

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 20, 2021**  
**8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 8:30 am in the Chambers at Citizens Square. The purpose of the meeting was for additional appropriations, transfer of funds in excess of the current budget, grants, budget approval and any other business to come before Council.

Attending: Robert A. Armstrong, Joel M. Benz, Sheila Curry-Campbell, Kenneth C. Fries, Tom A. Harris, Kyle A. Kerley and Christopher Spurr.

Also Attending: Nick Jordan, Auditor and Mitch Harper, Attorney.

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

**Kyle Kerley:** First on the agenda is the approval of the agenda.

**Kenny Fries:** Move to approve the agenda.

**Tom Harris:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Next on the agenda is the approval of the April 15, 2021 meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

**Tom Harris:** Move to approve the minutes from April 15, 2021.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** **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 see the financials through the end of April. You will see that the General Fund as well as the major funds are still setting in good condition, so to speak. We received our LIT Supplemental distribution as we have in the last several years and will add approximately \$1.8 million to the General Fund that wasn't budgeted and LIT Economic Development and Public Safety will also get their chunks of it. LIT is Local Income Tax. The ARP money that the Commissioners are accepting the agreement tomorrow and will start as the last step on the front end and then Treasury will accept it and will get the first half of those dollars and I was in a webinar yesterday that was just over an hour and there were over 300 questions. This was with other government finance officers throughout the country. The Treasury opened up a window for questions starting May 17<sup>th</sup> and is a 60-day window and that will help get into the minutia of detailed questions cities, towns and municipalities have throughout the

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U. S. and the individual projects they would like to use the dollars for. As I have mentioned to all of you, the Commissioners will put forth the request for appropriations in that regard and then this body would have to approve the appropriation in accordance with the Treasury's guidelines. I can take any questions you have regarding that or the financials.

**Bob Armstrong:** What is the total amount we are receiving?

**Nick Jordan:** The County's is around \$74 million. The City will get a chunk and certain other Cities or Towns will be eligible for a chunk. Schools and the Library, the County could give them some of theirs. You can pass through. It is allowable to pass through to a non-entitlement unit if the Commissioners chose to do that. You can also pass through to households and businesses.

**Tom Harris:** How many hooks are tied into this thing?

**Nick Jordan:** How many fish do you have? Compared to CARES, there will be interim reporting and quarterly reporting that will have to be done which won't be a problem at all. The interim guidance that they sent out was approximately 150 pages and what it does touch on is specific uses as an example and then trails off almost to other similar projects or expenses. As with anything, you can get different interpretations and hopefully some of those questions will be ironed out as time goes on. We have until 12/31/2024 to essentially encumber that is a phrase they use, or obligate the money. Then you have until 12/31/2026 to actually spend it. If it is an infrastructure project, we know that takes some time so if it was entered into before 12/31/2024 and it lasts two years, it is currently the guidelines.

**Tom Harris:** Not that we are opposed to receiving it but I am particularly interested to know if we receive that money that we have to do one, two and three and A, B and C I would like to understand what those things are.

**Nick Jordan:** As I mentioned, the Commissioners are the body that will put forth or their departments will put forth the request for the appropriation. We will do the interim reporting. We will have the first report due August 31, 2021 and we will have the first quarterly report due at the end of October and they have details of what those reports need to include. How much they are going to look at them, who knows? You can imagine many, many municipalities will be submitting these. We are required to do a little bit more than we had to with the CARES Act as far as reporting. The process that we go through as a County and with the Commissioners or departments putting forth the request, nothing changes there.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Nick, I know we had a brief conversation but can you share the four areas of the funds and I know you stated that the Commissioners will come back to us. I asked specifically about the restaurants. Who would determine the dollar amount or the number of individuals? Who would make the determination? Is all of that done by the Commissioners?

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**Nick Jordan:** As long as it is within the Treasury's guidelines, then the Commissioners would be the next step. If they chose that it would be restaurants, households or other governmental units to come and ask for an appropriation for \$5 million to do a grant program. With the CARES money they had a bucket of approximately \$250,000. The City had \$750,000 for a combined million dollars. That was eligible for small businesses and potentially they could do that process again. It can be used for infrastructure and revenue replacement. The revenue replacement is interesting because you quickly take the entity-wide revenue and compare it to 2019 and you either get a 4.1% increase over 2019 or the three-year average, if it is larger, of your revenue. If the three-year average is greater than the 4.1% then that is the amount that we get to use for revenue reduction. We are not actually saying we had this much property tax minus this much property tax, we are getting a growth quotient, so to speak for the revenue reduction piece, Assistance to households and businesses and so forth but it would all come from the Commissioners or departments on their behalf assuming the Commissioners delegated the authority to go and ask Council for an appropriation in this regard. Me coming as a taxpayer or Bob coming as a taxpayer, it would have to come through the Commissioners. The City of Fort Wayne will have a bucket of money also that they will be receiving.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Is it a use it or lose it?

**Nick Jordan:** As of right now, yes. If you don't obligate it by 12/31/2024 then yes. The CARES was similar and they didn't really extend a window to spend the money.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** This is not necessarily a reimbursement.

**Nick Jordan:** No, it is not a reimbursement. If it was used for unallowable purposes then we would have to pay it back. We are getting the money upfront and the guidelines on how to spend it.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Thank you.

**Kyle Kerley:** Any further questions?

**Tom Harris:** I will move for approval of the financial report.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** **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 \$3,970,914. Total appropriation requests in Other Funds are \$3,613,815. Now the floor is open for public comment. Is there anyone here for public comment? Hearing none, we will move on to Redevelopment Commission.

**Elissa McGauley:** I am going to take my mask off, if you don't mind.

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**Kyle Kerley:** Please do.

