

Ripley County Council Meeting

October 17, 2022

Councilman President, Ron Decker, opened the County Council Meeting with the Pledge of the Allegiance.

Roll Call.

Present: Ron Decker, President, Katie Bailey, Peggy Ehlers, Stan Wiedeman, David Tebbing, Andrew Decker, Dawn Jordan 1st Deputy Auditor & John Ertel; Attorney. Steve Gloyd absent. (Public: Liz Baumgartner & Diane Macek)

Councilman President, Ron Decker, made a motion to open the Budget Adoption Hearing. Councilman Ehlers moved to open the Budget Adoption Hearing. Councilman Wiedeman 2nd the motion. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.

Motion: Councilman President Ron Decker made the motion to approve the 2023 Budget for Ripley County, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Katie Bailey, **Seconded by** Stan Wiedeman. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.

Motion: Councilman President Ron Decker made the motion to approve the 2023 Budget for Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Stan Wiedeman, **Seconded by** Andrew Decker. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.

With no public comment, Councilman President Ron Decker made the motion to close the Budget Adoption Hearing, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Peggy Ehlers, **Seconded by** Andrew Decker. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.

Councilman President, Ron Decker, opened the regular scheduled county council meeting.

Motion: Councilman President, Ron Decker, made the motion to approve the September 19, 2022 meeting minutes, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Dave Tebbing, **Seconded by** Stan Wiedeman. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.

Additional Appropriations			
Clerk	\$1,000.00	1001.37502.000.0003 County General/Meals for Precinct	With the cost of food going up we are having to raise the meal cost from \$22.00 to \$30.00. This is for 3 meals.
Note:	Motion: Councilman President, Ron Decker, made the motion to approve the above additional appropriation, Action: Approve, Moved by Stan Wiedeman, Seconded by Peggy Ehlers. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.		
Clerk	\$1,000.00	1001.11600.000.0003 County General/Clerical	This is for the 5 gentlemen that help deliver and retrieve the election equipment.
Note:	Motion: Councilman President, Ron Decker, made the motion to approve the above additional appropriation, Action: Approve, Moved by Stan Wiedeman, Seconded by Peggy Ehlers. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.		

Old Business:

Councilman Peggy Ehlers distributed printed materials regarding the additional appropriation request from Scott Huffman, Ripley County EMS Director. Councilman Ehlers proposed a new taxation for EMS – taxes on salaries for individuals residing within the county to be used within the county. A Public Safety Tax was suggested and to keep in mind of the taxation limitation as a decision is being made. John Ertel suggested looking at Franklin and Decatur County's budgets, that we should be comparable to theirs. Questions asked: What is Ripley County EMS's reimbursement for runs made for other counties? Are we getting reimbursed? Should this amount be increased? Should we discontinue runs for other counties? Are chase vehicles necessary? Does Scott foresee any other future expenses? Council members agreed that they would like to see more specific information regarding the need for more money and why. Councilman Peggy Ehlers stated that she will email Scott Huffman, EMS Director, for the additional information and that Council would like Scott to attend the next County Council Meeting to discuss.

New Business:

Motion: Councilman President Ron Decker made the motion to approve the New County Council Meeting Schedule due to not getting off on June 19, 2023., **Action:** Approve, Moved by Peg Ehlers, Seconded by Andrew Decker. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.

Other Information:

Councilman Peggy Ehlers shared that an engineer/contractor has assessed the Courthouse's structure. Due to the historic factor no changes can be made to the footprint, but cosmetic/updates can be made. Concerns were made about the basement bathrooms, the need for update and for handicap accessibility. The engineer/contractor has a layout of ideas/suggestions to get the courthouse up-to-date and to code.

Councilman President Ron Decker shared with County Councilmen the following from his attendance of the October 17, 2022 Commissioner's Meeting:

- Mary Beth Boone & Randy Frye attended the Commissioner's Meeting asking for an additional \$25,000.00 for this year. Before approving:
 - Why did they fall short with current/original budget?
 - Who else have they asked for monies?
 - Brought up lack of reports/documentation provided by Economic Development when requesting monies. It was mentioned that Council shouldn't approve any more money if records of what the monies are being used for is not provided to Council.
- Mentioned the 911 Tower and easement, concerned others may want to use the tower to hook other devices on it. John Ertel, Ripley County Attorney, explained that it is the county's tower, and no one should be able to attach anything to it without the county's permission, it is owned by the county. Regarding the Easement, John Ertel stated that it is his understanding that Attorney Lynn Fledderman was going to take the easement to the Records office to get it recorded.
- Concerns on moving forward with development of recent land purchased in Milan. Cost of materials, etc. Suggestion made to hold on development until prices for materials go down, not something that needs to be done right now.
- Concerns regarding a transfer of Highway Department monies in the amount of ~\$303,000.00 from the Community Crossing Grant monies used for chip and seal.
 - Is the Community Crossing Grant only to be used for certain things?
 - Was this money match money with specific guidelines for it uses?
 - Should there be an amount limit set for Transfers that go without Council approval? No amount was agreed upon, among the council, at this time.

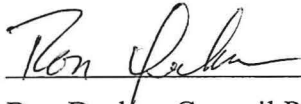
Motion: Councilman President Ron Decker made the motion to Adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, Moved by Dave Tebbing, Seconded by Stan Weideman. Motion passed 6 yes & 1 absent.

Committee Reports:

- Economic Development - Gary Norman - none
- Technology Committee - Katie Bailey - none
- SEI Regional Planning Committee - Andrew Decker - none
- Solid Waste District - David Tebbing - none
- Grants Committee - Stan Wiedeman - none


“AYE “

“NAY”



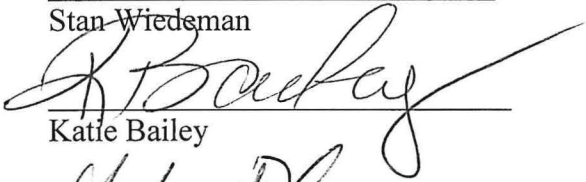
 Ron Decker, Council President

 Ron Decker, Council President



 Stan Wiedeman

 Stan Wiedeman




 Katie Bailey

 Katie Bailey



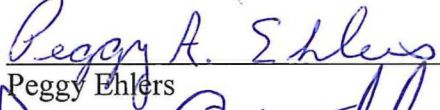
 Andrew Decker

 Andrew Decker



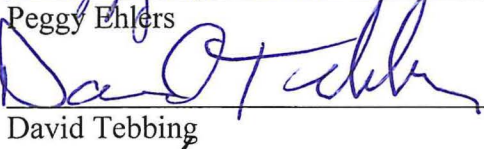
 Steven Gloyd, President Pro Tem

 Steven Gloyd, President Pro Tem



 Peggy Ehlers

 Peggy Ehlers



 David Tebbing

 David Tebbing



 Amy Copeland Auditor, Ripley County

ATTEST:

 Amy Copeland