

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 17, 2014
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 8:30 am in the Discussion Room at Citizens Square. The purpose of the meeting was for additional appropriations, transfer of funds in excess of the current budget, grants and any other business to come before Council.

Attending: Robert A. Armstrong, Larry L. Brown, William E. Brown, Roy A. Buskirk, Tom A. Harris, Kevin M. Howell, and Darren E. Vogt.

Also Attending: Tera Klutz, Auditor; Nick Jordan, Chief Deputy Auditor; Jackie Scheuman, Finance and Budget Director and Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order by President Darren Vogt with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

Darren Vogt: Good morning everyone. First on the agenda is the approval of the June 19, 2014 meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

Roy Buskirk: Move to approve the minutes from June 19, 2014.

Kevin Howell: Second.

Darren Vogt: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. With that, the financial report from the Auditor.

Tera Klutz: Good morning, Council, my name is Tera Klutz, Allen County Auditor. The most important news is that we were able to settle June property tax collections. The collection rate looks really good. You will see 55% or 56% on your financial report but that is net of our estimate of Circuit Breaker. If we backed out Circuit Breaker and just went with our certified levy, we would have collected 49%. That is really good because it is close to collecting half of our levy, as if the Circuit Breaker wasn't there.

Darren Vogt: Great. Council, are there any questions? Tera, do you see any funds that are way off the projection? Do you see anything that looks like it might be lower than expected? Child support budget reimbursement was a little bit but I don't know when those come in.

Tera Klutz: I looked at them all individually and still felt comfortable that we were going to hit our numbers and were within my expectations. None really stood out.

Darren Vogt: Okay.

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Roy Buskirk: I do have a question on the Homestead Credit and on the collection of people that were filing two. Is that slowing down some now since we have had that program in place for w while?

Tera Klutz: We are still in the middle of that audit and in fact we are mailing out 100 to 200 letters a month. We are not through that audit yet.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Tera Klutz: I predict that we will get through with the majority of the project this year with maybe a little follow-up next year. That directly ties to that one-time capital money that we are showing that you have for capital. It is not going to last forever. This year, I transferred \$500,000 into the General Fund from last year and I anticipate doing the same thing in January.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you.

Darren Vogt: Any other questions on the financial report?

Larry Brown: Move to approve the financial report.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Nick, do you want to highlight the unemployment, please?

Nick Jordan: Good morning, Council. On your agenda, you see April and May, non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates. June will come out tomorrow. Allen County went from 5.0% to 5.3%. Indiana went from 5.5% to 5.8% and the National went from 5.9% to 6.1%.

Darren Vogt: Are there any questions on that, Council? Today we have for appropriation in the General Fund, \$10,168 and in Other Funds, \$200,000. With that we have the Recorder.

John McGauley: Good morning, Council. For the record, I am John McGauley, your Allen County Recorder. This is my Chief Deputy soon to be one way or the other my successor, Anita Mather. I am here for what I suspect will be the last time for a long time to ask you for nothing. As you know, for the last couple of years we have been self-funding in the Recorder's Office thanks to a healthy balance in the Records Perpetuation Fund. That practice got some attention in the last year and we actually pursued a change in statute down at the General Assembly. It allows us to do that if we propose to you the affidavit that is in front of you this morning and attests to a couple of things. Primarily it is that our technology is in good shape, that our records are in good shape and that we have sufficient funds to do what we are asking for. That is what is in front of you this

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morning, the affidavit that I am required to submit and that you are going to convert into an ordinance that approves the practice. Our balances are in good shape. They are very lightly changed from the year before. I will tell you that if this practice ever gets a pressure test, it's this year. Our revenues are off because of the lack of inventory in the real estate market and as so goes the real estate market it has a direct impact on our bottom line. Right now, our document counts are down by 17% from the year before. Like I said if this practice ever gets a pressure test it will be this year. We are still willing to attest to you that we have the resources to get this done. We are asking for your approval to allow us to self-fund for another year. This is something that we have to do every year and so we will be a part of the budget process going forward. We will come before you to tell you that we have enough money to do what we do. We are asking for your approval this morning and answer any questions you might have.

Darren Vogt: I would think that with the number of subdivisions that recently have been approved you will see those things start to turn.

John McGauley: It has actually better. I believe that it has progressed forward over the year. At the end of February, we were down about 25%. At the end of the first quarter, it had improved to about 22%. The day before yesterday was 17%. It is getting better as the year progresses.

Darren Vogt: Cold winter shocked a lot of people.

John McGauley: I don't think we are going to catch up by the end of the year. That is a lot of room to make up in four or five months. And we're talking about down from last year which was a significant improvement over three or four years ago.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any further questions?

Roy Buskirk: Yes, I would just like to thank John for your work and would like to point out that the reason the Recorder is doing such a great job is because he jacked the fees up. The fees are set by the State. The County has nothing to do with setting the fee.

John McGauley: That is right. Our fees haven't changed since 2006 with the addition of a two dollar per document fee that we have put 100% of it into technology. The last time our fees changed was the better part of a decade ago.

Tom Harris: I want to congratulate you on the innovative practices and your leadership. I think you kind of pushed the dial and continue to push even when the system said you can't do what you're supposed to do and you did it anyway. We look forward to your new role in the Superior Court system as well.

John McGauley: I heard a rumor that I will be back here next month with a different hat on. I would be remiss, and I accept your compliments and thank you very much for them, but I would be remiss in not sharing this with the lady sitting next to me and everybody in that office. Ideas are great as long as you have people who buy into the concept and work

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to make it happen and Anita has been just as big a part of that as I have been. After I leave, you will continue to see good things happen in that office.

Tom Harris: Great and again, congrats. With that I will make a motion to approve an ordinance approving the Allen County Recorder's request to fund the Recorder's office expenses out of the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Darren Vogt: Do we have an ordinance number on that?

Tom Harris: Yes, it is 2014-07-17-01.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

John McGauley: Thank you very much.

Darren Vogt: Thank you. With that we have the Sheriff's Department with a salary ordinance and appropriation for a one-time bonus for the Sheriff. Tera, you are going to handle that one, right?

Tera Klutz: Yes. I am requesting an appropriation and an amendment to the Sheriff's salary ordinance. His salary is directly tied to the salary of a full-time Prosecutor in a County of our size. The Supreme Court awarded Judges and Prosecutors a two percent bonus. As a result, I am requesting the same thing for the Sheriff and will be paid at the same time that the State pays theirs, the last pay in July. The amount in total is \$2,889 and that includes FICA. We are also going to try to work into the salary ordinance for 2015 when you pass the annual one, some wording that will allow us to make this adjustment automatically without coming back to you if the State would change it in the middle of 2015.

Darren Vogt: Does everybody understand what we are doing? It is tied to the State and I will call it an unfunded mandate.

Tom Harris: With that I will make a motion for the consideration of a salary ordinance amending the 2014 pay for the Sheriff with a one-time bonus of \$2,683 to be paid on July 30, 2014. For the Sheriff's account, 13-01 for \$2,683 and FICA for \$206 for a total of \$2,889.

Kevin Howell: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. We are on to the Wayne Township Assessor.

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Nick Jordan: I will handle this one. We kind of touched on this yesterday and the County Assessor is going to do a reduction in one of their appropriation lines and the Wayne Township Assessor is going to do an appropriation in the Chief Deputy line. This is to fund the Chief Deputy's increase from 2013 for the 2014 budget.

Darren Vogt: Does that make sense to everyone? Are there any other questions on that? We need an appropriation reduction.

Nick Jordan: An appropriation reduction from the County Assessor and then an appropriation from the Wayne Township Assessor.

Bob Armstrong: I will make a motion for a reduction of the County Assessor, Senior Assessment Team Leader for \$7,279. This is to be moved to the Wayne Township Assessor's Office for Chief Deputy, FICA and PERF in the amount of \$7,279.

Bill Brown: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. With that we are on to Superior Court with an amended salary ordinance for the Central Scheduling Coordinator.

Mary Rian: Mary Rian, Allen County Human Resources Generalist and Recruiter. This reclassification is for a Central Scheduling Coordinator. We are hoping to move it from an OSS 5 to OSS 4. They brought the position to my attention a couple of weeks ago because they have an employee retiring. I always review the positions and create an up-to-date job description. This didn't score out the same for me and they have a very similar position that is also an OSS 4. We decided that now would be a good time to come and ask to have that reclassified.

Darren Vogt: And the red-circle is because...

Mary Rian: There is someone currently in that position right now. She is going to be retiring next month. It won't, in fact, affect her.

Darren Vogt: It will only be red-circled until she retires and then it will go to OSS 4.

Mary Rian: Yes.

Darren Vogt: It won't affect the new person coming in.

Roy Buskirk: But why does it say until July 17, 2015?

Tera Klutz: Because that is our red-circle policy. This is just for the incumbent. Anytime that it is vacated, the new salary takes effect immediately.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

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Darren Vogt: In theory, until she actually retires.

Roy Buskirk: I understand that but I was surprised it was for a year. I know the policy that you are referring to.

Tom Harris: With that I will make a motion for consideration of an amended salary ordinance for the Central Scheduling Coordinator from OSS 5/7, \$43,125 to OSS 4/7, \$39,301. This is red-circled until July 17, 2015.

Kevin Howell: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. With that we are onto Community Corrections and they have an appropriation in the Community Corrections Fund 234.

Jeff Stevens: Good morning, Council, I am Jeff Stevens, Senior Finance Manager at Allen County Community Corrections. I am here to ask for Council's approval of the appropriation for additional State grant funds that were awarded this past June. The amount of the award is \$200,000 and it becomes a permanent part of Community Corrections annual base grant. I would be happy to answer any questions regarding that.

Tom Harris: This is particularly interesting and Jeff, we might talk a little bit about this. This was new money from the State and you basically got word that it was coming and we weren't anticipating it.

Jeff Stevens: It was a request that we made a few months ago and was a one-time additional grant awarded to us. They came back and said, "How about we reduce the amount but make it a permanent part of your base grant?" We happily accepted that.

Tom Harris: It is probably reading into it a little bit too far but this might be the first example of where the State is saying keep those inmates and don't send them to the Department of Corrections and here they are sending money back to local, in this case.

Bill Brown: It is a great indicator.

Darren Vogt: Can you tell us what you are specifically looking at with these extra funds?

Jeff Stevens: It is basically going to replace money that has been moving towards our 100 Series, to be honest. The salary increases and the one-time bonuses that we have experienced over the last couple of years. Money has been gradually moving north into the 100 Series and it comes at a really good time to replace those funds and help us continue our current services.

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Roy Buskirk: So really it has nothing to do with the recent change of the felony classifications.

Jeff Stevens: We did not request it in that fashion.

Roy Buskirk: Right. There is a real potential here of your involvement because of the increase of personnel.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any further questions?

Tom Harris: I will make a motion for the appropriation in the Community Corrections Fund 234 for Contractual in the amount of \$200,000.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Darren Vogt: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0.**

Tera Klutz: I am going to take the next item for Community Corrections. It is listed under Community Corrections because it is an employee that is currently in their budget and we have been paying through the payroll system. This particular person did not have a salary ordinance and we were doing an audit and it came to our attention. I have a salary ordinance and it is retroactive to the beginning of the pay because they have been here a few years.

Darren Vogt: So we have been paying them but we didn't have the ordinance.

Tera Klutz: Correct.

Tom Harris: With that I will move for consideration of a salary ordinance for the Mental Health Section Chief, PAT 5/2 to be split between 234/235/236. This is retroactive to December 14, 2013.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Darren Vogt: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Thank you, Jeff. With that we have the Highway Department. They have an amended salary ordinance reclassifying the Field Supervisor to Foreman.

Kim Yagodinski: Good morning, Council, Kim Yagodinski, Finance and Personnel Manager for the Highway Department.

Bill Hartman: Bill Hartman, Director Allen County Highway Department.

Mary Rian: Mary Rian, Allen County Human Resources Generalist and Recruiter.

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Bill Hartman: This is kind of a remnant of our downsizing. We ended up with three Foremen and one Field Supervisor. One time we had essentially three levels of supervision. We had the Superintendent, the Field Supervisor and Foreman and we had one guy designated as Drainage Foreman. When we downsized in 2006, as people retired we eliminated those positions. We are now down to where the balance is three-to-one. Our current Field Supervisor is going to retire very soon and at that point we want to have it so that we have four Foremen and that evens out the playing field. That is my best explanation as to where we are.

Roy Buskirk: When is the individual retiring?

Kim Yagodinski: August 22nd is his last day.

Roy Buskirk: My question is why isn't this red-circled?

Mary Rian: They want to change the structure once he retires. This is not going to be effective until he retires. The last position was classified incorrectly and this they are taking the opportunity of him retiring and restructuring to make the barns match each other.

Tera Klutz: When is he retiring?

Kim Yagodinski: August 22nd.

Tera Klutz: I am still having trouble understanding the difference. The other position was classified incorrectly and is now classified correctly and they are retiring next month.

Mary Rian: This is a change in the job. They are going to change the job from Field Supervisor to Foreman.

Tera Klutz: It is not the same position.

Mary Rian: It is not.

Tera Klutz: They are reposting it and doing everything for a new job.

Mary Rian: Yes.

Bob Armstrong: Right now you have two Field Supervisors north.

Kim Yagodinski: We have one Field Supervisor and one Foreman north. At the south barn we have two Foremen. Our Field Supervisors were mainly Supervisors and they didn't do a lot of the hands-on type of work. One of the requirements of the position is to have a CDL. Our Foremen are not just Supervisors. They are working Foremen. When we get into a pinch, they are out there operating equipment or running snowplows or

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whatever. All hands on deck. We feel that it makes more sense rather than having someone just supervising, they should be able to do those tasks as well. This position will require a CDL license.

Bill Brown: One quick thing. There is an org chart on page 39 and it clearly illustrates it.

Bob Armstrong: Right now, at the north barn, you have two Field Supervisors.

Kim Yagodinski: We have one Field Supervisor and one Foreman and we have the barn Manager.

Roy Buskirk: This is taking effect at the south barn, right?

Bob Armstrong: North barn.

Kim Yagodinski: The south barn has two Foremen and the barn Manager. It used to be more of a hierarchy of supervision and it has evolved to where we need to have this position operate equipment and be on the roads when we need them.

Tom Harris: I congratulate you that when people move on you can look at it and reorganize if necessary. In not every case those positions go up and in this case it is actually coming down. Congrats for assessing that properly. I will make a motion or consideration of a salary ordinance reclassifying the Field Supervisor, LTC 7/2, \$45,258 to Foreman, LTC 6/2, \$41,144. This will also go from exempt to non-exempt.

Bill Brown: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-1 (Armstrong).

Bill Brown: Mr. President, can I ask why that would not be in favor? I think I am missing something. What would generate a no vote? It is a reduction and a right sizing of the department.

Bob Armstrong: I just have some concerns about it.

Bill Brown: I know that is your prerogative. I just wanted to make sure.

Bob Armstrong: I don't have a problem with what you are saying about reduction and stuff. I just have other questions about it.

Roy Buskirk: The organization of the structure.

Bill Brown: Thank you.

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Darren Vogt: With that, we are on to Auditor with a transfer from Financial Accountant to Schools and Seminars.

Tera Klutz: I am requesting a transfer of \$5,000 from Financial Accountant to Schools and Seminars. I have extra money in the Financial Accountant line because we have had turnover twice. We have an opportunity to go to some training for payroll and financial accounting for my staff.

Roy Buskirk: I will make a motion for the transfer in the Auditor's Office from Financial Accountant, \$5,000 to Schools and Seminars, \$5,000.

Tom Harris: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. We are down to Discussion Items. I see Janette is here so I am going to bring you up. If you recall in the meeting yesterday, we talked about Kronos and what is happening with that.

Roy Buskirk: There was an email yesterday on this too.

Darren Vogt: We thought we heard of a delay and thought that we would have you give us an update.

Janette Jacquay: Janette Jacquay, Human Resources Director. A little bug told me you were inquiring about the Kronos Project. There have been no snags which I heard there was some concern about. We are getting ready to roll out Phase One of the Kronos implementation next month. We will be going live next month with the part that we call the talent side. That will replace the current NeoGov system which is our applicant tracking system. It does our job postings and helps departments sort through applications. We are changing that over next month. I had planned on doing that in July but have had some turnover in my department and have my Assistant Director on leave. Because we are short-staffed, I have had to postpone it a little bit. The project is rolling out and we should be in good shape next month. We are training departments next month on the process.

Darren Vogt: I saw that email yesterday, as a matter of fact. Council, are there any other questions on that? There are no delays and we are cool.

Janette Jacquay: I haven't been through an implementation this large but from what I understand, the normal issues that we are having are just that, normal. I think what has unfortunately happened is because of the turnover and the fact that I am down two full-time staff right now. It has just caused some delay.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Harris.

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Tom Harris: While she is here, I know we have talked in the past about pay for performance. Are there any further thoughts on it or where we are at on it? Is it gaining any traction or do we have to get this implementation done first?

Janette Jacquay: It still is in discussion. We want to do the implementation before we sit down and scope out exactly how we want to roll out merit compensation.

Tom Harris: Okay.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any other questions for Janette? Thank you, I appreciate you coming down. With that we have discussion of the proposed Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Addition Funding.

Randy Brown: I am Randy Brown, General Manager of the Memorial Coliseum.

Bill Fishering: Bill Fishering, County Attorney.

Randy Brown: As we get started this morning, I am going to pass out some documents. This is the long awaited and long planned Expo expansion. As you may recall, we started this five years ago. It was actually part of the process too in the change of the receipt of the Supplemental Food and Beverage tax revenue shifted from the Coliseum to the Capital Improvement Board. There was a change in the Professional Sports and Convention Development Zone increasing our piece of revenue by approximately over a million dollars for this project so that we would have the revenue to ultimately cover the debt service. That was just a reminder. To talk about the expansion, most of you have gone to or been at some of our meetings and are aware of what we are talking about here. It is an expansion of the Expo. It is contiguous space so that as you look through some of these drawings and go to the fourth page, this is a drawing of the Home and Garden Show. It shows the flow of traffic from our current facility and into our new space and how it works. With any facility space that we build now, much like with the food courts, we try to be multi-use. I think, with the Coliseum, that has really been our secret to success. In the case of the Expo expansion, it is trade-show space but when you flip the page, one of our biggest challenges is a shortage, at times, of meeting rooms. We have lost some events like the Gordon Food Service food show because of that. With this new addition, we will have the ability to have five different rooms now. We have already been in discussions with Gordon Food Service in attracting them back. Some of our other major events like the Fort Wayne Farm Show have a waiting list of over 150 companies that want to get into that show. The Home and Garden Show has a waiting list. Most of the major shows have waiting list and are excited to have this project brought online. We have been working closely with the State. There was some change in legislation. If you recall during the last session, to enable us to proceed with this project, Mr. Fishering and the legal staff have been in almost daily communication with the State Budget Agency and having said that I will turn this over to Bill now.

Bill Fishering: The real purpose of this meeting is that we need to reach an agreement with the State Budget Agency on the extension of the Professional Sports Zone duration.

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It is currently set to expire in 2027 and that would not be adequate time to do the new financing. We are currently looking at least with what we have done in the past with the Coliseum funded through the Professional Sports Zone. At the current time, that fund is generating for the County \$2.6 million a year. We have a unique fund, unlike Marion County who always seems to get the better of everything; with a cap on ours we reach that cap in about October. After October, we don't generate any more funds. We are generating all of the \$2.6 million in about eight months under the current zone. The reason I bring that up is because the proposed financing would include a property tax component which if the tax on the Professional Sports fell short we would have to make it up from property taxes and/or CEDIT but we are not pledging CEDIT at the current time. That is not the proposal. Clearly, the Commissioners would prefer if there was a shortfall to make it up out of CEDIT as compared to property taxes because the property tax is within caps and we are not going for an excess levy under IC 6-1.1-20. We are not following that process. There is some very minor risk that if the Sports Development Zone and CEDIT did not generate enough money to pay the proposed debt service, we would be within our current property tax caps. The Commissioners currently see no chance of that happening but you never know. Like I said, it is \$2.6 million and you need to be aware that the risk will exist. That is the presentation when we get back to you to go through the actual financing that will be made. In the short run, we need for you to tell us that twenty years is okay for the bonding duration so that we can go to the State Budget Agency and say that our Council has approved a twenty-year bond for this. That will move the duration of the Zone out to approximately 2035 from currently 2027. It picks up roughly eight more years of funding through that Zone.

Darren Vogt: When do you need that done by us?

Bill Fishering: I just need your approval of the duration out to 2035 so that I can tell the State Budget Agency that you have approved the duration extension to 2035.

Darren Vogt: For the...

Bill Fishering: For the Sports Development Zone.

Darren Vogt: Can you explain that Zone a little bit?

Bill Fishering: That Zone is made up currently of IPFW's campus, the Coliseum, the Hotel and the Grand Wayne Center. In those zones, sales tax and income tax are diverted from the State back to the County for use for these sorts of facilities. We received \$2.6 million. The Grand Wayne Center receives \$400,000. We get ours first and the Grand Wayne gets theirs second. The current time, the taxes from that zone are generated in about eight months.

Darren Vogt: Is that \$2.6 million, is that consistent monthly? The reason I say that is the more events that are held we still have the backup to the property tax, there would be four more months.

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Bill Fishering: You would have four more months of income and sales tax from that area and would have to go into this before we would even need CEDIT, which is where the Commissioners would ask for it first.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk.

Roy Buskirk: The payments on this example are annually and every six months is a payment but annually it is \$1.3 million.

Bill Fishering: That is a good round number, yes.

Roy Buskirk: Of the \$2.6 million, what other pledges come out of that?

Randy Brown: We use that as our capital fund. In talking to the Commissioners, we will pledge or honor the debt obligation first. If you think that the debt service of \$1.3 million is going to be just 50% or just a tad under 50% of the full bond, there is some risk but it is very little risk.

Roy Buskirk: Are there other bond issues on the Coliseum property at this time?

Randy Brown: There are but they are paid from the Supplemental Food and Beverage Tax. That was a carryover from the change in the Food and Beverage that went from the Coliseum to the CIB. Part of that understanding is that the existing debt or those bonds would be paid from the Supplemental Food and Beverage Tax. Once that last bond is paid, then 100% of that Food and Beverage revenue goes to the CIB.

Darren Vogt: How much time is left on those, do you know?

Randy Brown: I believe they are paid in 2025.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Harris.

Tom Harris: Randy is this perceived, and sometimes I hear complaints that we just keep growing and growing, is it perceived as controversial in the community? How would you argue with some of the concerns about why we need to do this?

Randy Brown: Happily I don't think this is controversial at all. I haven't heard anything to lead me to believe that. I think that the best example I can use is our average show is about 80,000 to 100,000 square feet. There is no one in town that is comparable. It is not like we are competing with anyone with our core business. The other thing is that frankly there are events that we lost and would like to go after. This is going to enable us to be able to do that.

Tom Harris: From a competitive standpoint we are competitive nationally, I suspect or at least regionally, does this expand or increase our competitiveness in a regional market in any way, say in Indianapolis or Detroit?

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Randy Brown: Absolutely. We have had a couple of challenges before and the number of meeting rooms and the amount of exhibit space and this will take us up over 200,000 square feet of gross exhibit space. That is a great place to be. If you think that our average show is 80,000 to 100,000, having two large shows being able to take place at the same time and to be able to satisfy the need and keep the Fort Wayne Farm Show and events like that and to attract back some of the events that we lost like the Gordon Food Service Show. There are some national sporting tournaments; fencing is a good example that will put us in a position to be able to bid on those pieces of business. Right now we are not big enough and as big as the Coliseum is, we are not big enough. This will put us into the classification to go after that business.

Tom Harris: I have one other question. Do you get input from large employers or community leaders and their thoughts on it?

Randy Brown: That is a great question. We have sent the drawings and designs to a number of different entities. We have asked Turnstone, as an example. Turnstone is going to be expanding their facility but we hope they are going to be going after some events that frankly that they will need some additional resources. We hope to be that resource so that when those tournaments come to town, they will be looking at the Coliseum too. We have asked for input from Vera Bradley, our clients but also people that haven't been our clients for a number of years so that we can hopefully get them back.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Brown and then Councilman Howell.

Larry Brown: Randy, would you mind speaking toward parking as this affects it?

Randy Brown: Great question. You may recall when we demolished Memorial Stadium we gained parking. This project was on the drawing board when we were doing that knowing that we would ultimately have a net loss. We gained 800 parking spaces. We think that when this project is done we are going to have a net loss of about 300 spaces. We will be fine for parking. During the year of construction, we will be under construction for most of 2015; it will be a challenge especially if we have a winter like we did this last year. We are going to be creating and expanding some parking areas as part of this too. We have some alternates that we are looking at. We will have enough parking. We like those days when parking is tight. That is a very good statement of how busy the property is.

Tom Harris: This is parallel to Parnell.

Randy Brown: Yes. If you think of the Expo, essentially it goes slightly to the left and is being constructed toward the booths and Archer Park.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Howell.

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Kevin Howell: First of all, congratulations again on the expansion of the Coliseum. My question is how much are we a regional player in the Midwest in terms of attracting major events?

Randy Brown: It varies on the segment of the business that we are talking about. On the concert front, we are a regional player. When you look at someone like Cher who is going to be doing a total of about 60 dates and to be getting one of those 60 dates when our MSA is about 102 or 103. In some ways I would say that we are overachieving. There is certain convention business like USAR, the roller skating event, and when we brought Gold Wing in those are national events. We do attract national activities. It really just depends but we are very well recognized as being a quality facility with very reasonable rates. The cost of doing business in Fort Wayne and Allen County is competitive. I think it is all good.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Harris.

Tom Harris: As a package, when you look at how we sell the Coliseum and its accommodations and such, does this round out the entire package to be able to sell the Coliseum and its features or are we still missing something? I guess the next thing I think of, if we get larger groups coming in do we have the hotel accommodations in the Fort Wayne area to be able to meet some of these larger groups? We build the building but we don't have the housing for it but they say "Gosh, great but you don't have enough hotels to have our convention there."

Randy Brown: We work hand in hand with Visit Fort Wayne. I am on the Visit Fort Wayne Board. I am on the Board for the Sports Corporation too. In terms of working with entities to attract business, we do all of that. This expansion will help elevate the building in terms of accommodations and quality. We will be putting high tech sound and lighting and digital video projection as part of this. You look at what is the current expectation with events and shows and we will be state of the art. We do a good job of maintaining the building. A few years ago when we renovated the Expo, if you recall the improvements there, to the second phase of the renovation of the arena that is taking place as we speak, we have a quality facility. It is well maintained and highly regarded. Another good example on the sports front is just by chance when I was in a discussion at Notre Dame we were successful in landing the ACC Big 10 Women's Basketball Challenge. National television will be part of that. I think we are doing it right. To answer the hotel component part, we have a lot of old inventory with hotels. Working with Visit Fort Wayne and the health reviews of the hotels, I think we are getting better. The quantity of rooms is good. Might it be a challenge in the future? That is a question of how much inventory is out there. Will we be losing some inventory? We have lost some inventory and had some new properties come online but Dan O'Connell, I think, would say that we've got about 5,000 hotel rooms in the community. It is a good number of hotel rooms. The question is, at any given time, we have a ten-day period in January where we have a volleyball event, a wrestling event and a music event in town. We don't have enough hotel rooms. It can be a function of not so much of what is happening at the

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Coliseum but what else is happening in town. Good news is, everybody is booked. I will take that any day of the week.

Tom Harris: I look at that as revenue, right, because the Food and Beverage Tax generates the money back towards you, is that correct?

Bill Fishing: Not anymore, but to the community.

Randy Brown: The big picture answer to that is that we track economic impact and the Coliseum this last year had an economic impact in excess of \$100 million. We are a major player in this community when it comes to economic impact. What that really means is jobs and jobs for our friends and neighbors. Maybe that out-of-town visitor is staying at a hotel and going out for dinner and is going to the mall or other shopping places. They are buying gas or flying in and out of Fort Wayne International Airport. There is definitely a trickle down that comes with that.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Brown.

Bill Brown: I think a quick point, when you said the term that we are booked, the community is booked really. We are growing and these venues are operating in a way with new venues coming online in a major way. It is really nice to see the Coliseum get fleshed out with this new facility. The old Food and Beverage Tax and the way it was carved out for this purpose and now those dollars are being repurposed for other opportunities in Allen County, it is so encouraging. This whole concept of attraction creates participation and that helps us become the regional hub of northeast Indiana.

Randy Brown: I think we have created a win-win situation with that. We were concerned at first when the talk of the transfer of funds was mentioned but ultimately working hand in hand with our Legislators, Commissioners with Commissioner Peters heavily involved and it worked. We are satisfied with how all of that transpired.

Darren Vogt: So today, you need us to make a motion?

Bill Fishing: I would like you to approve us moving forward with the proposed twenty-year financing so that I can tell the State Budget Agency that you have agreed to that. How it is exactly going to fall out, we are not quite sure yet.