**Elissa McGauley:** Elissa McGauley, Director of Redevelopment with the County. For your consideration this morning is a resolution to ask for your approval on the issuance of tax increment financing bonds in the amount not-to-exceed \$3,125,000. The bond proceeds will go towards the construction of a two-lane roundabout at Parkview Plaza Drive and Union Chapel Road. The bond amount includes engineering, wetlands mitigation, construction inspection, construction and contingencies. In your packet was included a couple of graphics. The first one is an aerial that shows where the roundabout will be and how it is designed so far. The aerial doesn't show a couple of developments that are going to be directly east of the roundabout. This is an old aerial. StoryPoint Senior Living is already there. It is a 162-unit senior living facility. The other that I have pointed out is called Union Club Apartments. It is a proposed 240-unit apartment complex that received approval from the County Plan Commission last July. They haven't broken ground on that yet. Those are two developments directly east of the roundabout and will be impacted and will be able to use the roundabout once it is constructed. In addition to the roundabout, County Highway has asked for improvements east of the roundabout that includes widening that part to Diebold Road where the next roundabout exists. Existing storm sewers will be modified to accommodate the new curbs. They will also relocate parts of the trail that are on the south side of Union Chapel Road. Because the road widening, part of the project was asked for the County Highway to be done, this project will be paid with County Highway funds. The estimated cost on that is \$905,000. The roundabout and road widening project is planned to be bid and constructed together. The hope is that they will be bid sometime this summer with construction underway early fall and completed by the end of the year. Parkview will be the buyer of the bonds. The bonds will be repaid with no interest from the property tax increment that is collected in the Dupont-Diebold allocation area that the County established back in February of 2018. This is the second bond issued from the Dupont-Diebold allocation area. The first one closed in April of 2020 and included improvements at Dupont and the south part of Parkview Plaza Drive. That project is about 90% complete. They have a little bit of additional work to do but overall it is complete. It included widening right there at the intersection as well as signalization and lane changes. The process for the bond started back in April with the Redevelopment Commission meeting. We adopted a resolution that made a preliminary determination. That determination went on to the Commissioners and they adopted a resolution approving the bonds as well. At our Redevelopment Commission meeting last week, we held an appropriation hearing as well as approved a resolution giving final approval to the bonds. The next step of the process comes to you. For reference, I put together another graphic that shows some of the existing as well as proposed developments in the area. You can see that a lot is happening in the Diebold Road area. The red area is the Economic Development is the Dupont-Diebold area. Where we will be collecting from is outlined in blue. That is the Dupont-Diebold allocation area. We have a second allocation area and it is outlined in yellow and is the Diebold Corner allocation area. If you would like, I can speak more to the developments of the area but otherwise I have lots of people in the audience that can answer questions specifically on the project. We have representatives from American Construction Point who engineered both pieces of the project, the County

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side and the roundabout side. We also have representatives from Parkview Regional Medical Center. Then I have Bill Fishing who serves as Redevelopment Commission Attorney for questions to the bond issuance.

**Kyle Kerley:** Before you leave, I know in our discussions, one that you didn't mention was Highway. There was a discussion about the Union Club Apartments and if there might be a way to jog that entrance so that it ties into the roundabout. Have you had any discussions with Highway or the developer on that?

**Elissa McGauley:** I have not. I don't know if the guys from Structure Point can answer that or if they had any discussion with them at the time.

**Wing Lau:** I am Wing Lau, Deputy Project Manager for the roundabout project. We did some coordination with them and they sent us some CAD files that we lined up with the entrances and put it into our plan.

**Kenny Fries:** Looking at the map here, I would assume that there will be a concrete barrier between the east and westbound lanes on Union Chapel to there won't be anybody trying to turn left from the apartments.

**Wing Lau:** We continue the four feet wide center median. That is correct.

**Kenny Fries:** Also, Elissa you said that we hope to have construction begin in the fall of this year and is done by the end of this year?

**Elissa McGauley:** Yes.

**Wing Lau:** We are still waiting on a permit from Federal Highway because we are changing the limited access. They are still doing the review process. We are also coordinating with the utilities that need to be relocated. Our goal is to begin it later on this summer and have substantial completion by the end of this year. There is still some intermediate work like seeding and sodding that will carry on to next spring.

**Kenny Fries:** I know those trails get used a lot on the south side of the road. There will be a lot of people get anxious to put that back in place. I also noticed there is a discussion with DOT that they are going to be doing some work at Union Chapel and I69. Do we know how that is going to fit into all of this?

**Wing Lau:** Our firm is also doing that bridge work on the interchange and that will be the following year. It shouldn't have any impact on traffic.

**Tom Harris:** We are putting in this roundabout and how long will that help us with the growth out there? What happens if that growth keeps happening exponentially and is the roundabout the best solution?

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**Wing Lau:** We have one of our Traffic Engineers and he did traffic forecasting and he can provide more information.

**Rahul Rajbhara:** Rahul Rajbhara and I did the traffic analysis for American Structure Point on this project. When we get the roundabout analysis, we looked at pretty aggressive growth for the next ten years and then after that it slows down. This is coming from the Northern Indiana Planning Commission. They look at the surrounding area and what growth is and land use development. Based on that we did our analysis and it looks like 2042 is our design year. The roundabout has an acceptable level of service with no queuing on east and west on Union Chapel. The north and south leg may have some queuing but will not be substantial to impact the interchange operations.

**Tom Harris:** If the demand keeps climbing and traffic keeps climbing, you don't take the roundabout out but simply add more lanes.

**Rahul Rajbhara:** Once the roundabout is in there, it is already constructed but we can make some slight modifications. In this case it would be adding a lane on the north and south legs because it is going to be a single lane when it is constructed. East and west is already dual lane and should have enough capacity to handle the traffic.

**Tom Harris:** Thanks.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** When you say future traffic, can you give us a window? It will maintain for how long approximately with the growth in that area?

**Rahul Rajbhara:** We looked at a growth rate up until 2042. In all of our projects, we look at the design of the project with a twenty-year outlook. If the roundabout goes in this year or next year, it will still be good for twenty years. Based on our current forecasting that is what it looks like. If things change from what we anticipated, we may look at it once more ten to twelve years from now to make sure it is operating at an acceptable level of service.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I think my other question is for Parkview.

**Kyle Kerley:** Are there any further questions for the engineers? I guess we will have Parkview come up now.

**Mike Hisey:** Mike Hisey, Vice President for Planning, Design and Construction for Parkview Health.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I just have the additional question as far as the twenty-year plan and if you plan to sell or if there is any more development.

**Mike Hisey:** We have approximately 460 acres and about 160 to 180 have yet to be developed. We do expect there to be significant development over the next twenty year period. We have been working with Structure Point and with NIRCC as well to make

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sure the infrastructure is there to support that. We are updating our master campus plan and NIRCC will be part of those discussions as well as Allen County Highway.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Thank you and thank you for all of the great things that Parkview is doing. The City of Fort Wayne, the County and we appreciate Parkview.

**Mike Hisey:** Thank you.

**Kyle Kerley:** Are there any further questions?

**Tom Harris:** We all had a chance to meet with Parkview and I was pleased but there was some confusion in the past that this particular road going onto Union Chapel was Parkview's but it is actually the County's. For those reasons I will move for approval of Resolution 2012-05-20-01 approving Allen County, Indiana Redevelopment District Tax Increment Revenue Bonds, Series 2021, and appropriation thereof in amount not-to-exceed \$3,125,000.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Next is an update from Visit Fort Wayne.

**Dan O'Connell:** Dan O'Connell, President and CEO of Visit Fort Wayne, the County's official Convention and Visitor's Bureau. With me is Kristen Guthrie, Vice President of Communications and Marketing. We also have a couple of Board Members here. Joel Benz is an appointee to our Board as well as Randy Brown. We have a Board of twenty-three people who go about how to attract visitors to the City for the benefit of economic impact that they bring by their spending. Councilman Benz asked us to come and give a brief update on the impact of COVID on our industry and secondly how we are coming out of that. I can sum up the impact of COVID on our Travel and Tourism industry as devastating. It was devastating over the last eighteen months. We have seen hundreds, if not thousands, of events cancel at our large buildings like the Memorial Coliseum, Grand Wayne Center and all of the sports venues were closed down. That is a loss of business that we estimated now over \$500 million. Sixty-five percent of the tourism impact in our County was lost because people weren't going out, weren't purchasing, weren't traveling or participating in group gatherings. Since the hotel industry is kind of the point of the spear for our Travel and Tourism industry, some of the numbers relating to them is that in 2019 the citywide average of occupancy in our hotels was about 74%. We were leading the ten-city competitive set that we deal with including Grand Rapids, Des Moines, Iowa, Madison, Wisconsin, Evansville and some of those Midwest second tier Cities. Then COVID hit and a year ago today our occupancy in March of 2020 was 23%. That is tremendous fall off because people didn't come to our community. We closed the Children's Zoo and limited attractions because people weren't coming into the History Center and the Art Museum. It impacted residents as well as our visitor industry. As you well know, the Memorial Coliseum lost all of their events. The revenue loss not only in the spending but the commerce that has happened in our business community for

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transactions at trade shows and consumer shows just didn't occur. Devastating is the word I come to. What we are coming out with is we are seeing that there are three things happening. One is that the meetings and conventions part of it is coming back very slowly. People still have not embraced gathering in large groups for receptions because of public health. We are starting to see a lot of pent-up demand in the later part of 2021 and certainly into 2022. As many groups move their conventions out of 2020 into 2021, the first half of the year we are still not out of the pandemic. Those things have been cancelled again. We are now seeing things that can be moved to the fall being scheduled. We have a very full convention calendar from August through December. Some things have come back in 2022 but some things were just simply lost. That is going to impact us for a while. The second one is Travel for people who have leisure activities. The pent-up demand, according to the researchers, 75% of the American population will be traveling in July and August. They have been vaccinated and put on masks and they will be taking trips. A lot of those trips are drive-in markets. That bodes well for Fort Wayne. We expect to have a very robust summer. Some of the attractions like the Children's Zoo and Tin Caps ballgames and events that are scheduled like concerts and stuff as people get vaccinated and they feel safer gathering in large quantities. The restaurant industry is bouncing back. The hotel industry is bouncing back. Last month's occupancy was 60%. Faster than we had anticipated because business travel is returning and leisure travel is starting to hit the hotel market. We are hopeful and optimistic about the remaining part of 2021. Not enthusiastic because the convention market, the meeting market and large gathering market is still very soft business. Things are not happening in the quantity and volume that we would like. Thirdly, as mentioned earlier, there is a lot of hope in the convention and travel industry for the American Rescue Plan and that those funds will help. Sheila, you asked what some of the authorized uses and eligible expenses were and certainly reimbursement of some of the communities and municipalities for public health is foremost. So is the relief for the travel, tourism and hospitality industry businesses. That is an unknown area. You don't have a department like a water department and health department and so we would be happy to help advise the County and Commissioners on how to expend those funds to help our industry. We have some ideas and it is not about handing out cash. That is not what it is about. It is about sustaining businesses that are attractions that bring people to town and restaurants that make us a quality destination. Certainly your own big building that has lost millions of dollars is eligible for reimbursement for the loss of that volume of business. We look forward to talking to you about that. In coming out, I think the information that we handed out here talks about the large volume of business that is on the books. We do have some supersize groups coming to our community for conventions this summer. We are very excited about it. Some large consumer shows have happened in our community and had a wonderful turnout but cautious turnout as people are dealing with the pandemic into 2021. On the reverse side, it mentions some of the marketing plans as we gear up to capture that leisure travel or drive-in product. We use the resources that are allocated to us through the collection of the Innkeepers Tax to market our destination and serve the visitors that come to us. We have a very robust reaching marketing program that has won several awards. To explain a little bit about that marketing for this summer, I am going to turn it over to Kristen Guthrie.

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**Kristen Guthrie:** Good morning. The colorful side and the optimistic message I have for you today, I was thinking about the Pure Michigan campaign with Tim Allen. You have probably seen or heard those ads and is very impactful here in Fort Wayne. That is what we do in other communities is to place advertising to entice visitors to come here. As Dan said, we are very optimistic about what we have to offer in comparison to what visitors are looking for. A drivable destination, Indiana being more open than some of our neighbors and a lot of great outdoor activities such as kayaking on our rivers, being at the Children's Zoo and being at Tin Caps' games. We are promoting those activities for that drivable destination through television, radio, print ads and lots of digital social media ads in the regions that are from fifty to two hundred miles from here. Cities like South Bend and Indianapolis, suburban Detroit and Toledo, we are inviting those families to come and enjoy Fort Wayne this summer. We are already seeing great interest because it is the right time and the right product. We are also hosting a lot of travel writers here. A lot of publications and bloggers that are writing about travel, this is what they are hungry for. Drivable and safe family destinations is our job to find the great assets of Allen County that people are interested in and share them through those means. We have hosted travel writes virtually and in person and will continue to do that through the summer. We have also done some fun things to develop more product in Allen County. We just came out with a digital outdoor pass. We worked with Allen County Parks, City Parks and Trails to develop an app on your phone where people can enjoy hikes, bikes and paddles in Allen County. It is really fun and free. Instead of giving visitors a list of parks and trails, we gave them this activity. Head out and do some of these activities. Bike out to Kreager Park or paddle our rivers. They can earn prizes. It is all totally free and has been fun so far and has been a great collaboration of our City and County Parks and Trails systems. We are developing new ways to present materials to visitors as we invite them to Fort Wayne.

**Dan O'Connell:** I would conclude by saying what has really carried us through this pandemic has been sports tourism. The ability to host sports mostly for youth sports. You consider what has happened at the Spiece Fieldhouse, the Ice House and to a large degree the Coliseum when it turns its Expo Center into a supersize gymnasium. States like Ohio and Michigan have been closed down more than we have and those events have moved here. Throughout the winter months and into the spring months, our weekends have been particularly busy. Lacrosse events that were normally held in Michigan have moved to play here. We have had volleyball events move here instead of playing in Ohio. Even Dance and Cheer events that are limited. There is a silver lining, if you will, to the COVID impact around us and that is to be able to be pretty busy on the weekends to help sustain our hospitality industry during these difficult times.

**Tom Harris:** So maybe Tim Allen would consider saying something about Indiana instead of Michigan. Congratulations on that because it has been tough going for sure. The upside is the pent-up demand that folks are ready to do something and I think that is growing across the country.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Thank you for all of the great stuff that you are doing. I would hope that you could meet with the Commissioners and that we could create some type of

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app or something that would help these small businesses here. I know you talked about the bloggers but we have to create some type of product and that we are using this money to help everybody. Just add one more app in there. Some type of coupon or 20% off and we use the dollars and use these funds to pay back small businesses. Let's think of one more app that will help our small businesses and restaurants and storefronts. Thank you.

**Joel Benz:** Thank you for being here. When there are downturns like this there are always opportunities on the other side if you are prepared. I think you guys are well prepared. I have been involved in a few meetings here recently and I think you are looking ahead and it bodes well for our community.

**Kyle Kerley:** Thank you for coming. The next group on the agenda is the Commissioners.

**Chris Cloud:** Chris Cloud, Chief of Staff, Board of Commissioners. We have two appropriation requests and the first one is from Fund 273 Special COIT Flood. The second one is out of Fund 319 Prisoner Reimbursement. Special COIT Flood Control is a poorly labeled fund that was created a long time ago for some flood control projects. I can't tell you how the money was originated and whether it was income tax or whatever it was. When the project was over, the Federal Government allowed those funds to be used for any lawful purpose which is a common thing that happens. We have used that money for Stonebridge about six or seven years ago at about \$1 million. We put a bunch of money in the 911 upgrade. We thought we had zeroed out the fund and closed it but it turns out it was not closed and received direct payments from Superior Court for the CDS Building. It was bought twenty years ago and they have paid it back. No budget was ever put forward and so the money was just sitting there growing interest. The Auditor emailed us and asked that we do something with this fund so we can get it off the books. We have 200 and some special funds with varying degrees. Some have very little dollar amounts and very specific uses and some are on the books and should be deleted. We are in the process of doing that now with the Auditor and may see more of these types of requests of appropriating and spending it on a good purpose and then closing it so don't have to their financial accounting on these funds anymore. This one and the next one, the money is being appropriated and will be used towards a rather large camera and security upgrade that is underway right now at ACJC. The funds came from Superior Court and it seems appropriate to use it on a Superior Court project. The second fund is a court fee the Judge Gull occasionally, maybe once or twice a year, assesses on people who have the financial wherewithal to pay it. It is not required to pay it and if the money is paid was to be used for taking care of confinement facilities. We probably get one deposit into this fund a year. It just is not active. Judge Gull has told me that she is fine with eliminating the fee. I am sure this started twenty years ago with the last Jail expansion. It doesn't really gather any money and the financial headache is not worth the \$500 that is put into the fund. We are asking for that to be appropriated and then we will close out that fund as well.

**Tom Harris:** Can I ask a question on that piece? She is not stopping that process though is she?

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**Chris Cloud:** Again, there is no consequence for not paying it and so it doesn't get paid. It is not a regular court fee but is sort of like an additional fee that is able to be assessed but she rarely assesses it because they have to have financial means and there is no repercussion for not having that.

**Tom Harris:** I guess it is a stupid way of saying because we don't have a fund we are going to stop the process.

**Chris Cloud:** Yes, for that fee that for once a year gets paid.

**Tom Harris:** So it is to your understanding that she is going to stop that process.

**Chris Cloud:** For that one court fee, yes, at our suggestion is this something that you really care all that much about. She just doesn't assess it all that much because again, they don't have the financial wherewithal and there is no consequence for not paying it. Other court fees have consequences for not paying but this is not one of them.

**Joel Benz:** My understanding is the attorney knows why this fund was established? Can you provide some insight? That might help us.

**Mitch Harper:** If this is the correct fund, it was established by the County Commissioners and was controversial at the time. I happened to be at that County Council meeting and Hana Stith spoke and it was a very interesting Council meeting. It was controversial that prisoners would reimburse for expenses. Again, it is very rare because you don't have that kind of prisoner who has assets. I worked on something similar and introduced legislation at the State House and the question from Councilman Harris is probably pertinent as to whether it should still be available and if it doesn't cost too much of a headache for the Auditor. I know I am speaking on a little bit of history and policy and I understand that with your permission.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Can you tell people a little bit more specifically about that fee because there is history. The criminal justice system is broken and we all know that. We have an opportunity today to fix it with this line item. Can you share?

**Chris Cloud:** I have exhausted my knowledge of this fee. If Council's direction was to say that this fee needed to stay in place, it is nonconsequential to us because we don't have any work with that fee. Either way we would like to appropriate that money for what we want to use it for. It is no work for us to have it is just cleaning up the process.

**Kyle Kerley:** Regardless of whether the account is closed, the funds can still be used for the project that you are asking for. Whether the fund stays open or not is really a discussion between the Commissioners and the court.

**Chris Cloud:** It is purely an administrative thing. It causes me no extra work in my life.

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**Joel Benz:** There is some poor accountant in the Auditor's Office that probably has to stay up nights working on this. I am going to go ahead and make a motion for the approval for the appropriation in Special COIT Fund 273, Contractual for \$321,353 and appropriation in Prisoner Reimbursement Fund 319 for \$11,462.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

**Tom Harris:** Did you get to the third fund?

**Chris Cloud:** The Commissioners are using CUM CAP and ACJC has some funds that they were setting aside to contribute to the project. This should be done within six months and then we can close out these funds. There may be more funds like this that just are no longer needed and we will make sure that departments use and then get off the books because it is an administrative effort every year to account for those funds.

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

**Chris Cloud:** I would like to make an ARP comment. Those 150 pages were not helpful. It is going to take quite a while to figure out. It is not so much the hooks but the allowable uses. It is not really clear and to your point everyone wants it to go to best use but we have to make sure that we don't have to write a check back to the Treasury because we thought something was a right use and it wasn't what they thought of it.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I would hope that you guys, I would accept ten pages where you can slim line this. We are equaling the playing field.

**Chris Cloud:** They want this money to go out to the community but we have to make sure it is right so we don't have issues down the road.

**Tom Harris:** I don't speak for all of the Council members but I don't want a bike path in every neighborhood. That is my concern.

**Chris Cloud:** I don't think that is an allowable use anyway.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I don't want us duplicating services where there are pools of money for broadband and taking money out of... Let's take care of our community and small businesses and restaurants.

**Kyle Kerley:** Information Technology.

**Ed Steenman:** Ed Steenman, Director of Technology. I have two requests before you this morning. Regarding the first one, in July of 2020 the City and County released a joint request for proposal to enter a new IT contract. In preparing the RFP, our consultant met with 48 department leaders to gather their comments on current services and to gather their thoughts on their needs for services from IT for the future. It became clear that a

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new and better means of support was needed. A nine-member RFP evaluation selection team was assembled with representation from the City, County and City Utilities. Auditor Nick Jordan, Chris Cloud and I were on that team. September tenth we received nine proposals from nine vendors. After three rounds of systematic evaluation and scoring KSM Consulting's proposal was selected as having the best service at the best price. The contract with KSMC was signed by the City on February 17<sup>th</sup> and by the Commissioners on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The contract with Atos was terminated on March 7<sup>th</sup> and KSM took control on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Some of the highlights of the new contract are that KSM is an Indiana company based in Indianapolis and rather than trying to be the master of all types of technology and services, they have partnered with three other Indiana companies who bring their own expertise in the areas of Help Desk, Cyber Security and Application Development. There are 62 service level agreements or SLA's in this contract which ensures quality and timely services. These will be measured and reported monthly. Sixty-two is an increase from 32 in the previous contract. They will apply improved reporting and better project management tools. We have asked them to implement the role of Business Relationship Manager to provide a better connection between departments and IT. This translates into better communication, collaboration and better understanding which translates into better results. They are implementing better asset management and better ticket tracking with access to ticket status by the end user. That is just to name a few. The five-year cost of the contract is about \$31 million. The cost of the contract is shared between the City, County and City Utilities on a 40%, 40% and 20% shares. The County's 40% portion is about \$12.3 million over five years. Those costs include transition cost of about \$510,000. That cost will be completely paid by June. The 2021 cost, which is for about ten months since KSM started on March 8<sup>th</sup>, is about \$5.6 million. The County's 40% share is about \$2.3 million. Last year at budget time, I could not project the eventual cost or the timing of this contract change. Therefore I budgeted \$1,710,000 which was the anticipated cost of the Atos contract for 2021. In your packet I have provided a breakdown of the cost to complete the Atos contract through March 7<sup>th</sup> and the cost for the KSM contract through the end of the year. As you can see, there was about a \$1,090,000 shortage. This shortage is the reason for my request today. The contract cost for 2022 will be about \$6.5 million of which the County's share will be about \$2.6 million. I will appeal my budget for 2022 to take care of that increase. I am glad to answer any questions you might have about this request.

**Tom Harris:** I will start with thanks for taking time to speak with me about this as well. For the public to understand that we do share these costs with the City because we work with both the City and the County on this. We talked about the idea that some of the items in here have higher priorities than others in such a way that you would be able to reprioritize, should this pass, to adapt or move towards those priorities sooner than later.

**Ed Steenman:** Actually that discussion was relative to the next item.

**Tom Harris:** Oh, okay. In this case you wouldn't move the priorities but keep the same priorities. I will hold that question for the next part.

**Kyle Kerley:** Does Council prefer to do both at once?

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**Kenny Fries:** I think Councilman Harris wants to hear about the second item.

