TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019
8:30 a.m.
Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

Councilmembers present: President Bryan Metzger, Vice President Kevin Underwood, John Basham Kathy Vernon, Ilana Stonebraker, Lisa Dullum and Roland Winger.
Others present: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, and Recording Secretary John Thomas.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Metzger called the meeting to order and stated that the Local Income Tax portion of the meeting will be heard before the Auditor's report and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. LOCAL INCOME TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Resolution 2019-18-CL – To introduce and cast the votes of the Tippecanoe County Council in consideration of the Tippecanoe County Income Tax Council Ordinance to add a public safety allocation rate to the Local Income Tax (LIT) Rate.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Resolution 2019-18-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

Lafayette Mayor Roswarski spoke in favor of the Local Income Tax for public safety. Stating that in this community we look at issues and problems and search for opportunities to work together to find solutions; be it infrastructure, economic development or quality of life. It takes all those to have a strong growing community. Lafayette Police Department's Analysis and Response Center (ARC) has been able to evaluate policing needs, generate solutions and better address and reduce crime. It is important to pass the LIT for the safety of the community and to show support for those police, fire and emergency service men and women that risk their lives to keep us safe. He is extremely confident that it will pass the Lafayette City Council and we will again work together to address our common needs. He thanked the Council and requested their support.

Sadie B. Harper hopes the Council will support this cause because we have good leadership in this community. She is here today representing the NAACP and herself as a personal citizen and hopes the Council will support such a great cause.

Councilmember Stonebraker stated that Council's responsibility is to look at financial opportunities and risks. Law enforcement does a great job and has made a good case for their growing and changing needs. Tippecanoe County has one of the lowest tax rates and she is concerned about the adequacy of public safety funding given that most other large communities in Indiana have adopted the public safety tax. She wants the public safety tax to be used for its intended purpose and expects to see that reflected in the 2021 budget. She is willing to vote for the tax and feels that adopting it now makes most sense. She is overwhelmed by the support for law enforcement and impressed by what all the public safety departments accomplish and looks forward to the positive effects of the change.

Councilmember Dullum is impressed with the Sheriff's departmental professionalism and dedication to the County. Since joining the Council, she has seen how the courts, community corrections, veteran court and juvenile justice system have helped people and improved the criminal justice system. However, it is hard to do that without adequate resources, so she supports the tax.

Councilmember Vernon is not for tax increases, but this is a tax that will help all the community. It is a shame that we are at this point, but we must take care of the people who are taking care of us. She hopes the funds will not only increase staff levels but also help prevent and stop the cycle. She supports

the tax and thanks all those who have placed their lives on the line and can say with confidence that the community really needs these additional funds.

Councilmember Underwood stated that the Councils first responsibility is to public safety and ensuring tax dollars are used efficiently and effectively. He feels that they need to move forward on the new tax.

Councilmember Basham was not in favor of raising taxes when he first learned of it but feels that it is the right thing to do. It is earmarked for public safety and nothing else. Those he has talked with, primarily the elderly, were in favor of the new tax and he supports it.

Councilmember Winger appreciates those in the room that do a job far harder than most and echoes all that has been said about public safety. He has supported the county's part in working together with the Towns and Cities to be the most special county in the state. He was elected to represent the county and is troubled by the current process for considering the public safety tax. When the County's budget requests were submitted, they exceeded the funds available with much of that coming from public safety. He presented a PowerPoint presentation about the County's fiscal status showing: the County's reserves at historic highs, strong growth in assessed valuation, budget requests exceeded revenues by $5 million but the budget was balanced and included 7 new public safety positions (31 new public safety positions have been created in the last four years), reserves and minimum balances that are healthy, premium health care for employees, infrastructure funding of over $3 million in each of the last three years and a fund balances of $46 million compared to our desired minimum balances of $22 million. The large cushion/contingency offers a healthy buffer. The Council needs to be careful to not spend its one-time reserves on new ongoing operating costs. The County has been committed to public safety. From 2010 to 2018, General Fund spending increased about 3.2% per year and spending on public safety was 5% per year. Thus, 60% of the new spending in the last eight years has been on public safety and it has been done with a balanced budget each year. Property tax rates have been at or below the inflation rate which means that the funding formula is working for a growing county. If the new tax had been in place this year it would have generated $3.9 million compared to the $5 million funding gap, but the County's budget is balanced without any new money. The new court, expected in 2021, will cost at most $1 million. Jail and Community Corrections expansion may also be on the horizon; however, the existing jail bond will be retiring 2021 and could be rolled over without any increase to the tax payer for a new facility. Additional public safety positions could have been created for 2020 if the approved pay increases for all employees were not as high as adopted. He feels that the Council should ensure it is squeezing every penny it can from existing sources before increasing taxes. With due respect to the Cities and Towns, the County could get by without this tax increase until another adoption cycle later this year or next.

Councilmember Stonebraker supports allocating funds to all public safety entities, including township fire departments and feels that the tax council should consider annual allocations.

Councilmember Vernon stated that a few years ago a 5-year plan was created that addressed the jail, correction officers, dispatch and merit deputies. She feels the need is already well documented and that the needs cannot be met without the new tax.

Councilmember Winger stated that the jail study was based on national averages for number of deputies needed and salaries that do not really reflect Tippecanoe County's needs.

Councilmember Metzger stated that the comments he has heard have been on both sides of the issue with most in favor of the tax. There will be increasing costs for public safety as well as costs associated with the new Superior Court 7. He has worked with three sheriff's and all have worked hard given the available funds for staff and expenses, but all have expressed needs for additional staff. The County has reserves, but they can not be used for recurring costs and we work cooperatively with the Cities and Towns to address all the community needs.

Councilmember Winger clarified that the process can be initiated by any local jurisdiction and the other jurisdictions seem to have greater needs than the County.

Councilmember Metzger referred to the schedule established in the state statutes that the County is trying to comply with.

Councilmember Stonebreaker brought up the fact that the Income Tax Council is made up of just County and municipal representatives and not all taxing jurisdictions.

Councilmember Dullum appreciated the comments by Councilmember Winger and is concerned about the amount of the reserves the County has as well as acknowledges that the tax is not just for the County but addresses community wide needs.

Councilmember Basham was also concerned about the amount in reserve and feels that the County's needs are not as great as other jurisdictions.

Councilmember Winger asked about when the Council will discuss how the Townships could disproportionally benefit from the tax.

President Metzger responded that the statute requires that the Townships apply by January 15. Auditor Plantenga clarified that for the Townships to have received funds in 2020 the Income Tax Council would have needed to adopt the tax by September 1.

President Metzger clarified that funds distributed to the Township comes off the top before distribution to other jurisdictions.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for a roll call vote.
Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

Councilmember Metzger	Aye
Councilmember Underwood	Aye
Councilmember Basham	Aye
Councilmember Dullum	Aye
Councilmember Stonebraker	Aye
Councilmember Vernon	Aye
Councilmember Winger	No

Resolution 2019-18-CL passes with a vote of 6 - 1.

President Metzger stated that the issue will now go before the Cities and called for a five-minute recess.

III. AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT – Bob Plantenga

The 2019 financial statement shows a General Fund beginning cash balance of $10,224,887.37. The projected miscellaneous revenue, property taxes and deductions for circuit breakers leaves the total funds available of $58,639,082.37. When deducting encumbrances, the 2019 Budget and minimum balances established by Council the beginning net balance is $1,876,533.37. Additional appropriations and miscellaneous expenditures since the first of the year leave the beginning balance available for appropriations at $1,702,873.69. There are additional appropriation requests of $143,377 for today's meeting.

The Revenue Summary shows that the taxes collected are close to what is expected for this time of the year. Intergovernmental accounts are almost 54% collected which is somewhat in line with expectations. Licenses and Permits are on target. The Charges for Services fund received a fiscal years' worth of funds from the Sheriff for inmate housing. The overall General Fund Revenues are almost 65% which is about where the County should be.

The fund balances show: 1) the General Fund (1000) is at almost $8.5 million and most months the County spends more than it takes in with the exceptions of June and December when taxes come in. The County Self Insurance (fund 4710) saw disbursements larger than typical, but receipts were still higher and has a healthy fund total of over $8 million in addition to the $3 million Rainy-Day Fund.