Darren Vogt: You will come back before us?

Bill Fishing: Absolutely. No matter which financing we are doing, we will be back to you for final approval.

Darren Vogt: This is the preliminary approval so that they can go to the State saying that we have authorized going longer than 2027. Council, do you understand that? Basically someone will make a motion saying we are going to allow twenty-year financing.

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Roy Buskirk: I will make a motion for twenty-year financing for the expansion at the Memorial Coliseum.

Larry Brown: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

Randy Brown: Thank you, folks.

Darren Vogt: With that we have an update from the Urban Trails Committee.

Jim Redmond: I am Jim Redmond, 2904 Stardale Drive.

Linda Brooks: Linda Brooks, 2505 Gay Street.

Jonathon Ray: Jonathon Ray, 6610 Selkirk Drive.

Darren Vogt: The floor is yours.

Jim Redmond: I will start it off and then let Linda and Jonathon add on what I left out. We are here because of the Urban Trails. We think it is vitally important that we get this trail for several reasons. Health benefits of the trails and we can ride families on the trail. I have several grandkids that like to ride bikes but riding in the street is a no-no. For instance, I don't know if some of you have been on Rudisill but in the past year you see a lot of paint and bike lanes which is fine. We tested this with Police escort and every time an automobile would come up along the side of the bike riders, he would have to drift over in the turning lane. We don't think this is sufficient. What we are here today to ask you is for any help you can give whether it is funding or land acquisition or whatever. The trails, I have been working on this for about three years and I went before City Council. I have pleaded with them to give us some help out in the southeast. We see trails being developed all around the City which is fine. We don't want to be left out of the mix. That is why we are here today. Linda, would you like to add something to this?

Linda Brooks: I got involved because I was attending a City Council meeting when Mr. Redmond brought this to the Council a couple of years ago. My position is I am a small business owner in the community for the last twenty years. My company is called Step Up to Fitness Studio. Seeing that I am in the fitness business in the area of preventative health, I wanted to come onboard to advocate for some of the things in the community over the last twenty years that I have been involved with that proves for sure that the lower income urban community has been ignored when it comes to preventative health issues. The trails are to be multipurpose and functional. In the urban community, we have basically less than half a mile versus the City of Fort Wayne River Greenway Department which was made aware that is all we have. There are quite a few miles of trails in Fort Wayne and I can go back as early as 2010 when my company, Step Up to Fitness, along with a couple of other organizations in the community did a walking program and all we

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had was four blocks in the low income inner-city to walk on. It was a twelve-week walking program and was free. We tried to work with the City at that time. The City of Fort Wayne Greenway Department will come to the table and sit us down and talk with us but they are not listening. What I did, as part of the Urban Trails Committee, was to use funds from my business to go out and have surveys done. I only have a couple of maps here and what this shows is thirteen different perspective areas in the lower income urban community where a trail would be functional, multipurpose and so on. Out of the last two years, we came up with Hanna Street as something that has been on the table for a while. They have been discussing this with the City for a while. They are not interested and have continued to ignore talking about Hanna Street for some reason. When you build these trails, because everything is going green and people are walking more and you factor in the exercise thing, it has to be multipurpose. It has to be functional. There is money that comes through the Department of Transportation that we knew about and the City had received and we thought that some of those funds would be used in the lower income urban trail for our community. It seems like we are not getting any support to get this project going. We've talked about it and had forums. We've had workshops in the community to educate people on the trails and different things and we have been to City Council for the last couple of years talking about it. There is actually no plan on the table. Even the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Benjamin, talks about prevention and about how the future and government agencies need to build things of this nature in the lower income area because people are walking anyway. The health for our young people is at an epidemic level. There have been statements made such as I will probably outlive people younger than myself. The reason we needed to come here and address this issue with you and the Engineering Department and the Right-of-Way Department, we want to start working to get something going. We don't want like the River Greenway told us that basically it will be ten years from now. That is ten years more than when we actually started the whole thing back in 2010. We just don't have ten years. We have to get something going like today or tomorrow. We have to get something on the table because people's lives are at stake here. It seems like the lower income urban community voice has not been heard. No one is listening. We have had different bike rides and things like that and more recently, Tuesday, there was one. The City goes to different parks, once a month, and this is how we have been ignored. They have never been to the lower income inner-city parks to provide this bike riding educational thing that the City does for the Greenway. We had to ride our bikes on Hanna Street to show that it is the best option. If you are on Hanna Street, ride down through there sometimes between 9:00 and 11:00 and you will see so much activity in our community. You will see lower income people walking with their children and going to the unemployment office because it is three blocks off Hanna Street. They are going to the grocery store in Southgate. If you go down Hanna, you would go to the only grocery store in our community. In the Surgeon General report that talks about changing your eating habits and having grocery stores. We are plagued with filling stations selling food that is unhealthy. I don't know how this happened but I am here today because I want to discuss that since you plagued this community with filling stations and the unhealthy food, do something right away so that we have other options. In our study we also found that the east side of the street would be preferable because Weisser Park is on that side. On the west side of the street, a lot of the homeowners have beautiful homes and they are excited about it.

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Darren Vogt: Councilman Brown has a question.

Bill Brown: This plan looks like a pretty extensive plan for the southeast. That is painted on street trails, is that right?

Linda Brooks: The type of trail that we want in the community is not in the street at all. It has to be functional and multipurpose. People with wheelchairs, we have people in our community that have wheelchairs and we see them riding in the street. Our youth, it is another form of activity for them so that they can travel to the majority of inner-city parks. What we are proposing is working with the Right-Of-Way and Engineering Department so that they can come up with some type of a plan where they can widen the sidewalks into a trail that can be utilized for wheelchairs and everything else. Something that is nicely landscaped because if you use Hanna Street and you start from Berry and go all the way to Tillman, down here from Berry you are three blocks from Headwaters. That means that if you were riding for recreational you can get to Headwaters and hit a lot of other trails outside of the inner-city community. If you go all the way down Hanna to Tillman, when you cross Rudisill Street there are businesses on Rudisill that we utilize. There are already trails and stuff down at Tillman for people who shop at Menards and Walmart. It can't be in the street. It is going to require some engineering but it could be done because the amount of space, if need be, they can work with the homeowners. It has to be something that beautifies the community. It can't just be another sidewalk.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk.

