additional appropriation request for the April meeting to cover the cost.

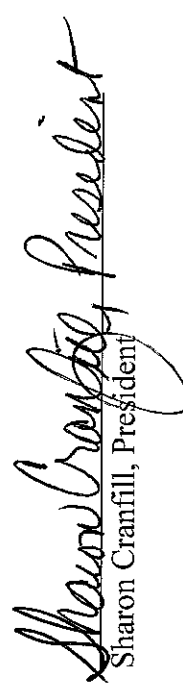
Thomas Barclay with Commonwealth Engineers was present on behalf of the Town of Glenwood. He just wanted to let council know they are still working on the water project and will be applying for grants and other funding but are kind of in limbo right now.

PATRON CONCERNS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

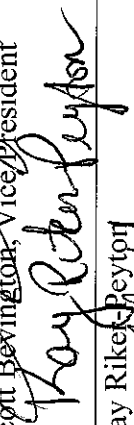
Councilman Wenta moved to adjourn, Councilwoman Riker-Peyton seconded the motion, motion carried 7-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.


Sharon Cranfill, President


Bob Stewart



Scott Bevington, Vice President



Kay Riker Peytor



Gabe Nobbe

Tim Patterson

Mike Wenta



Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor