

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2019
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, November 21, 2019 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, budget approvals and any other business to come before Council.

Attending: Robert A. Armstrong, Joel M. Benz, Larry L. Brown, Kenneth C. Fries, Tom A. Harris, Kyle A. Kerley and Sharon L. Tucker.

Also Attending: Nick Jordan, Auditor and Jackie Scheuman, Finance and Budget Director

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

Tom Harris: Good morning everyone. First on the agenda is the approval of the September 19, 2019 and October 17, 2019 meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

Joel Benz: Move to approve the minutes from September 19, 2019 and October 17, 2019.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Tom Harris: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next is the financial report from Auditor Nick Jordan.

Nick Jordan: Good morning, Council. In your packet you will see the financials through October. I will note that we did process the November property tax advance although it is not reflected here. Property taxes are trending right along the course and will potentially exceed a couple percent from what is anticipated at about \$63 million. On the Miscellaneous Revenue you can see that we are already at 100%. We can go through a couple of those individually if you want but I wanted to point out that there is approximately \$2 million that is attributed to 2020 or one-time revenue. If you take that out it is around 95% and is still well ahead of where we are year-to-date. I envision that the 100% will be 110% or something in that region by the end of the year. More than likely we will have a historical Miscellaneous Revenue is the highest that we have had in the last ten years.

Tom Harris: Fantastic. Council, are there any questions or comments? Otherwise there is nothing in terms of the General Miscellaneous that is further to note?

Nick Jordan: I think it was the last meeting or the meeting before where we did talk about the DOC reimbursement for the inmates and as we look at that more and more, the

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\$1.5 million that they gave us for 7/1/19 through 6/30/2020 will fall short of where we should be if you took the higher reimbursement rates of \$37.50 and \$40. Not only I and Beth along with other Counties throughout the State will continue to push the DOC in that regard. They readily admit on their website that the average cost is \$44 to house an inmate but they are only paying us \$40. It is out there for the public to see as a general answer to a question and begs for...

Tom Harris: Council, one piece that is an agenda addition is at the discussion portion of our meeting, Beth Lock will be here to talk about the legislative agenda coming up for the General Assembly. You might make note of the last comment that Nick said that is we were to push any item that might be of interest to be able to push for additional funding for that. Are there any further thoughts or comments on the Auditor's report?

Sharon Tucker: I move that we accept the Auditor's report as provided.

Kenny Fries: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Total appropriations requested in the General Fund are \$340,164 and total requests in Other Funds are \$6,955,953. At this time we will open it to public comment. It looks like we have a couple of gentlemen here this morning. We will give you approximately 2.5 minutes this morning, John.

Bud Mendenhall: Bud Mendenhall, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

John Modezjewski: John Modezjewski, taxpayer. Thanks for getting the minutes out, however you did it. I do take exception to a couple of things. Councilman Brown says this happens all of the time with the meeting notes. Going back through the last eleven years, 132 meetings, you had nine no agendas and six no meeting notes approved. All the time I don't think is kind of a generic statement. I still take exception to the time it took to get the meeting notes out. That hampers what we do. I registered my complaints with you folks the last time that without the meeting notes, we don't know what was said. We can't take it to our leadership committee and it is just wrong. It is just terribly wrong. I also take exception to Councilman Brown's statement on page three "John, you can file for candidacy any time you want." I realize that and I can. Anybody can. The idea of that is wrong. That is just a wrong thing to be said at the wrong time. We are citizens here asking questions and are still waiting on answers on the Vera Bradley property. That goes back to September and October and we still don't have answers. We don't have answers on the Hall's property. Where does that show up? That is taxpayer money and it needs to be accounted for. You are the fiscal body. We are citizens who are engaged. We are doing what you all want. We show up and do our homework. We have questions. I could get back into Kenny Fries. In the last meeting, the discussion of the Department of Corrections, where is the money going? What is going on with the Department of Corrections? The meeting notes are unclear. I haven't had time to go back and watch the meeting. There seems to be some contentious exchanges between Council people. We have a right, as citizens and taxpayers, to listen to that and ask questions. We are here at

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8:30 on Thursday morning because we care and going back to page three that is wrong. The leadership of the Allen County Council should have stopped that at that point in time. It was an unfair statement. I realize I can file for candidacy anytime and so can Bud and anybody in this room.

Tom Harris: John, I think your time is about up. We thank you for your comments and I don't think anybody was derogatory in that. I think it was encouragement to anybody in the public that they can consider that.

Kenny Fries: Can I make a comment?

Tom Harris: Quickly.

Kenny Fries: John, I appreciate the fact that you noticed some contentious disagreement between Council members. I think that is the way that it always should be. I think the public should see that we are not always one voice and that we do believe differently and in the end we are trying to provide the best government that the County can. I appreciate that you picked that up.

John Modezjewski: Can I respond to Councilman Fries?

Tom Harris: Last comment. We have a lot on the agenda today.

John Modezjewski: From pages 36 to 46, if you read what was being said, to me it is nebulous. The context, I don't know what is going on with the Department of Corrections. I don't know what is even being discussed. But there is something there. Thank you.

Tom Harris: Gentlemen, thank you very much.

Ketu Oladuwa: Good morning. Peace and respect to every one of you and to the families that are represented here. I am a citizen of Allen County. I am here to address the \$20 million surplus that the County has. The commitment that has been made to look into a treatment facility for people who can be diverted from jail and I am here with Faith in Indiana and I know that Faith in Indiana program is before you and some people on this Council have made a commitment to speak to that in the upcoming fiscal year. I have the label of felon on my record. I was wrongly convicted of a murder and sentenced to death. After five years I walked off Death Row. I am very clear about what is needed in terms of dealing with people who have mental issues and behavioral issues. Jail is the first step to the mass incarceration system. Prison is the second step. There is a lot that can be done before people go into the system. Part of that \$20 million surplus that you have can go towards that. I would encourage the Council to listen very carefully to what Faith in Indiana has to say. You have communities of people from all over this City and all over the County that have come together and put together some ideas and approaches that will benefit the people of Allen County.

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Tom Harris: Thank you. We have been watching the two minutes and I thank you for your comments this morning.

Ketu Oladuwa: I appreciate being here and what I would like to add in leaving is when you go into consideration about what needs to happen with the Allen County Jail and the treatment facility that Faith in Indiana is asking for that people who are on this committee and doing the work in the community be included in that conversation. Not just as an addendum but sitting at the table where the decisions are made.

Tom Harris: Thank you.

Kimberly Kossan: I am Reverend Kimberly Kossan and I am a leader in Faith in Indiana as a volunteer and also on the State Coordinating Council for the Poor Peoples' Campaign. I am here to support an allocation of \$200,000 in the budget for treatment and not incarceration. A program that would look at having two teams of trained people, Paramedic, Police Officer and a Mental Health Counselor to gather and be able to do a pre-arrest diversion to get mental health treatment. I am grateful to see about the Hope Program that assesses people within 72 hours after a non-fatal drug addiction. I am talking about circumventing a system that is hard to get out of. Having a Police, Paramedic and Mental Health presence that changes how our citizens see our First Responders so that people with mental health and drug addictions can get the help they need. I stand here as just a start to say that we have had over 600 conversations across twelve congregations this year. We have talked to 3,500 voters of color and single income last year. We have convened Town Halls with 500 more to discuss the issues of our community around incarceration and we stand here today as faith leaders who care about the soul of our County and to tell you that the families of our community are being torn apart by incarceration. We stand here today to make it known that we know people are not perishing due to moral ineptitude or an increased level of criminality. We are here because our jails are being misused. One leader in our County called it the Allen County Hotel. That was someone within your system. It is not intended or needed as a hotel. We need treatment. Please don't confuse my passion as anger or resentment. We just want our community to have our families together and to keep people out of a system that they don't need to be in. Let's keep those cells for those that really need them. We know we have a mass incarceration problem and we can change it and actually make your budget even better. It won't take long and we have several models to show you a way forward.

Tom Harris: Thank you and maybe just another comment or two.

Karen Staton: My name is Pastor Karen Staton and I am the Pastor at Destiny Life Center Church right in the heart of 46806. Here in Fort Wayne we say it is a great place to raise a family. I have raised my family here and I have wonderful children doing very well. That is not so with everybody. Many of our families are hurting and suffering over incarceration. I could share many stories about how this devastation shows up in our community but today I am here to tell you about a story of a man in my own congregation. He is a 26-year-old male named Michael. He is a musician at our church and coming every Sunday. He is the father of four children. He has a magnetic

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personality but he struggles with mental illness. He has had a hard time processing a large amount of information and gets stressed out easily in public. He has trouble getting a job. Since January of last year he has not been able to come to our church where we mentored him and was a support system for him. He has been arrested on a public disturbance and was in the Allen County Jail. Even with no major offenses on his record, one minor disturbance led him to the cycle of going in and out of jail for the last eleven months. He and his family have been in a cycle of losing their source of income. They have lost their home and have been unable to pay their bills. He has not been able to pay his child support. Being rearrested and acting up on the block gets him a harsher sentence which has caused so much devastation. Michael is just one of thousands and hundreds here in Allen County that continues to get jailed instead of treatment.

Tom Harris: Thank you for your comments and you also wanted to make a comment?

Karen Staton: Did I have my two minutes yet?

Tom Harris: Yes you did.

Man from audience: I just wanted to summarize for all of us. We just know there is a big problem and we know a lot of people have contributed to it and it is over thirty years that we have gotten to this over-incarceration. We have two solutions that we are proposing. We are passionate about it because we know these stories. The two solutions are a pre-arrest diversion strategy so that a mental health person can go with the Police and show up and be there to make those difficult decisions about mental health challenged issues and whether or not that person should go to jail. The second concrete proposal is that the Council comes and works with us for an expanded treatment option of a facility with ten to twenty beds with a robust program of helping to keep people out of jail. We are trying to help the Council and the County to come up with other tools to keep people from being criminalized and put in jail with all of the destitution that comes from jailing. That is what we are about.

Tom Harris: I think we had mentioned the last time that the job of County Council is to write the checks, if you will. We look to Elected Officials and Department Heads coming before us requesting funds to do certain programs. I encourage you to work through those departments that might be directly affected or impacted instead of just simply asking us. We cannot write a check for an event or a project unless it comes through a department. We don't give money out to organizations or anything. It has to go through a department first and then it comes to us. Are there any final comments?

Another man from audience: I would like to make my public comment in the form of a prayer. I would like all of those from Faith in Indiana to stand, as they are able, and join hands together. Let us pray. Holy one, as we gather at the Council meeting, as we hear the testimonies, we pray for those not yet ready to share their stories who believe that no one will listen to them. They feel ashamed about their experiences and are afraid that they won't be seen. We pray for healing that they be filled with conviction that their voices matter and are worth hearing. We pray for the mentally ill who have not received the treatment they need and have been arrested or taken to emergency rooms in lieu of arrest

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and then are released without treatment caught in the cycle of crisis intervention and then being ignored. We pray for Sheriffs and Police who are charged with upholding the laws that they didn't create and are forced into the roles of First Responders of mental and public health and given inadequate training that they may see that this is part of the long-term needs for them. We pray for members of County Council this day that they not only have ears to hear but to listen. Not only eyes to see but to witness. Not only voices to talk but for leadership in our community as we understand the challenges facing us that we remember the words of another one who was incarcerated long ago in Birmingham and wrote a letter about the challenges that the Civil Rights Movement was facing saying that the stumbling block in the road to freedom is not the White Nationalist but the White Moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice and prefers the negative peace in the absence of tension, to the positive peace which is the presence of justice who says I agree with you in the goal you seek but I can't agree with you on the method of direct action, who feels that he can set the timetable of another person's freedom and lives by the myth of time and constantly advises people to wait for a more convenient season. Fifty-six years later, help us not repeat the mistakes of the past but learn from them. Is anything we are feeling uncomfortable this morning that makes us want to silence the conversation or makes us want to point a finger at things we don't understand? May we look in and ask ourselves what is making me feel uncomfortable? What am I afraid of? Do I feel and fear a loss of control? What am I bringing to this encounter that is making it hard for me to listen? Finally, as we pray for our County, may it be a place as the Prophet Amos said that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. May we as residents of Allen County see transformation happen in our lifetimes and happen as we enter this new decade just a few weeks of 2020. May that be a year of justice so that we may see a more healthy community not only through our determination and dedication and through our decision making that enables your dream of a beloved community become more of a reality that more may see and hear that our God has done this in our presence. In your many names and many voices, we pray this day. Amen.

Tom Harris: Thank you very much.

Sharon Tucker: Tom, let me just say as you guys leave the table, my heart bleeds for you but you honestly need to get with the department. Tom was telling you accurately that we don't have the means to do it with the way that government is set up. Get with the department that can help you. There are several, Community Corrections, the Sheriff's Department and they will be able to listen to you and see if they can help you.

Kenny Fries: There are CIT programs out there that we have been working with for many, many years to help the mentally ill. That has been in progress for 15 to 20 years.

Tom Harris: Thank you very much. As we move forward with the agenda this morning, we have the 2020 budgets for the Capital Improvement Board and Grand Wayne Center and Visit Fort Wayne are before us this morning.

Doug Johnston: Good morning, Council. My name is Doug Johnston and I am the attorney for the Allen County-Fort Wayne Capital Improvement Board also known as the

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Grand Wayne Center. Pursuant to Indiana Statute, the Grand Wayne Center's budget is to be brought before the City and County Councils for approval. I hope you got the budget and it was in the materials. With me today, on behalf of the CIB is Board President Jim Cook and our Executive Director Bart Shaw. I will turn it over to them for brief comments.

Jim Cook: Thank you for having us. We appreciate the opportunity to present this budget to you. Again, I am Jim Cook and the President of the Board. We have had an extraordinary year with a lot of activity. As Bart will tell you, the Grand Wayne is doing very well and is healthy. We continue to see new opportunities presented. I am going to let Bart give you an overview of everything that happened this year and where we are going.

Bart Shaw: Good morning and thank you for your time this morning. For this past year, there are a couple of things I would like to highlight. It was an extraordinary year for us in terms of the reach. This is something that we like to talk about this year. Because of the events we had, in particular the International Jugglers Association, we brought in jugglers from all over the world. Also, the part we played in helping Turnstone to host their event with the Goal Ball and Blind Judo activities. We had guests from 53 of the Indiana Counties and 49 of the U.S. States. We missed out on Hawaii. We had 48 countries from around the world. They came to this community over the past year to experience what this community had to offer. We left an impression and I think that goes a long way. The other thing we did this year was we had a consultant come in and take a temperature of where we were. We had no agenda and wanted to say take a look at what we are and what we are doing. This particular consultant looked at the Grand Wayne and the marketing and what we were doing. He also looked beyond that towards what this community looks like as a destination. What they came back with is that they were very impressed. The things that have been going on in this community since we last did this five years ago is very impressive. I think it speaks volumes as to the work at this table and at the City table in terms of where this community has come and where it is going. At this point, if you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions or comments this morning? What is the biggest challenge for the CIB?

Jim Cook: The biggest challenge for the CIB, I think Bart referenced in terms of the Grand Wayne Center is we continue to try to understand what conventions are out there that we could attract. One of the challenges is hotel rooms and that is being resolved. We are looking for bigger, better and longer conventions to come our way because we have the rooms available to provide to those.

Tom Harris: From the standpoint of the challenges for 2020, what is your focus?

Bart Shaw: We continue to work very closely with Visit Fort Wayne. They have a robust program set up for this year with some priorities that are great. We will work with them as hard as we can to attract those bigger national conventions. We are adjusting to the

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new hotel. It is kind of a double edge sword that because of all of those great things that I have talked about and make this such a great destination, we are also finding people who want to come down and just stay in the hotels that are just visiting for the weekend. We run that balance with hotel supply because those rooms are getting filled with just the people who want to come and visit. That is something that we have dealt with. We continue to look for opportunities to impact the community in a positive way and will continue to do that.

Tom Harris: The revenue identified with the room tax does that include the change or projected change?

Bart Shaw: What is in front of you is simply the Grand Wayne's share. Our share doesn't change.

Tom Harris: Okay. In terms of wage increases...

Bart Shaw: We did a three percent increase.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions?

Bob Armstrong: Do you know off the top of your head how many rooms we have in the City and in the County?

Bart Shaw: Dan would know that.

Dan O'Connell: We have about 5,500 rooms in the City and the County. Ninety-five percent of them are in the City.

Tom Harris: Council, any other questions? Thank you and at this time we will have Visit Fort Wayne.

Dannette Fitzgerald: I am Dannette Fitzgerald and I am with Parkview Health. I serve as Chair for the Board of Directors of Visit Fort Wayne. Tourism is very important to Allen County and Fort Wayne. To echo some of the positive comments that Bart made, yearly we see over 6.5 million visitors to Fort Wayne-Allen County. That represents more than \$741 million that gets infused into our local economy. That money also helps to sustain more than 14,000 jobs. In addition to the importance of what it brings to the economics of our community, I think it is also important to talk about how tourism impacts our quality of place. What is a great place to visit also makes it a great place to live. I think those two go hand in hand. To talk more about those investments, Dan O'Connell, our President and CEO has information about our budget and our marketing plans for 2020.

Dan O'Connell: Thank you, Danette. In each Councilman's mailbox, we left this program booklet which outlines our marketing program for the year. We are very excited about 2020 because we have received an increase in the Innkeepers Tax and a change in

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the distribution which this Council supported in August of last year. Those proceeds just started arriving in January because the levy began in November and by the time it routes through the Department of Revenue it started showing up here in January. We have been planning, researching and designing programs to use those additional resources and they are outlined in this booklet. I would like to indicate that we promised the community and the leadership that we would put this money into sales and marketing. Our budget next year of \$2.9 million, 82% of it is for sales and marketing. The remainder is operating the Visitors' Center and some of the administrative staff that is running the organization. We have great plans for boosting the awareness in the nation about the Genealogy Center. It is a great opportunity for attracting people to a very unique venue. This is one of only two in the nation. We have additional plans of getting more adaptive sporting events. We have started with Turnstone to attract some international events to our community and now we have groups coming to us. Just this week we had the U.S. Para cycling Association spend three days here looking to put their Olympic qualifying event here just because of the previous event. They have found a community that wants to work with Paralympians. We hope to get more national conventions. The community has built a fantastic package with the addition of the hotel rooms, the great amenities at the Grand Wayne Center and what surrounds it like the Embassy Theater, Parkview Field and our lively downtown with its new park. We have something to sell. With these new resources we will be spreading the word farther. This year we are very proud of the fact that the Memorial Coliseum will be hosting not one but two NCAA Championships. The D3 Men's Qualifying Rounds will be here as well as the Women's D1 Qualifying Rounds and will bring thousands of people. Our budget is designed for sales and marketing and we are here to answer any questions.

Tom Harris: Dan, in taking a look at the room tax line, your 2019 budget to 2020 is up 55%. Is that based on that projection of those potential events coming?

Dan O'Connell: Exactly. The rate was changed from seven to eight and the distribution was changed to 3/8's coming for marketing.

Tom Harris: That is changed to \$900,000 going up. The other question was that this percent of increase for employees is what?

Dan O'Connell: Three percent.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions or comments?

Sharon Tucker: Dan, have you determined a budget or procedure for marketing to diverse events that was part of my kick to help support?

Dan O'Connell: There is a little bit in here and I would be happy to share more. There are three shows which are primarily African American based. We are doing a sales blitz in Washington, D.C. Auvis Cole is our new Director of Sales and is leading those efforts.

Kyle Kerley: How many positions are you planning on adding with the increase?

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Dan O'Connell: We will be adding one position. It is the Marketing Director specifically designed for the Genealogy Department and Adaptive Sports.

Larry Brown: Has your Board addressed the request to add a Council person?

Dan O'Connell: Dannette, do you want to field that one?

Dannette Fitzgerald: Yes, we have. We have changed our bylaws and have invited Councilman Benz to join our Board and he has agreed.

Kenny Fries: I have one question. Eighty-two percent of your budget is for advertising. Are you going to try to keep some of that local with local advertisers?

Dan O'Connell: We do. We run a program called Fort Wayne's Current Calendar and we advertise what is going on in our community and that is supported by our organization.

Dannette Fitzgerald: Can I also add that we use local agencies whenever possible. We have just gone through a process with local agencies and chosen one for the bulk of the new marketing effort.

Tom Harris: One final question. In regards to the increase for room rates and such, has there been any feedback from the hotel/motel industry?

Dan O'Connell: They were supportive of it when we went through the legislative process and they were supportive when we went through the local ordinance process and they remain supportive. We are in the middle of a strategic planning this week and our hotel community is joining us in mapping out additional strategies.

Tom Harris: Very good. I think you promised that you would see us in another ten years for an increase.

Dan O'Connell: It may not be me.

Sharon Tucker: I will move for approval of the Capital Improvement Board, Grand Wayne Center and Visit Fort Wayne budgets for 2020.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Thank you and good luck for the next year. Next on the agenda is Economic Development. We have consideration of Resolution 2019-11-21-01 approving a Statement of Benefits for QuikCut.

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Carey Sipe: Good morning, my name is Cary Sipe. I am the President and CFO at QuikCut.

Rachel Black: Rachel Black, Allen County Economic Development. I will give you a brief presentation and then I will hand it over to Mr. Sipe. Today we are considering a resolution approving a Statement of Benefits for QuikCut Inc. If you remember from last year, they are a metal fabrication company and they were before this Council back in December. They were approved a seven-year abatement for a \$1.2 million in investments. We are glad that they continue to expand in our community. The current project that is proposed for your consideration is \$1.1 million in personal property. They plan to install this equipment in December and to be complete by the end of 2023. The company plans to create ten new jobs with salaries around \$475,000. They currently have 45 jobs with salaries around \$2.3 million. Based upon the review system, they are eligible again for the seven-year abatement. They will save about \$40,000 in property taxes over the seven year deduction period. If you have any questions for me or Mr. Sipe, we will go ahead and take those now.

Tom Harris: Mr. Sipe, can you tell us a little bit about QuikCut and some of your plans for the future?

Carey Sipe: QuikCut has been around for 40 years. We are located in the 46806 zip code providing a lot of opportunities for people in that area. We take in different types and sizes of steel and we have laser cutting devices and plasma cutting devices. We take it from there and we have multiple press brakes. We cut the metal, bend it and we have a huge weld shop to take all of the pieces and put them together. We also have our own paint booth. If you look at what we do, we make parts that are one inch by one inch, boot spurs for cowboys and all the way up to 30,000 gallons above ground storage tanks. We have a wide variety of product lines that we do. Some production related runs but for the most part we are building big things. It is a great company in this community. We bought a \$1 million laser last year to help with our expansion. We are working directly and indirectly with Fortune 100 companies across the country and we are just a nice little hidden gem.

Tom Harris: A nationwide footprint or international?

Carey Sipe: For the most part nationwide. We don't do anything overseas. The clients that we are working on for this project are based in Texas, Missouri, Connecticut and Virginia. There are also some in Whitley County and Kosciusko County.

Kenny Fries: Is the bulk of your work local?

Carey Sipe: Actually 88% is outside of Allen County.

Tom Harris: What is the biggest challenge for the company?

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Carey Sipe: We have five big projects in process right now. I told Rachel if we get one it would be great and if we got two it would be really great but if we get three, we will probably be back next year.

Sharon Tucker: From December until now, how many employees have you added from when we gave the abatement last time?

Carey Sipe: We have had some attrition. We had a couple of people leave for personal reasons. We have added an Operations Manager, three welders and currently we have an intern that we have gotten through the Career Academy at Anthis. We hired the intern that we selected last year and then we got their top student again this year and we have intentions of hiring him full-time.

Sharon Tucker: So you are working with the school to pull students from there.

Carey Sipe: Absolutely. The CEO of the business and I were part of the Made by Me Coalition on the Board there as well. We are doing a lot to try to keep the trades and skills here in Indiana and Allen County specifically.

Kenny Fries: So if your intern is watching this, he knows he is going to have a job offer.

Sharon Tucker: And too if you get all three of the contracts.

Larry Brown: I had the opportunity to tour your facility two years ago, maybe, with GFW. At that time there was discussion about what I would term as thinking outside the box on training and recruitment. It sounds like those efforts are working.

Carey Sipe: Very much so. We are working with East Allen County Schools and Fort Wayne Community Schools, going to job fairs and we did a career fair at Ivy Tech. I would encourage all high schools to do what Carroll and Homestead just did. They brought the students in as freshmen and brought their parents in. I think a lot of parents think kids have to go to college.

Larry Brown: Can you repeat that?

Carey Sipe: I have a 15-year-old and a 12-year-old as well and I am saving for their college but I am also cognizant of the fact that their talents and skills may be something other than what is needed by a college degree. I think the sooner we can help these kids understand and pull out what that talent is, we are all going to be better off for it. It will save a lot of time and wasted energy, I believe.

Larry Brown: The reason I jumped on that is that I am a trade's person. It is my passion as well. I think the schools have responded with programs to get some industrial arts back into the schools. Now we have to teach the parents that it is okay. There are great career opportunities. I don't mean to be personal and I don't want you to put any names to it but

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can you throw out a figure of what a qualified experienced welder can be expected to make?

Carey Sipe: We have guys who are making \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year and I think it could even be more than that. One of the things we are looking to bring in is robotic welding. Talk about a young person who is interested in technical stuff and learning robots and yet welding at the same time. We are trying to bridge that gap. We know the next generation is very technical and are on their phones a lot. If you can make them feel like they are not working at work, I think that is going to be a win for all of us.

Sharon Tucker: I was going to ask that question. It is interesting because a lot of people that I find in the workforce now want to work from home or only want to work three days a week or like to be mobile. How do you do that with the work that you do? Would you be able to incorporate that?

Carey Sipe: We have talked about flexibility in shifts. Our first shift is 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. I would say that is a more traditional schedule. Our second shift is from 4:00 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Our CAD Associate, for example, come sin anywhere from 9:00 to 11:00 and stays from anywhere at 5:00 to 8:00 at night. We know he is a gamer and we know that it fits his lifestyle and we want whoever comes through our doors to be the most productive. We were kind of throwing out those traditional schedules, I would say. We haven't quite done it yet but we have learned that we have to be more flexible with this next group.

Joel Benz: I am not a huge fan of abatements but I do think that your company is doing things the right way. One of the ways that I think demonstrates that is being willing to put back into the tax abatement development fund. I appreciate that from our side of things because that allows us to do some things on the back end. Thank you.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions?

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the consideration of Resolution 2019-11-21-01 approving the Statement of Benefits for QuikCut, Inc.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next up this morning is the Coroner's Office.

Mike Burris: Good morning, Mike Burris, Chief Investigator with the Allen County Coroner's Office. Back in August, the Commissioners passed two new policies for the County. One is compensation for being on-call and the other was trimming the comp time overtime down to forty hours. It caused a little bit of a problem with my budget. Before that the on-call people were not compensated for being on-call but just for when they

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were actually out. I was able to cover up until the past couple of weeks on that pay. Now I just need to transfer money from one series to another.

Tom Harris: Council, any questions?

Kenny Fries: That overtime thing, I don't know if the rest of Council knew about what happened. It kind of surprised me that the Commissioners approved that and I hadn't heard any discussion about it. I know the Sheriff's Department is probably going to be spending a lot more money on overtime.

Mike Burris: I did a little checking with other departments and I am not sure if I am the only one who wasn't paying people for taking calls but that was the general idea that it was going to be a portion of their jobs.

Tom Harris: There are also some fine lines in FLSA and the Department of Labor in terms of what constitutes on-call. There is a lot of gray in there.

Nick Jordan: Just to clarify, the Sheriff's Department is already paying overtime and so it is no issue. It is if they were banking in comp time, there is a cap on that now. Not all departments offer comp time.

Larry Brown: Did I hear right that the comp time is capped at 40?

Mike Burris: Comp time is capped at 40. For ease with the Coroner's Office, it was easier to allow the employees to carry. I think Chris probably had close to 90 hours. I had to pay him down the fifty hours to get him down to the cap.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion to transfer within the Coroner's General Fund from Travel in the amount of \$2,000 to Overtime and On-Call Pay for a total of \$2,000.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Next up is the Building Maintenance Department.

Vance Hernandez: Good morning, Vance Hernandez, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Brenda Wright: Brenda Wright, Operations Manager.

Dawn Rose: Dawn Rose, Purchasing Director.

Vance Hernandez: We are here this morning to ask for replacement of a vehicle that we use on a daily basis. It is our utility vehicle and it is used for a variety of different reasons to maintain our buildings, to run errands, pick up equipment, move equipment, remove trash from our five downtown buildings. The vehicle is a 2007 Chevy Silverado with

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240,000 miles. It scored a 40 at the Service Station. Twenty-five is the maximum number when you need to replace them.

Kenny Fries: It was an overachiever.

Larry Brown: Thank you for getting the most out of that.

Tom Harris: Dawn is there any further thoughts or comments?

Dawn Rose: No, I think that says it all.

Bob Armstrong: Was this truck newly bought or a hand-me-down?

Vance Hernandez: It was a hand-me-down. Do we know what year?

Dawn Rose: I don't know what year but it came from Highway. The majority of his vehicles are hand-me-downs.

Bob Armstrong: The reason I ask that question, and thank you for the information you sent me, I have a hard time really understanding is that a lot of your equipment is hand-me-downs. It always amazes me that there is a reason why those are hand-me-downs. The one thing I was thinking about is the large salt truck that you have, is that a hand-me-down.

Vance Hernandez: Yes, from Highway.

Bob Armstrong: Something that I would throw out there is I know Highway is thinking about next year ordering some tandems and single axles and that might be something that you guys might want to look at, getting into that bid process because we know the more you buy the cheaper they are. I know that truck that you received has been used and abused, maintained and you are probably still putting money into it.

Vance Hernandez: We do and we have actually asked for some help on that.

Bob Armstrong: I would definitely recommend that that and I appreciate the information that you guys sent me. When I went through there I thought that a lot of those vehicles are Highway, NIRCC and the Sheriff's Department.

Brenda Wright: I think we have gotten one brand new.

Sharon Tucker: This one will be a totally new one for you guys.

Dawn Rose: Yes.

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Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for Building Maintenance, Appropriation Reduction in Council General Fund in the amount of \$28,862 and an appropriation in Building Maintenance General Fund in the same amount.

Kenny Fries: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next is Youth Service Center.

Chris Dunn: Chris Dunn with Youth Service Center, Director. I am replacing a vehicle. It is a 2005 minivan and I am replacing it with another minivan. I do have good news and that is that the amount I put on here was from the State bid. The Purchasing Department was able to find a cheaper vehicle from the City bid and so I am only asking for \$23,500 out of our 737 Placement Fund. This vehicle was purchased new by us in 2005. All of our vehicles we currently own are over ten years old. This vehicle went in for some routine maintenance and when they put it on the lift, the lift pushed through the rust on the bottom of it. I was told we cannot have it back. I was aware of rust but I thought it was surface rust. It's a navy blue van and so it didn't show very well and I was hoping to get another year or two out of it.

Tom Harris: And this is a transport vehicle?

Chris Dunn: Yes and it one of our daily drivers.

Tom Harris: And you are without a vehicle because they have taken it from you.

Chris Dunn: They gave us a loaner which is an Impala with a lot more miles on it. It runs nice but you can't put as many kids in it.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions?

Bob Armstrong: Is that a cage vehicle?

Chris Dunn: No.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the appropriation in Youth Services Per Diem Fees for \$23,500 for vehicles.

Kenny Fries: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next up is Superior Court.

John McGauley: I am John McGauley, Court Executive for Superior Court.

Leslie Owen: Leslie Owen, Financial Coordinator for Superior Court.

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John McGauley: Our Capital item on your agenda this morning is pretty simple. We are asking to purchase two copier multi-function devices. One is to replace a unit in Judge Gull's office, much like some of the vehicles you have been talking about has been driven into the ground. We are also asking to add one. This is not normally something that we do but sometime ago you gave us permission to add the Protective Order Specialist in the Small Claims Division and one of the things we would like to start doing is when these folks come in for our help is to send them out at the end of the process with a full copy of all of their paperwork. In the E-filing world that is not available easily. We would like to start making that and handing it to these folks when they leave the door. That is the short story of the two Capital items that we have.

Joel Benz: Since it is E-filed, is that available to them online? Is this kind of hard for them to access on line also?

John McGauley: It is not difficult but it wouldn't be difficult for you and me. A lot of these folks are in a difficult position and have just had to leave home. They may only have available to them their Smart phone. Our assumption when these folks come in especially when they come in the first few days, is that they don't have access.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for Superior Court for the Appropriation Reduction in Council's General Fund in the amount of \$5,962 and the appropriation in Superior Court General Fund in the same amount.

Joel Benz: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. CASA Fund is next.

Nick Jordan: Last month, if you recall, you approved two positions for CASA, the CASA Recruitment Specialist and the CASA Case Management Specialist. This is because of a grant they received and this appropriation numbers three through nine is for 2019 funding. I am not sure if they have been hired yet.

Leslie Owen: They will be starting at the end of November and the first of December.

Nick Jordan: They more than likely will not spend maybe half of the salary stuff here but they could spend the 300 and 400 in Services and Capital items but it is to pay for the remainder of 2019.

Tom Harris: So that is \$16,000. Are you guys on a calendar year?

Leslie Owen: No, the grant is October first through September 30th.

Nick Jordan: In January we will make the appropriation for 2020. That wasn't included in the budget because it came after the fact.

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Tom Harris: Okay.

Sharon Tucker: I will make a motion for the appropriation in CASA Fund 224 for a sum total of \$30,189.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.

John McGauley: I would like to say that we will try very hard not to be back here next month but would like to thank Councilwoman Tucker for her friendship and partnership over the years on behalf of the Court and Judges, we want to say thank you.

Sharon Tucker: Thank you. I appreciate that.

Tom Harris: Next before us is Community Corrections.

Nick Jordan: Council, as a procedural note, the way it is listed on the agenda if you approve the General Fund piece of \$305,340 the Fund 236 request of approximately \$2.7 million will be reduced to \$2,397,882. It will be an either or but not a total of both of them. We would only do the \$2.7 million if you denied the \$305,340.

Bob McArdle: Good morning, my name is Bob McArdle, Senior Finance Manager for Community Corrections.

Jeff Stevens: Jeff Stevens, Deputy Assistant Director for Allen County Community Corrections. As you may already know, Executive Director Kim Churchward was not able to be here today. She has a conflicting obligation in Indianapolis. We are requesting approval of two items on your agenda today. First is we are resubmitting our request for an additional appropriation from the Allen County General Fund. Please recall that our original request this past September was made up of 100 Series and COLA Step Increases as well as the 27th payroll in 2020. We are also re-requesting our 300 Series for anticipated increases in electronic monitoring equipment and the rental cost due to future technology changes which is making our existing equipment obsolete. The grand total of that request in September was \$456,751. The September request was denied however with the understanding that we would return to Council with hopefully a reduced request due to additional funding from the Indiana Department of Corrections. We are very pleased to report that IDOC has awarded Community Corrections additional funding for our 2020 annual budget the 100 Series, specifically in the amount of \$151,411 thus reducing our original request down to the \$305,340. Director Churchward has been in contact with each of you recently, I believe, with more detailed descriptions of this revised appropriation request. Bob and I can answer any questions that you have.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions?

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Bob Armstrong: The only question I have is there was a House Bill 1125 filed that allows you guys to form a Capital Improvement Fund for rental, equipment and stuff like that. Are you using that? I know from the Bill it said it went into effect in July. Is that something that you guys are going to look at utilizing it?

Jeff Stevens: I am sure that if there is an opportunity there we would look at it but I am not familiar with that. I'm sorry.

Tom Harris: Nick, help us...

Nick Jordan: Do the General Fund piece first and then we will reduce 235, 236 and 239 or 236 appropriately if the General Fund piece is approved.

Sharon Tucker: So the \$305,340 is also including the GPS equipment?

Jeff Stevens: Yes, ma'am.

Larry Brown: I will make a motion to approve the request in Community Corrections General Fund in the amount of \$305,340.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 6-1 (Tucker). With that we make the adjustment to Fund 236.

Nick Jordan: I will give you the total here.

Larry Brown: In the motion, do we have to identify the change amount or just the \$2,703,000?

Nick Jordan: The \$2,703,000 is going to be \$2,397,882. The total of 235, 236 and 239 is going to be \$6,706,764.

Larry Brown: I will make a motion to approve the appropriation request in Community Corrections Fund 236 in the amount of \$2,397,882.

Nick Jordan: You might as well add in 235 and 239 in one fell swoop.

Larry Brown: That would include Fund 235, Fund 236 and Fund 239 for a grand total of \$6,706,764.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

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Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next up is the Auditor.

Nick Jordan: The first piece on there is the appropriation in the Local Income Tax Public Safety Fund for \$193,000. When I comprised the 2019 budget, I had hoped to use \$400,000 from the service of papers that the Sheriff does to offset the approximately \$2.7 million pension payment. That revenue is not going to provide taking \$400,000 from that fund. Therefore we have to increase the General Fund contribution and originally the budget was \$2.3 million from the General Fund, \$400,000 from LIT Public Safety and will be revised and take about \$2.5 million from the General Fund and \$200,000 from the service of papers.

Tom Harris: Nick I noticed in here that generally what has happened in the past is that they would generally pull from some of these other funds to help the pension fund if needed. This year the workers comp is almost wiped out.

Nick Jordan: That is a separate ask. You are correct on the first part of it. The service of papers, we have to use those to offset the pension. Through October we received \$311,000. In 2018 we had \$376,000 total. In 2017 it was \$485,000. In 2016 it was \$539,000. You can see the downward trend and therefore if that revenue was going down it could be because of E-filing or private service, then we have to pay for it from the General Fund. We use General Fund and LIT Public Safety interchangeably. That \$193,000 is, in essence, the General Fund and that is because the service of papers is not sufficient.

Tom Harris: The irony of that is we finally got the increase on the servicing of papers but the E-filing is taking it down where that is not happening as much.

Nick Jordan: I believe that as well as the Sheriff's Department noted that there has been private servicing. In essence that is a retire Sworn Officer or where private companies can provide the service of papers. That is my understanding.

Tom Harris: So, the Sheriff's Office, instead of receiving those revenues from the State for filing that someone else is receiving those funds.

Nick Jordan: I don't know that it is from the State. I think it is the parties in the lawsuit that are paying it.

Tom Harris: Okay.

Nick Jordan: Coupled with that in 2018, if you recall we increased the Sworn Officers salaries and an increased salary results in an increased pension. Even though we have had great investment returns, December of 2018 almost wiped out the first eleven months of what 2018 did. The actuarial assumption continues to increase the amount that we have to pay continues to go up even though the investment returns have been good. The raise was almost 8% that went into play in 2018.

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Joel Benz: I have a question for Councilman Fries. That private service is that something that the Sheriff controls or is that kind of...

Kenny Fries: The attorneys hire people to serve their papers. The downturn of \$200,000 is a lot of money.

Tom Harris: Council, any questions?

Sharon Tucker: I will make a motion for the approval of the appropriation in the LIT Public Safety Fund 120 in the amount of \$193,000 for Sworn Officer Pension.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.

Nick Jordan: This is a transfer and what ARC stands for is we have a property tax levy that goes for mental health and mental disabilities. ARC is Easter Seals ARC and we always budget that payment to them at the gross property tax. It doesn't reflect the Circuit Breaker but we actually remove the Circuit Breaker when we make the payment. So \$75,000 is available to be transferred to the Early Retirement Incentive and Unemployment Compensation. I am just putting a safety net on those because we are getting close to what we had budgeted. We may not need these amounts. Workman's Compensation, we have exceeded all that we had budgeted. We have had a terrible year in Workman's Comp claims and we still have two months left of the year. Hopefully this \$72,000 will suffice. We transfer that to a different fund just like we do self-insurance and then that fund pays the claims. We are self-insured up to \$700,000.

Kenny Fries: On the Worker's Comp, is there any consistency between employees? Is it all over the board for injuries?

Nick Jordan: I would say historically you can look and see departments such as Highway and Confinement Center may have the bulk of the Worker's Comp claims. I am sure we have had isolated instances of departments that historically have not had high incidences of Worker's Comp claims. Those have contributed to this. There has been an incident that hasn't even been factored into these numbers yet that will be substantial. We may not see those claims until 2020.

Kenny Fries: Is there anything HR can do to get ahead of it?

Nick Jordan: Yes we are working with them right now. In hindsight we should have done this prior but that is one of the things that we are looking at as preventative measures. Not only HR but in the departments saying that people shouldn't be doing this work to begin with, if that is the route to take.

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Tom Harris: Council, I wanted to mention is one of the things that I was going to ask for is a year-end summary out of HR maybe this next month to take a look at things like Worker's Comp, maybe the total number of jobs that have been re-evaluated and different things like that we might want to understand the aggregate of the County and total expenses and such. It might be a neat year-end report from HR that we look at annually. It also gives us a platform to move forward. I will be looking at that in December.

Sharon Tucker: If there is an increase in clerical claims like carpal tunnel and strained back injuries, there are things we can do. This whole training, what is the new program they are pushing right now where we do all of the training? We have these sessions where we keep inviting trainers to come in and teach. It's from the Commissioners' Office.

Tom Harris: Strategic planning, maybe.

Sharon Tucker: Strategic planning. We should include that in some of our strategic planning.

Tom Harris: The argument might be made that we didn't necessarily fund a lot of that.

Sharon Tucker: We are funding it because we are paying the bill.

Tom Harris: What we can do on an annual basis is get some kind of update and they can tell us that in December and then we can ask what their plans are for 2020.

Larry Brown: I will make a motion to transfer in the Auditor's General Fund \$75,000 from ARC to Early Retirement Incentive, Unemployment Compensation and Workman's Comp for a total of \$75,000.

Kenny Fries: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** The next item is Other Business to Come before Council is Beth Lock is going to update us a little from the legislative perspective of what might be happening in the short session.

Beth Lock: Beth Lock, Director of Governmental Affairs for Allen County. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and I came because Councilman Harris and I met last week and talked about a few legislative issues. I said that I should come and talk to Council. Normally at this time I have a list of ideas that we are going to pursue in the General Assembly but I have to tell you that as of right now I don't have anything that Allen County is pursuing from an offensive standpoint. We are probably looking at more of a defensive standpoint. One of the reasons for that is that it is a short session and a non-budget year. A number of things that we have included on our platform are things that may come up but it is more likely they will come up in a long session. They might be some of those things that we have talked about for several years. We have talked about

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reimbursement for misdemeanor offenses. We are always looking at Level Six Felony reimbursements. We had a little bit of a win next year but very little. We look at Criminal Justice issues, MVH and LRS funding distribution formulas and those are some of the things that will be back at the table next year with the General Assembly to discuss. I know there are a few things we need to keep our eye on this year and I will start with a few of them. If you remember Dark Box Sales is an issue where a retailer wants to be assessed at a market value use versus if they were empty and had to sell the store. Our Assessor has been diligently working on this issue for a number of years and there is kind of been a struggle of should the Courts rule on it or the IBTR rules on it or the Legislature should rule on it. I think this year with the recent Court ruling that ruled in favor of the County that there may be some movement at the Legislature regarding that. Some other issues that come up, there was a bill passed last year regarding residential TIF Districts. We are reviewing that Bill to see if it can even remotely work for Allen County. There are a lot of nuances that need to be fixed and I am hearing that would be a fix for 2021 and not this year. It never hurts to start the conversation.

Tom Harris: And that is because it is a short session.

Beth Lock: Yes.

Tom Harris: That 2021 is probably going to be the one to hash out all of the details.

Beth Lock: Yes, I would think so. I initially heard that they were going to try to get out in February but Tuesday was Organization Day at the State House and it looks like they are going to try to adjourn March 11th which is right before the NCAA Tournaments in Indy. I think they will have approximately ten weeks of session.

Tom Harris: I think that is the one you mentioned a few weeks back, TIF residential.

Beth Lock: I know a lot of work is being done internally to see what the current legislation says. Does it work for Allen County in any of our unincorporated or smaller Townships? Pulling different data to see where we are so that way when we do need influence with legislation we have a good amount of data to show. This is where it would work and this is where it doesn't work. One issue that has been talked about for a few years is the investment hub or conversation. It is coming out of Hamilton County, Fishers area which is basically a revamp or remake of Regional Development Authority. We do have one locally with eleven Counties and Cities and Towns through the Mayors' and Commissioners' Caucus. There is no funding mechanism for it. In looking at this legislation of what was proposed last year and what looks to be discussed this year, we are making sure that if there was any funding piece it would come before you and wouldn't just be mandated and that we could preserve our current Board structure and just kind of protect what we currently have and/or enhance it. I have talked to different Department Heads and/or Elected Officials and I would like to hear input from any of you or if you have any questions. Again, I do not have a final platform and/or agenda drafted. I am looking for any incite today. We look at three things when we look at legislation, number one does it give us more authority or strip local authority and Home

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Rule. If it impedes our ability to do something locally, we usually oppose it. We look to make sure there are no unfunded mandates because it is not fair that things are passed at the General Assembly that we would have to fund locally. Third, we look at the fiscal impact to say does it add to our bottom dollar or take away from the bottom dollar. With that I will answer any questions or comments and dialogue that you want to share with me.

Tom Harris: I will just throw one out, a continued push for the DOC to bring back those funds from House Bill 1006.

Beth Lock: Absolutely.

Tom Harris: I think that needs to be a continual drumbeat at the State level.

Beth Lock: Absolutely.

Bob Armstrong: In 2019 they passed the Room Tax Bill and I have heard rumors that in 2020 they are going to want to raise the Food and Beverage Tax. Is there any truth to any of that?

Beth Lock: That goes back to the whole discussion on Regional Development Authority and Investment Hub. That is one of the mechanisms that they want to put in place so that the communities can come together and leverage those funds to potentially use. I have also heard LIT and Sales Tax but I don't think Sales Tax is going to be an option. The State doesn't want to give up any revenue from Sales Tax. I don't know if it will be LIT or Food and Beverage because that gets a little tricky for us because we have an existing one. That existing one was adopted by this body. I think it was authorized by the General Assembly back in the 1980's. We have always advocated that any tax has to have the ability to have community input from County Council. You guys are the fiscal body and you deserve that.

Kyle Kerley: That brings my question. I know there have been Bills every year to try to change the County Tax Board. Is there any legislation to begin or has the language been fixed a little bit better that it might get some support.

Beth Lock: The closest I ever got was about two or three years ago when they were doing away with the COIT, CAGIT, CEDIT and all of those and just made it Local Option Income Tax. We recommended that it be taken to a study committee. There are some Legislators are like we shouldn't do that. I cannot get the traction in the General Assembly and part of the reason could be it only affects seven communities where the City has the ultimate authority on any tax increase. It is a very minuscule amount. It continues to be on our platform and I will be candid for any opportunity that I get the chance to say we don't have that option in Allen County because we have a COIT Board in the City and controls 75% of the votes. It is always a part of my testimony when I testify on those Bills. It has been on our agenda for at least twelve years. I have been here thirteen.

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Tom Harris: Council, are there any other comments?

Sharon Tucker: I have a question. I heard a rumor that there is some thought or conversations going on about having modified liquor license for distressed areas. Have you heard anything about that?

Beth Lock: I have not but will look into it. So, it is a modified liquor license for distressed areas.

Sharon Tucker: I think the hope is that for areas that are not seeing an investment that it may be able to help with growth of community meeting spaces. I just wondered if it is a rumor or somebody's thought or is in motion.

Beth Lock: I looked through all of the final reports and I don't remember that being a part of Tax and Fiscal or Public Policy. That is probably what it would have come out of if it had been a summer study but I could be wrong. Let me look and I will let you know.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions for Beth? Thank you very much. Help us with the timeline again. You are ultimately putting a platform together.

Beth Lock: Our legislative event is December 10th and hopefully you all will be there. I need to get that document to publication the week before with December 2nd deadline. The next two weeks if we have anything we need to discuss. I am happy to send the draft platform as well if you want to look through it and give me some takeaways. The platform is like a guiding document and is stuff that continually comes up in the queue and the legislators ask what is Allen County's position and I can say it has been on our platform for four or five years. When I send that out you will see a lot of things that have been repeated and some new things I have gotten from Department Heads. I would need comments finalized by the first week of December.

Tom Harris: Is that platform adopted by the Commissioners officially or unofficially?

Beth Lock: I would say unofficially. I would say in the past years when we had a little bit more momentum before session, you all have adopted that platform. This year we are not necessarily doing that but if you want to do that in December that is fine. It is really more informal from the Commissioners. I know you have publicly endorsed that in years past.

Tom Harris: Thank you very much. Next up are Board Appointments. Nick, the timeline is that we need to vote on this today?

Nick Jordan: Yes and Becky has checked with them. If you look on page 70, those that are expiring 12/31/2019 all the way down to where you see Joel's name for Visit Fort Wayne. You would be approving everything above his name as your Board Appointment for the term noted.

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Kyle Kerley: I have a nomination for Sewer Board.

Tom Harris: Jim Orr and you have a nomination for someone else?

Kyle Kerley: Tom Rotering.

Tom Harris: Do you want to talk a little bit about that? Do we have his resume or background or what do you have?

Kyle Kerley: Tom Rotering historically has been a customer that has fallen into the Regional Sewer District. He currently lives in Huntertown. He has unique insight into some of the shortfalls that happen when County residents are forced onto the Sewer District and some of the negative effects that has. I think those people need a voice on that Board.

Tom Harris: Jim Orr, does he live in that area?

Kyle Kerley: I don't know that.

Larry Brown: Jim Orr works for Fox Construction.

Tom Harris: We have a nomination for Tom Rotering.

Kenny Fries: I will second it if we need a second.

Bob Armstrong: I have a question. Who heads the Regional Sewer District? Who is the President of that Board?

Larry Brown: The Legislature lays out who appoints to that Board and then that Board runs the Regional Sewer District.

Bob Armstrong: Do we know who that is?

Nick Jordan: Yes. Three are appointed by the Commissioners, two appointed by the Mayor, one appointed by Council and one by the Board of Health. The President is Rick Zehr.

Bob Armstrong: I just wanted to know who the contact was.

Nick Jordan: They don't meet until the second or third week of January so there is no pressure today.

Sharon Tucker: Have we never not had information about the person prior to taking a vote?

Tom Harris: Generally we have seen a resume or something with information before us.

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Kenny Fries: Would it be out of order to have him come here or at least his resume for next month so we can vote on it?

Nick Jordan: You are fine for next month because they don't meet until the third week of January.

Tom Harris: That would be the option to hold that particular one and move forward on the others.

Sharon Tucker: I think the Boards are important roles and it would be nice to know. The only thing I heard about Tim is that he ran for office. It would be nice to know what his input would be and whether or not we will hear back from him or you guys will hear back from him. No offense, Kyle.

Kyle Kerley: No, you are fine.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second.

Kenny Fries: I will withdraw my second.

Kyle Kerley: Motion to table the Sewer Board until next meeting.

Joel Benz: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0 and that is tabled. The rest of the list with the names on here, let's make sure we are looking at the correct ones. Is there a motion for the rest of those?

Sharon Tucker: So moved.

Kenny Fries: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next is Council Meetings for 2020.