At Councilmember Dullum's request, the packet contains brief descriptions of three Funds for Councilmembers information.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT – Jennifer Weston

The Account Balances and Interest Rates report was distributed and shows an account balance of $115,617,206.21 with total interest of $244,562.02. The EDIT Landfill investment matured this month and those funds were added to the First Merchants agreement and noted as the Landfill Closure fund.

August is the highest month for interest income. The Interest Summary shows the General Fund about where expected.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

VI. TIPPECANOE COUNTY 2020 BUDGET APPROVAL

A. Ordinance 2019-21-CL, Fixing the 2020 Compensation for All County Officers, Deputies and Other Employees of Tippecanoe County and approving the 2020 Salary Statements and grids.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Ordinance 2019-21-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Stonebraker.

President Metzger asked if there were any questions. Hearing none he called for the vote.
Auditor Plantenga recorded the following:

Councilmember Underwood	Aye
Councilmember Basham	Aye
Councilmember Dullum	Aye
Councilmember Stonebraker	Aye
Councilmember Vernon	Aye
Councilmember Winger	No
Councilmember Metzger	Aye

Ordinance 2019-21-CL passed 6-1 on first reading.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to suspend the rules and hear the Ordinance on second reading, second by Councilmember Stonebraker. Motion carried.
- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the Ordinance on second reading, second by Councilmember Stonebraker.

Councilmember Winger stated that he supports smart raises that are supported by employee performance evaluations, tracking the true reasons why employees leave and making our HR and payroll policy as modern and effective as they can be.
President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none he called for the vote.
Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

Councilmember Basham	Aye
Councilmember Dullum	Aye
Councilmember Stonebraker	Aye
Councilmember Vernon	Aye
Councilmember Winger	Nay
Councilmember Metzger	Aye
Councilmember Underwood	Aye

Ordinance 2019-21-CL passed 6-1 on second and final reading.

B. Ordinance 2019-22-CL, Approval of 2020 Tippecanoe County Appropriations & Tax Rates (2nd Reading).

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Ordinance 2019-22-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Stonebraker.

Councilmember Winger had a question for Commissioner Murtaugh about the EDIT budget being higher than expected revenues. Commissioner Murtaugh clarified that the priority for projects using EDIT funds are the Fairgrounds bond payment, and Courthouse modifications, with the upgrades to the old YMCA, Professional Services, Legal Services, Community Support made only if there are funds available.
President Metzger asked if there were any additional discussion. Hearing none he called for the vote.
Auditor Plantenga recorded the following:

Councilmember Winger	Aye
Councilmember Vernon	Aye
Councilmember Underwood	Aye
Councilmember Stonebraker	Aye
Councilmember Metzger	Aye

Councilmember Dullum	Aye
Councilmember Basham	Aye

Ordinance 2019-22-CL passed 7-0 on second and final reading.

C. Ordinance 2019-23-CL, Approval of 2020 Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District Appropriations & Tax Rate on 2nd Reading.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Ordinance 2019-23-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Stonebraker.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional discussion. Hearing none he called for the vote. Auditor Plantenga recorded the following:

Councilmember Dullum	Aye
Councilmember Stonebraker	Aye
Councilmember Vernon	Aye
Councilmember Winger	Aye
Councilmember Metzger	Aye
Councilmember Underwood	Aye
Councilmember Basham	Aye

Ordinance 2019-23-CL passed 7-0 on second and final reading.

D. Ordinance 2019-24-CL, Approval of 2020 Little Wea Conservancy Appropriations & Tax Rate on 2nd Reading.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Ordinance 2019-24-CL on second reading, second by Councilmember Stonebraker.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none he called for the vote. Auditor Plantenga recorded the following:

Councilmember Stonebraker	Aye
Councilmember Vernon	Aye
Councilmember Winger	Aye
Councilmember Metzger	Aye
Councilmember Underwood	Aye
Councilmember Basham	Aye
Councilmember Dullum	Aye

Ordinance 2019-24-CL passed 7-0 on second and final reading.

E. Resolution 2019-20-CL, Fixing the 2020 Tippecanoe County Coroner Salary.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Resolution 2019-20-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Stonebraker. Motion carried.

F. Resolution 2019-21-CL, Fixing the 2020 Tippecanoe County Surveyor Salary.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Resolution 2019-21-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Stonebraker. Motion carried.

G. Resolution 2019-22-CL, Confirming the 2020 Funding of Community Intellectual Disability Centers.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Resolution 2019-22-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Stonebraker.
  There was discussion that the Resolution correctly noted the rate of $0.01 per $100 of taxable property and was established as a fixed rate by a policy decision of the Council.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none the motion passed.

H. Resolution 2019-23-CL, Confirming the 2020 Funding of Community Mental Health Centers.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve Resolution 2019-23-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Stonebraker. Motion carried.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Auditor Plantenga distributed a substitute page (#48) correcting which councilmember made a comment.

- Councilmember Stonebraker moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Councilmember Dullum. Motion carried.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2019

B. Public Defender –General Fund 1000

Transfer	From	$ 20,000	Part Time Salaries
		$ 1,530	Social Security
	To	$ 21,530	Other Professional Services

C. Superior Court 1 – General Fund 1000

Transfer	From	$ 899	Other Professional Services
	To		Overtime Salaries
	From	$ 101	Other Professional Services
	To		PERF Retirement

D. Health – General Fund 1000

Transfer	From	$ 50,000	Full Time Salaries
		$ 3,825	Social Security
	To		Institutional or Medical
	From	$ 2,500	PERF Retirement
	To		Office Supplies
	From	$ 1,100	PERF Retirement
	To		Gasoline & Oil
	From	$ 2,000	PERF Retirement
	To		Other Supplies

E. Circuit Court – VTC Fund 9535 FY17

Transfer	From	$ 300	Other Professional Services
	To		Food
	From	$ 300	Other Professional Services
	To		Educational Materials

F. Community Corrections – Jason Huber

Project Income Fund 1122 SF19

Appropriation	$ 577,577	Full Time Salaries
	$ 21,460	Chief Dep & Appt Salaries
	$ 60,000	Part Time Salaries
	$ 50,416	Social Security
	$ 67,092	PERF Retirement
	$ 182,484	Health Insurance
	$ 2,246	LTD Insurance
	$ 2,184	Life Insurance
	$ 11,223	Worker's Comp
	$ 7,000	Other Supplies
	$ 78,318	Other Professional Services
	$ 20,000	Utilities
	$ 1,080,000	Total Requested

Gateway to Hope Fund 9178 FY19

Grant Appropriation	$ 7,800	Health & Medical Professionals

G. Sheriff – Robert Goldsmith

SAVE Fund 8154 FY19

Grant Appropriation	$ 15,750	Overtime Salaries

K-9 Support Fund 4012

Grant Appropriation	$ 6,717	Other Professional Services

H. Health

Gateway to Hope Fund 9178 FY19

Grant Appropriation	$ 7,400	Health & Medical Professionals

I. Circuit Court – Judge Persin

Veteran's Treatment Fund 9535 SF20

Grant Appropriation	$ 1,500	Counseling / Consultation

$ 1,500 Other Professional Services
$ 2,500 Travel & Training
$ 5,500 Total Requested

VIII. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

A. Public Defender – Amy Hutchison

User Fee Fund 1200

Appropriation $ 50,000 Other Professional Services

•Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Dullum.

This is for a professional services account from fees charged to criminal defendants to pay, if they are able, for part of their legal representation. Councilmember Winger stated that the 2020 budget shows a revenue for this fund of $70,000 which may be low if the revenue continues as it has.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

B. Prosecutor – Pat Harrington

Pre-Trail Diversion Fund 2560

Appropriation $ 8,000 Transcriptionist
$ 10,000 Gasoline & Oil
$ 5,200 Other Professional Services
$ 23,200 Total Requested

•Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Dullum.

This pays for increased costs which are usually supplemented half way through the year.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

C. Clerk – Julie Roush

Clerk Perpetuation Fund 1119

Appropriation $ 35,000 Part Time Salaries
$ 2,678 Social Security
$ 37,678 Total Requested

•Councilmember Winger moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Dullum.