**Kyle Kerley:** Go ahead onto the second item.

**Ed Steenman:** In this day and age of increased security threats from all angles, the importance of maintaining sound cybersecurity defenses and infrastructure are critical for any business. Ensuring business continuity and response to an incident is imperative. You've undoubtedly have heard the reports of the Colonial Pipeline that was hit with ransomware just a couple of weeks ago. It caused a major disruption to the flow of fuel in a large part of the country. Additionally, a couple of years ago Madison County in Indiana was victimized by ransomware attack that rendered much of their system to be unusable for weeks because their backup systems were insufficient. A few years ago the Johnson County Courthouse burned to the ground which left them scrambling to restore services. Preparedness for these situations is no longer a suggestion, it's a necessity. As our new IT contractor, KSM, came onboard we asked them to evaluate our situation and to make recommendations on improvements necessary to ensure that we are following the current best practices. The funding request before you is for a City and County project to address improvements in three areas. Identity and email protection, 92% of malware is delivered by email. We need to increase the security for users by consolidating identities moving to modern email systems and upgrading tools to monitor, alert and respond to compromised accounts. We will improve our abilities to restore mailbox data if compromised, better identify email anomalies, search for and delete attack emails throughout the enterprise and block future attacks. We'll provide phishing awareness training and this is something that we do but will be bundled in with what we will move forward with so that we can eliminate a current stand alone system. We'll more effectively block spam. We'll be able to monitor the dark web for compromised account information. We will be better sensitive to data exfiltration like HIPAA data and Social Security numbers from being emailed. A simpler email environment will provide less opportunity for failures and attacks. We will provide better login security including multifactor authentication. Improved archiving will provide a means to respond to public records requests more effectively. The second area is hardware lifecycle. We will standardize and secure our technology environment to correct deficiencies and align with best practices. We will install and/or replace inoperable power supplies which provide the network classes with power in the event of a utility power failure. This ensures that our telephones and battery backed door, fire and security equipment can communicate in the event of a power failure. We will replace our core network switch, which is at end of life. We expect performance and reliability improvements from this replacement. The installation of refreshed computers was stalled in late 2019. We have a backlog of desktop and laptop PC's that need to be replaced. There will be new tools to provide more streamlined and efficient process for setup and deployment of those PC's and laptops so they can be delivered faster and with less disruption to the end user. The third area is business continuity. We will improve our disaster recovery and preparedness and update our security policies and incident response plans. The cost for the many components of this project total about \$1.4 million. I have provided a cost breakdown in your packets. This does include a \$200,000 contingency for needs that may be identified

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as we work through towards completion of these efforts. It also includes a reduction of about \$325,000 because we will be simplifying and consolidating and eliminating some pieces of the infrastructure that will become unneeded. This is a City and County project and so the \$1.4 million cost will be shared with the City of Fort Wayne and City Utilities. The County's 40% share is \$558,914. The Commissioners are contributing \$228,000 from the Refresh budget so the total for this request is \$330,914. There is annual maintenance costs associated with several components of this project. The cost for maintenance is about \$658,000 per year. Again, these costs are shared with the City and so the County's portion will be about \$263,200. I will appeal my 2022 budget to add this cost in addition to the increased IT support contract cost that we just talked about. This is no small project and will take about twelve months to complete some of these efforts. Not everything will take that long and we expect to see completion of some of these tasks within the next couple of months. The City has indicated that funding for their portions of the project are in place although because of their purchase order policy, they will need to seek City Council approval to initiate some of the purchases. I would like to point out that this project helps address the County's Strategic Plan, specifically Strategic Priority Three which is a modern infrastructure and facilities. Also about \$340,000 was included for infrastructure for items on the IT Capital Expense Plan that was submitted last year with my 2021 budget. I would be glad to answer any questions. Councilman Harris?

**Tom Harris:** I think you already answered it and that you would be able to reprioritize based on some of those security systems. Some are more important than others.

**Joel Benz:** Mr. President, I have a couple of comments. Some of this came out of Commissioner Beck has convened an Emergency Preparedness committee and has taken time to look at stuff. The Colonial Pipeline guys paid over \$4 million because it was a ransom and they paid the ransom to basically get their stuff back. This hopefully, there were other tiers that we could have invested and gone a cheaper route. I think, me personally, I don't want our community to be exposed and I think that this level provides a pretty solid basis for us to be prepared and to keep the data that is within the County safe and to keep our employees and users safe. The world we live in, ransomware attacks are becoming more and more commonplace and the further we lag behind the more open we are to those sorts of attacks. This puts us in a pretty good spot moving forward to be prepared. I am going to be supporting this and I appreciate, Ed, all of the work that you put into going through and finding a new contractor and it is a key piece to keep the backstage things working for the community. This is money well spent and I know it is a lot of money.

**Kenny Fries:** Mr. Steenman, I know when Atos started they were the greatest thing since sliced bread but they degraded over time. It seems that the mechanisms in place with this new company coming in that it won't happen. With Atos, as time went on and on and we started having more trouble with them you say this new company has 60 different reporting.

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**Ed Steenman:** Yes, they will be held to 62 different service level agreements each month so we can monitor more completely across the enterprise what they are doing and how well they are doing it.

**Kenny Fries:** So we won't get to this point in four years.

**Ed Steenman:** I certainly hope not.

**Tom Harris:** What happens if they don't meet those 62?

**Ed Steenman:** We apply a penalty to their billing. If they miss an SLA for two months in a row, they have to provide a credit back to us for those misses.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I have a couple of questions. Is there anyone on your IT team that has the knowledge that the other three services have? Are they sharing that knowledge with you even though they are running the other programs for you? Is there anyone on your IT team that is knowledgeable about what the others are doing, the other contractors? I am just curious. Isn't that the situation you were in before that you really didn't know what they were doing?

**Ed Steenman:** Yes and one of the objectives in this contract was to increase reporting. What we found in the old contract was they weren't doing things that we thought they were. With that better reporting we will keep better tabs on what KSM is doing from day to day and month to month and year to year.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I guess from experience of what you went through I would hope you might have maybe a young team of people that are shadowing these folks so that they know not just the check boxes but that they know what these other folks are doing with the City of Fort Wayne or the County. I just think someone on your team. I am not an IT person but in my mind.

**Ed Steenman:** I will say that we are already experiencing better communication. Under the old contract we had one meeting per week. With this contract, we have five for specific topics. We have two meetings on Tuesday, one meeting on Wednesday and two meetings on Thursday. In fact I missed one as I was sitting here.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I am so sorry. My last question is there any type of insurance that the City or the County has in case something does happen in case we have to pay some type of ransom?

**Ed Steenman:** Yes.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Is there anything?

**Ed Steenman:** Yes, we carry cybersecurity insurance.

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**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Cybersecurity insurance. And what would that mean and what would that pay for? Does it pay our ransom?

**Ed Steenman:** That is handled by Risk Management and I would be speaking out of turn if I tried to answer that.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** The last question is infrastructure and the four pools of money, the \$75 million that is coming to the County, is that something that you think that the City or County could take advantage of this particular...

**Ed Steenman:** I think we will have to wait and see. Like Chris Cloud said, it is rather ambiguous right now. Certainly if we can, we will but I don't know that we know enough yet to state conclusively.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** It would be great to have something shovel ready just in case this is time sensitive with use it or lose it. I'm just saying. Thank you.

**Chris Spurr:** Mr. Steenman based on our prior conversations it is my understanding that the City and Utilities are already committed to this.