Larry Brown: Before we jump into that I am getting numerous calls on the Library. I think the Friends of the Library, somebody has shared my number. I understand their frustration. The reason I bring it up is so that the listening audience knows that we are aware. I have expressed numerous times that I am very confident in Council's appointments to the Library Board and quite frankly I don't think the people that are contacting me are not going to be happy until their opinion is adopted or things are shifted the way they think they should be shifted. Generally speaking, I think it is the appropriate thing to stay current and modern. I think the Library Board is doing the right thing and providing the proper guidance and oversight to the day-to-day operations of the

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Library. I will probably continue to get phone calls but if you have opinions, here is the opportunity to express them.

Sharon Tucker: If I could, at the beginning of the concerns voiced from the community and Friends of the Library, the Board went out of their way from what I have seen other Boards do to listen to the concerns of the individuals. We did investigations, brought in consultants, we have looked at and rendered and honestly listened to everything that was said. I am a firm believer that every voice should be heard and I listened with great intent. I questioned and my ears started to draw concern when the biggest factor at the end of the day is that there is not going to be a level of satisfaction, I believe this is my personal opinion, until they see the Board release or sever the relationship with the current Director. I received a phone call last Saturday. The person never gave their name and went totally in on why they think the current Director should be released from her responsibilities. When I specifically asked tell me one thing that she did that is egregious, they could not give me that answer. It starts to sour on me and my ability to listen to real truth for them when it looks like it is just, I don't want to say vendetta but it is clearly that they are not going to be happy with the decisions that are being made from her whether they are good or bad. The new system that they are putting in for Library patrons has drawn new complaints. I would like to say that sometimes it is just change that upsets people but I am not sure if that is it at all right now. One thing I told my husband when he finished listening to that phone call and asked what we were going to do. I said we are going to stay the course. Probably because there are over 400,000 residents in Allen County who utilize the Library system and there is less than one percent complaining about the process. We have to keep that in mind. I am not saying that they don't have a real concern. I am just saying that it is becoming cloudy with their intentions and the way they are handling it.

Kyle Kerley: I just have a comment. Something that I appreciate when it comes to Board appointments that City Council does is at minimum they require annually a written report from each of their appointments. For certain Boards they require that they come before the Council to give an annual statement. That is something, for the sake of transparency I would like us to investigate doing in the future, having our appointments come.

Larry Brown: Shame on us. We decided some time ago that we wanted an annual visit. It was not written but someone to sit at the table and communicate with us so we could have some dialogue and shame on us for not following up on that. Part of that and I am not blaming anyone but when Becky retired, we don't have a birddog, so to speak.

Tom Harris: We will probably have to reiterate and start that process again. We started the year with possibly Ozzie. I think it was this year. Nick, if we can reestablish that process where one of the Board members before us maybe on a monthly or quarterly basis. We wouldn't need it necessarily every month or do we?

Larry Brown: Yes we do.

Tom Harris: In January we could start with the Library Board.

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Sharon Tucker: I am right here. Bring me in January. I will come.

Nick Jordan: If you want someone every month, you will need more than one.

Tom Harris: We can work on that and get it reestablished by the end of the year. Council, a question on the Regional Sewer District, it was mentioned to have Tom Rotering come before us. Is that Council's request and then if that was the case, what about Jim Orr? Do we compare these two and have them speak before us and then make a vote?

Bob Armstrong: I think we should just handle it like we have done in the past. If they are interested, have them give a resume.

Kenny Fries: And the same thing with Jim.

Tom Harris: Let's maybe take that approach. It could be an awkward discussion. We will request resumes and backgrounds from both of these. Council, are there any other liaison reports?

Joel Benz: I do have a couple of comments here. At the beginning of our meeting, there were a number of people that came up and sat down and I was impacted by that. I am on the front lines in my day job working as a Paramedic and sometimes there are people that are marginalized that slip through the cracks. I know that Councilman Fries said the CIT Officers are there and doing a good job but you know it stands to reason, at least I think, we could look and make sure we are doing the best things for our communities. Moving forward, maybe we can be a part of that and make sure that we are doing the best thing for all of the citizens of our community. That's all I had to say.

Tom Harris: Let's move onto the next item, Council meetings for 2020. We start with the January 7th and then move into our regular meetings. Do we have to vote on that Nick?

Nick Jordan: As long as you are all fine with it.

Kenny Fries: I will not be here on the 7th.

Tom Harris: If you are out of the room, who knows what might happen.

Nick Jordan: We can put you on the phone but you can't vote.

Kenny Fries: Don't do that. If I can't vote, I don't want to talk to you.

Larry Brown: Nick, you have reviewed this for any conflict?

Nick Jordan: It should be good.

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Kenny Fries: I know in the past, when I was the Sheriff, we would have the County Attorney come in front of us and talk about lawsuits that we had pending so that we knew what was out there and what kind of money we were looking at. Have we had that done?

Tom Harris: Do you mean overall for the County? I don't recall seeing that done from an aggregate perspective. That might be an opportunity for us.

Bob Armstrong: I think the last time we had one was Feighner from the Sheriff's Department. He came and gave a report of all of the litigation.

Tom Harris: That might have been a specific request.

Bob Armstrong: He gave us the complete rundown for the Sheriff's Department.

Larry Brown: Speaking of attorneys, I see where our attorney has taken a new job. Is he still representing our pending lawsuit?

Tom Harris: I think we will have to get some clarity on that although I spoke to him about that and he indicated that he will continue to represent us. I have to find out from him as well as the role that he is in if he can.

Larry Brown: Is he in a compromising position?

Tom Harris: He will be a County employee and can he still represent us? He indicated that he would still be watching out for us on this particular case. It is still moving forward and I think the last comment was that they were still waiting for Judge to make a ruling.

Larry Brown: I was just concerned because of the position that he will be in and by statute, can he represent us?

Tom Harris: Nick, can you help me with that? We can set that as an item for a resolution before the next meeting.

Nick Jordan: Just Posey?

Tom Harris: Yes.

Nick Jordan: I was going to comment on the second piece. If you guys want to go into detail on litigation, I think you can do that in Executive Session but you can't take any action. Depending on what the subject matter is, the attorney may be limited on what they can discuss in a normal public session.

Tom Harris: As we have had discussions with attorneys in the past, they have been in Executive Session.

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Nick Jordan: Pending litigation is an allowable reason for Executive Session but you can't take any action.

Kenny Fries: I don't think he talked about any specific cases but about the overall money that was spent or keeping an eye on things.

Joel Benz: There have been a number of resolved suits in the last year.

Tom Harris: I think, to your point, particularly in that department the numbers may be up in terms of cases solved or whatever as well as Worker's Comp. Let's see what we can do. Generally the December meeting is short but we will see what we can do. If we can't get it then, we will set it up for January.

Larry Brown: One last thing. Joel and I discovered yesterday that we had approved a new position in HR and that would be an Attorney. That position has been filled and I am happy to report that the person they hired is extremely capable and experienced in legislative legalities.

Sharon Tucker: Someone local?

Joel Benz: Yes. I was shocked that we would get someone of that caliber.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other liaison updates or upcoming meetings?

Larry Brown: One other thing. Just to keep it on your radar, nothing has moved forward with Community Corrections in a new location but the pressure is on to relocate and the Commissioners are looking hard at property.

Bob Armstrong: The only thing to add to that I have heard and have not communicated with Chris Cloud but apparently the Work Release building has been put on hold from opening it or doing anything with it. It is kind of concerning to me that we bought it for \$2 million and we have \$5 million in it. If the building is ready to go and that was why we bought it for Work Release, why all of a sudden have we put that whole thing on hold?

Sharon Tucker: Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of January 17, 2019.

Kenny Fries: Second.

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

Kyle Kerley: Move to adjourn.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

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Tom Harris: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 7-0.