Councilmember Winger stated that there was a balance to cover the amount.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

D. Sheriff – Robert Goldsmith

1. General Fund 1000

Appropriation $ 100,000 Health & Medical Professionals

•Councilmember Stonebraker moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Dullum.

This is part of the inmate's self-pay issue that has been discussed over the last several months and should be near the end of the claims from the past couple years.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

2. Misdemeanant Fund 1175

Appropriation $ 47,991 Other Supplies

•Councilmember Stonebraker moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

Councilmember Winger asked if this is the fund that is split with Community Corrections? Sheriff Goldsmith stated it was and will be used for supplies (uniforms, mattresses and food).

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

E. Community Corrections – Jason Huber

1. Misdemeanant Fund 1175

Appropriation $ 47,991 Other Professional Services

•Councilmember Stonebraker moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Underwood.

Director Huber stated that most of the funds is lease payments for fleet vehicles.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

2. Salary Statement $ 37,490 Secretary, New Position Comot III

• Councilmember Stonebraker moved to approve the salary statement as presented, second by Councilmember Underwood. Motion carried.

Director Huber stated that two part time positions were eliminated, and this full-time position was created and paid through user fees.

F. Weights & Measures – James Wolf

General Fund 1000

Appropriation $ 7,468 Salaries & Wages / Full Time
$ 572 Employee Benefits / Social Security
$ 837 Employee Benefits / PERF
$ 8,877 Total Requested

•Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This pays for the vacation and holidays that were paid out when the last inspector retired.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

G. Assessor – Eric Grossman

Sales Disclosures Fund 1131

Appropriation $ 18,000 Travel & Training

•Councilmember Basham moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon.

The request was to have continuing education instructors come to the County instead of sending employees to statewide training sessions at conferences. This would allow for better training at less cost. There was much discussion of what category the funds should be transferred to and several issues with the current training opportunities for continuing education and certification by the Department of Local Government Financing. After additional discussion the request was withdrawn.

H. Health – Amanda Balser

Donation Fund 4118

Appropriation $ 1,400 Other Professional Services

•Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Stonebraker.

This is for the Wellness Committee and the County's team for the Spartan Race.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

I. Highway – Stewart Kline

A. Project Revolving Fund 4880

Reduction $ 300,000 Street Materials

•Councilmember Basham moved to approve the Reduction as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon.

This is for a reduction from a materials account in the TIF fund and an increase in the Professional Services within the TIF. Current TIF projects are the design of Bridge #32 (Haggerty Lane) over a branch of the Wildcat Creek, construction of CR 450 S from US 52 to Newcastle and finishing up the final payments for Concord and CR 430. This just moves funds from un-needed materials to Professional Services where the bills currently are.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

B. Project Revolving Fund 4880

Appropriation $ 300,000 Other Professional Services

•Councilmember Basham moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Dullum.

President Metzger asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none he called for the vote. Motion carried.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

-Councilmember Stonebraker said the IT Advisor Board is having a Purdue MBA student class study the needs for the County GIS.

-Councilmember Basham said that there are five property owners who have not responded in 13 years to repeated attempts to contact them and condemnation is being considered.

-Councilmember Dullum stated that APC and the City of West Lafayette have developed a proposal for the City's downtown and will be having public meetings on the proposal.

X. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS – NONE

XI. COMMISSIONER FYI

- A Mark Twain impersonator is preforming at the Long Center tonight
- The Hunger Hike is September 22 at Riehle Plaza
- October 6 & 7 is the Feast at Fort Ouiatenon
- October 23 is the Farm Bureau Meeting
- Jim Wolf is the new Weights and Measure head
- Khala Hochstedler is the new Health Department Director
- John Cartman is the new Executive Director of the Tippecanoe Emergency Ambulance Service

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Councilmember Winger moved to adjourn, and the President adjourned the meeting.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Bryan E. Metzger, President

Kevin L. Underwood, Vice President

Absent

John R. Basham II

Lisa Dullum

Ilana Stonebraker

Kathy Vernon

Roland K. Winger

ATTEST:

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor 10/8/2019

Minutes prepared by John Thomas, Recording Secretary