Roy Buskirk: On the handout illustration, your main goal now is trail number one?

Linda Brooks: Actually the main goal, I believe, is trail number four. That is Hanna Street and it travels north and south.

Roy Buskirk: Do any other of these trails currently exist?

Linda Brooks: No. When we put those together that was just an idea of the general urban lower income area where it might be feasible to put a trail but actually when it came down to it and we did our studies and surveys, we found that Hanna was the best out of all of those.

Roy Buskirk: You say that there is, even though it needs to be moved out of the street, that there is one on Rudisill now?

Linda Brooks: That is a bike lane. It is not safe for kids.

Roy Buskirk: We don't need to discuss that as far as a bike lane. I agree with you. I don't think they are safe for vehicles or bikes. Okay, those were my questions.

Darren Vogt: Have you worked with Lori Rhodes at the Fort Wayne Trails at all?

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Linda Brooks: Actually, Lori and that organization have been getting funds and were aware as far back as 2010 that we were working with them. We have actually sat down at the table but every time they tell us that they are putting a trail over here or we are putting a trail over there. Hanna Street from Berry to Tillman is probably six or seven miles. They have 80 miles. They are telling us what is best for the urban community but they don't live there and they probably don't even work there. They are not asking the people in the community. Yes, we have sat down with Lori.

Darren Vogt: Jon, do you want to say something?

Jonathon Ray: I think that the onus or responsibility for Elected Officials is to create equity. When you think about the trails, Fort Wayne is growing. I sit here seeing how big Fort Wayne is going to be and what it is going to be like five years from now. It is exciting. When you think about the trails, there are 80 miles of trails and less than half a mile of trail in the urban center. Anybody who is looking at something from an equity perspective would have to say that it is out of line. When I listen to Lori on TV the other night talking about how the trails increase property value, people on the southeast side want that too. The challenge that I am asking County Council today is create equity. It really is the responsibility of Elected Officials. Otherwise, we have the Mayor, we have City Council and we have County Council and it comes down to evaluating issues that affect all of your constituents. Today, in a singular motion, I am asking that you all create equity within the trails. Everybody is paying taxes or paying their role to have what the trails represent. We all recognize it is important and it is important everywhere. We can't continue to see resources leave the southeast side and make believe that things are changing. In a nutshell, that is all I have to say. Thank you.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Howell, do you have a question?

Kevin Howell: Just a general statement. Correct me if I am wrong on this, taking a 10,000 foot view looking down here. The money for these trails is coming primarily from the City or non-profits or how is this set up here?

Linda Brooks: The Department of Transportation sent stimulus money to the City. Under the Department of Transportation, trails are considered alternate forms of transportation because areas are getting more highly populated. In bigger cities you will see people walking and that is what Fort Wayne is going to come to. The funding has come from Legacy. Mr. Redmond and I were asked to be on the committee because we are at City Council and he advocated for the trails. They put us on the committee with Dawn Ritchie and the Greenway. We went to the meetings and Mr. Redmond asked when we were going to start discussing this. It would never come up in the meetings about the urban community. He asked when we were going to discuss getting Legacy funds to help the urban community get trails. Her answer to us was that the Mayor said he is not going to use Legacy funds. Six months later we were at City Council and she came right to this table and they gave another million dollars. That is how they finished Pufferbelly. Still,

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Mr. Redmond questions to the committee were just blown off during the meeting. They have gotten Legacy funds to finish something and we have been totally ignored.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Harris.

Tom Harris: Have you spoken to the Commissioners, by any chance?

Linda Brooks: No.

Tom Harris: That might be an avenue as well. A question that I have is the trails are all over the place, River Greenway and such, but there are not necessarily trails to get to those. Throughout the City of Fort Wayne, you have to go down streets and drive or walk or ride bikes through streets to get to the River Greenway. Are you wanting to connect to the River Greenway in other words create trails to get to that system? Or do want to create your own trail system beyond a River Greenway?

Linda Brooks: When the trails first started, they were all supposed to be by the rivers. Okay? That was a beautiful thing. The trails now, if you go into the Department of Transportation and get funds from them, the trails have to be functional. In other words, they have to be taking you somewhere that you are getting more than one benefit. You are getting exercise; you are able to save on gas, pollution and all of this and that. To answer your question, you could say that it is not necessarily to hook to the Greenway but is more for the community, the lower income that don't have cars and need to get to important places.

Tom Harris: So you want to create another functional trail system.

Tera Klutz: That could hook up.

Linda Brooks: I wanted to share something else that is confusing to us because I know the funds that we have used came from my company, Step Up to Fitness. I have been a Race Director and have gotten permits for the last twenty years for non-profits. I do that for free from my business. I get permits and they do their walks and runs and the Urban League is the longest standing one in our community to have a fund raiser where we are walking and running. When it comes to these trails and streets, I am coming to the table bringing background experience from within my community. Every permit that I ever applied for I have always had safe walks but we had to have them in the streets.

Tom Harris: That is not uncommon to anywhere in the Fort Wayne area. I am not sure about all of the communities in Allen County but a lot of times you have to go through streets to get to trails. They don't have trails through their towns. Ultimately you have to be on streets but you are suggesting getting off the streets and creating a trail system beyond the streets.

Linda Brooks: Okay, I am glad you brought that up.

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Tom Harris: I was thinking some of the other communities, Leo and a variety of places; you are still in streets for the systems within their communities.