**Ed Steenman:** Correct. They have identified that their funding is available. As I mentioned, they do have to go to City Council because any purchase order over \$100,000 has to have City Council approval before the purchase order is approved.

**Chris Spurr:** Thank you and so based on that I will move to approve the appropriation in the IT General Fund for Contractual at \$1,090,000 and Office and Computer Equipment for \$330,914.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next up is Circuit Court.

**Wendy Davis:** Good morning, Council, Judge Wendy Davis of Allen Circuit Court. Just so you can all take a deep breath, I am not here to ask for any money. I am asking for an appropriation from money that I have received from the Supreme Court. Many of you may or may not know that I am on the commission with our Chief Justice of the ICLEO Commission. That commission is statutory and was created by Chief Justice Sheppard and basically the statute allows us to sponsor and give scholarships to low income minority students so that we can rise them up and send them to law school. Councilwoman Curry-Campbell and I have talked so many times about wanting that minority leadership in Fort Wayne. I have received those grants already and it is kind of retroactive. With me today is Aiah Yobah. Just so you know what this position is, he is a Law Clerk and is at IU Bloomington currently however he was born in Sierra Leone, Africa and has become a US citizen. His family is here. If any of you have an opportunity, reach out to him. Take him to lunch. He is brilliant and fascinating and he is

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such a pleasure to have in my court. Let me tell you what a Law Clerk does. I have a full-time Law Clerk and I have a summer Law Clerk. In Allen Circuit Court, I am a General Jurisdiction Court. I not only handle felonies and criminal matters. I handle Civil and complex litigation matters, family matters and some of the complex litigation I would like to tell you that I know everything about everything in the law. Aiah goes to court with me every day. He listens to cases and then does my research. He comes into my chambers before I take the bench and he outlines the law to me and we have discussions about how I may rule so that I can make wise decisions pursuant to the law. He is very instrumental to me. He hasn't been here very long but he is something else. I would like to see if Mr. Yobah would like to say a few words or if you have any questions for my summer Law Clerk but I am so thrilled to have him. The only reason I encourage you to reach out to him and take him to lunch is that I am trying to make sure he comes back to Fort Wayne and practices law in Fort Wayne and becomes one of our future leaders. No matter what happens, Mr. Yobah, you are going to be one fantastic future leader.

**Aiah Yobah:** For the most part, I want to thank Judge Davis and I want to thank each one of you for having me. This has been a valuable experience thus far. This is my second week here and everyone that I have come across has been nothing but nice to me. Before I spoke with Judge Davis, I really was not thinking about coming to Fort Wayne but was thinking of larger cities. Being in Chicago for quarantine and being in the house 24/7, I kind of wanted to move south and get warmer weather. When I spoke with Judge Davis regarding this position and opportunity and she was just so excited about the opportunity and enthusiastic. It was wonderful to speak with her and so the decision was easy. I really want to immerse myself into the community this summer and gain as much experience and meet as many people as possible. Maybe I will attend a Tin Caps game. Again, thank you for the opportunity and if anyone has any questions, I am available to answer.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** How long are you going to be here?

**Aiah Yobah:** I think about ten weeks. I believe until the end of July.

**Wendy Davis:** True disclosure, I don't have to come back to you to request this but the Supreme Court is limited on their funding for the ICLEO scholars. I have talked to Eric Zimmerman and I think we have some other line items in our budget to hold onto him a little longer than what we anticipated. If you would like to throw more money at him, have at it. He is not getting rich off of what I am requesting to pay him this summer. He is invaluable to me. My request this morning is the appropriation in the Circuit Court ICLEO Fund 850 for Mr. Aiah Yobah to be my Law Clerk.

**Kyle Kerley:** Are there any questions?

**Chris Spurr:** With that I move to approve the request in the amount of \$7,500 for Salary Law Clerk.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

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

**Wendy Davis:** I am also here today at a specific request from Councilman Fries back in December when I requested reorganization in Circuit Court and asking for some different salaries. I did not ask for more money. There were some questions as to what we will be doing in the Adult Probation Department. I shared with all of you that we are starting a new OVWI Problem Solving Court and it is the third Problem Solving Court that I oversee in the Allen Circuit Court. I heard Councilwoman Sheila Curry-Campbell talk about the criminal justice system being broken. We are working hard to fix it. What I mean by that is this is another Problem Solving Court where low level, non-violent offenders are able to get their case dismissed or get it reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor. Karen Richards is onboard with this. Our new Problem Solving Court that we started and fallen on Mr. Zimmerman's shoulders has been the OVWI Court. I will let him bring you the good news but I will tell you that if you have not been to our Adult Probation Department or Community Corrections, or have not seen the work that my Probation Officers do under Eric's leadership, it's incredible. They work hard for not a whole lot of money, to rehabilitate offenders and reduce recidivism. I am so proud of all of the Probation Officers and I want to give a shout out to Jason Johnson. He is the Court Coordinator of the new Problem Solving Court. Mallory Kuter in Community Corrections is the other Court Coordinator of the Veterans Court that I oversee and the Restoration Court which is the mental health court. I get all of the glory but I am going to turn this over to Eric because it is he and his people are the ones that have some good news to share with you. Councilman Fries, thank you for calling us back. I don't think you are babysitting me. I think you are very interested in the great work we are doing in Circuit Court.