Linda Brooks: If you look at the 80 miles that the City has already implemented, I know about a lot of these races and that almost every weekend there is a walk or run somewhere in the City. They are not in the street, believe me. They are on trails. I am not saying that at some point they will be in the street. In the urban community, we have to be in the streets. It is not safe to run on those sidewalks. That is another reason why I believe that what they are saying to us is that we have fund raisers all the time. I don't know what the reason is but I would like to share this, at our last meeting with the City of Fort Wayne Greenways, they still didn't put a plan on the table. The engineers weren't there to say we are going to start working on it. As a matter of fact, I was told by Dawn Ritchie when I asked about Legacy funds that the Mayor was not going to release any Legacy funds unless it gets four times the return.

Darren Vogt: That is an issue that the Mayor is going to have to deal with and not us. We don't have any control over the Legacy fund. Councilman Howell, you had a question?

Kevin Howell: Yes. What I am interpreting from what you are saying here is, this is the first I have heard of this comprehensive overview that you want to connect Hanna Street to the venues that are already there. That is from Berry Street all the way out to Tillman Road. Is that right?

Linda Brooks: Yes.

Kevin Howell: That is one of the objectives, right?

Linda Brooks: That is the one we want on the table.

Kevin Howell: You want the sidewalks widened in the appropriate places.

Linda Brooks: Yes, we want to develop and beautify the whole community.

Tera Klutz: Can you picture the trails in Aboite? They are off the side of the road and kind of wide and are the same all the way.

Kevin Howell: I see.

Darren Vogt: I can see that there can be some limited issues with that because you have right-of-way and those are twelve foot wide. There are a lot of different reasons...Councilman Buskirk.

Roy Buskirk: I have worked on trails and acquiring right-of-way for trails across the State. I was just going to point out that in many of these communities the trails are the sidewalks. They have increased the width of the sidewalk from the older four feet or less

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to five feet. Angola, on the Pufferbelly Trail, that goes up to Pokagon Park. Going through town up there I acquired easements. They didn't even acquire the property from the homeowners to widen the sidewalks and some of them are from current sidewalks to the curb is where they are widening it. That is a lot more economical in doing it that way. There is no landscaping with it. They just put in a sidewalk. When you get down to Tillman, there is already a trail down there.

Linda Brooks: Okay. That means we need less than seven miles.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Brown.

Bill Brown: I appreciate the awareness knowing that you have this interest and presenting it to us. As far as the County taking action, the Commissioners is a good place to go to see if there is someone there with some interest in helping form a coalition that could be put together between the City and the County potentially and then we would decide on funding that. You coming to us as an awareness piece is good because frankly, if this is promoted the right way, I could see where it could be termed transformational. They may revisit as they move forward with the Legacy dollars. I guess I just wanted to give you a sense of protocol, if you will. We aren't in a position to do a whole lot.

Jim Redmond: We are aware of that.

Roy Buskirk: I didn't get to finish but I am the Chairman of UTAB, which is Urban Transportation. Dawn Ritchie reports to our committee. We have the Federal funding and State funding that comes for trails. Like Bill was saying, I appreciate you making us aware of your interest.

Jim Redmond: Would I be right in assuming that some trails are more urgent than others? What I am referring to is the Bass Road. Recently they instituted a study to implement a trail on Bass Road. This was urgent.

Darren Vogt: It is part of a widening project. What the County Highway Department does is as they are expanding roads and as the transportation flow changes, they will include as part of their comprehensive plan for trails to be in those. The hardest part of an urban trail is right-of-way and to geographically fit it into what you have left. It has already been developed. The County Highway Department is actually redeveloping by acquiring the right-of-way and incorporating it into the plan as it goes forward. I think that is the difference. It is not necessarily a priority but is part of the plan when they do a road. Does that make sense?

Roy Buskirk: And part of that is the fact that when they are doing a road, there is Federal funding involved of 80%. It is a good opportunity to put in a trail because you are getting Federal participation in the cost.

Jim Redmond: That makes sense.

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Darren Vogt: Anytime we can get the money back that we send to the Federal government, we try to. That is what I would encourage the Mayor and the City to do. We can help to be an advocate for you as they do projects. I appreciate you coming and giving us an update on this and I think you have heard that we will be an advocate for you. As we talk to fellow Council members and the Mayor's Office, we will be happy to echo your concerns about trying to find a way to connect to the rest of it and have a trail within the City. Thank you very much for your time.

Jim Redmond: We appreciate it.

Darren Vogt: Are there any upcoming or recent meetings or events? Are there any comments from the public?

Vickie Hadley: Vickie Hadley, Health and Human Science Educator and County Extension Director. I share with you the program for the Allen County Fair. We have had prejudging last week and this week and next Tuesday is opening day. I encourage you to come out and visit with us and see the successes of our youth plus all of the activities and events. Admission is five dollars. If you come on Wednesday and are 55 years of age or older, you pay three dollars to get in. On the last Sunday of the fair, if you bring can goods it is also three dollars.

Darren Vogt: What is the timeframe?

Vickie Hadley: Most of the events start at 9:00 in the morning. Some of the livestock shows start at 8:00 in the morning. The fairgrounds are open until 10:00 at night.

Darren Vogt: So basically from 9:00 to 10:00. Thanks, Vickie, I appreciate it. Are there any other comments from Council? Are there any liaison reports? Obviously this is a time where you need to be having conversations on the budget process. Nick sent out a draft of the letter last night and I sent back my notes. It looks good and we'll get that out to the Department Heads and Elected Officials. You need to be in contact with them to make sure they understand the process and where we are with it.

Larry Brown: Did that or should that letter include more specifics about what we did yesterday?

Nick Jordan: Yes. There are two more pages of instructions from the Auditor's Office and how they need to enter it into the financial system as well as a summary of all of the decisions that you guys made yesterday.

Tera Klutz: But specifically for the Sheriff there will be an email that goes to him with the additional information that you gave. There were two that you wanted additional information to go to.

Darren Vogt: Are there any other comments?

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Tom Harris: Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of July 17, 2014.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Larry Brown : All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 7-0.

Bob Armstrong: Move to adjourn.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Darren Vogt : All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 7-0. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:57.