**Eric Zimmerman:** Thank you Judge and Council. I am Eric Zimmerman, Chief Probation Officer and I am here to give a quick report on our certification process. On February 9<sup>th</sup>, we made application to the Indiana Office of Court Services which is an arm of the Indiana Supreme Court in order to achieve certification in accordance with State statute. The application was received. They compared that application with our policies and procedures. It is a fairly rigorous if not extremely rigorous process. Once they review those policies and procedures and they are in accordance with best practices from around the country, they schedule an onsite visit. The pandemic limited that onsite visit to Zoom meetings and telephonic meetings but they were here for three days. They observed court. They ensure what you are practicing in courtroom and how the staff is preparing for court is accordance number one with those best practices and number two with policies and procedures. There is a whole alignment of process. They were here March 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> and the process included interviews with staff members. It required interviews with the Judge. They watched the staffing process that occurred prior to court where information is shared about participants and the opportunity to really problem solve as these participants come to court. Maybe they are not doing the best and how can we intervene and what sanctions and interventions can we impose. And most importantly, how can we reward those that are doing what they are supposed to do? By its very nature, we reward four times to every one sanctioned. We have a fishbowl where

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participants can receive rewards, literal tangible rewards like \$25 gift card to the gas station. They watched that process and they even go further and have a roundtable discussion with the participants that we are not allowed to be in. They really get to the bottom of are they performing for us today or is this the way the court operates. I will tell you and I think Judge Davis can attest that we have buy-in with those participants. In my experience that breeches almost 35 years, when you have buy-in from offenders your outcomes significantly increase. They are invested in the process. That is what is so important about how the system is changing. We are not following offenders and participants around with sticks. We hold them accountable. There is an accountability process in place. Most importantly, we get them to buy-in to their own recovery, their own change and their own self existence. When you have that level of buy-in, the outcomes increase. I am pleased to say that on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Indiana Office of Court Services certified Indiana's first OVWI Problem Solving Court. We are the only one in the State and we get all kinds of inquiries of how good communities and other courts go about making sure that people who are charged with felony drunk driving are held accountable but most importantly how we put a plan in place to try to reduce them ever coming back again. That ultimately puts us all in a much safer environment. I would be happy to answer any questions.

**Kenny Fries:** Thank you. Congratulations. That is the ultimate goal to make sure that these people that have historically been drunk drivers find a way to not be. Through the courts, if you are able to do that congratulations because that saves all of us.

**Eric Zimmerman:** Thank you. A lot of credit goes to Judge Davis. The level of enthusiasm and the leadership that she has brought, we had a wonderful leader in the last Circuit Court Judge and she is every bit of that. Her enthusiasm and zest for what she does is contagious.

**Joel Benz:** I have a little bit of housekeeping here. I am going to go ahead and make a motion for permission to apply for the ICLEO grant from the Indiana Supreme Court.

**Tom Harris:** Second.

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

**Joel Benz:** Thank you for being here.

**Wendy Davis:** Councilman Fries, we also outlined some other programs in December which is why I wanted Eric to focus strictly on the Adult Probation Department. I will say one of them was the pilot project that we have with the Attorney General and it is going amazingly. Again, I give credit to Eric and the Probation Officers that are working diligently in that program. All of the programs that I outlined are having wonderful outcomes and are successful. I wanted to cross that T and dot that I for you as well.

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**Kenny Fries:** I appreciate that. Recidivism rate is the key. If we can keep those people from coming back that helps all of us.

**Wendy Davis:** I know time is valuable but I have some OWI drunk drivers that are on their fifth or sixth and they are becoming clean and sober through this program. It is incredible to watch even as a Judge.

**Kyle Kerley:** Board of Health is next.

**Mindy Waldron:** Mindy Waldron, Administrator of the Department of Health. I have three requests on the agenda. Would you prefer those or Councilman Kerley requested a brief presentation. I made it pretty brief and I speak fast.

**Kyle Kerley:** Do the presentation first.

**Mindy Waldron:** What was asked was a bit of an update of where we are now and what the future looks like. I will certainly be glad to take any questions you might have. If you will indulge me for 90 seconds, it is a trip down memory road. Fifteen or sixteen months ago, for us that seems like a blink but it is quite a while ago that we start hearing about this mysterious coronavirus cluster and start talking about it. We took it very seriously at that time. Then we start seeing, as weeks go by, the first cases in the United States and confirmed the human-to-human transmission and a lot of cases and a lot of deaths very quickly. They declared a global health emergency, travel was restricted and we had the public health emergency in the U.S. We started hearing about the cruise ship outbreaks. Those were pretty detrimental. They declare an actual pandemic which was a very large thing to do and hasn't been done for a number of years. There is a national emergency in the United States. We see the first stay at home order. CARES Act is passed which we are very grateful for. Then we start seeing treatment options which were instrumental in getting us to where we are today. Testing becomes available which in that short of timeframe is no small feat. Vaccines are underway, which again is no small feat. The death toll passes 100,000 in just those four and a half months. We see COVID-19 cases reach two million. There is a fear that we will see over 100,000 cases per day. Vaccines will be free was announced. States begin to reopen despite the continuing cases. The cases hit three million. The vaccines show great promise which was probably the biggest thing that gets us where we are today. Hospitals begin to lack beds. It becomes the third leading cause of death in the United States. The rapid tests were available for use which was a quick way to identify and take action. Steroids start working which was a new shift in the medical portion of this which made a big dent in the number of deaths. More contagious strains are identified. Then we see the death toll hit one million. We then see reports of 100,000 cases in one day. Vaccines are near approval. We find two that are 95% effective. Keep in mind that flu shots are only 50% to 60% effective. Moderna and Pfizer are approved. We start seeing the variant cases in the United States and are fairly dominant here. We see 20 million vaccines given by the end of 2020. Now we fast forward. These are the three things to the extent that we continue some of these or a portion thereof until vaccinated. Vaccinations are the key. Our main activities are continuing our testing site. We began in October with two but we are down to one now.

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Continuing our vaccination site. Ensuring the rest of the department could stay functional despite restricted capacity. We took most of the staff and put them at these two sites but each division had to function and carry out our duties. Keeping the budget in place which was interesting with all of the funds coming in with specific uses and you had to get creative to do the things you were required to do and preventing staff burnout which really has been difficult. A few testing updates. As of this week we have done nearly 20,000 PCR tests for a department that hasn't done that before. Rapid Test has been close to 8,300 and a total of 28,000 in seven months. It was 158 operational days for those staff. The future of testing, we have just been informed by the State that we will continue to provide free testing through December. We are putting staffing plans in place to stay there and accommodate. The peaks we had in December for testing waned a little bit and peaked in the spring as we would have predicted. Now we are slowing again. We do hope there are no more peaks. For contract tracing, over 41,000 cases that we have contact traced and over 680 deaths. Where Allen County is now is yellow. Better than orange and much better than red. We hope to be moving to blue in the next couple of weeks. Blue is where you want to be. There are no restrictions tied to this however it indicates where you are at in respect to cases, positivity and all of those things. We are trending down and we were looking good and this week we are getting lower numbers each day. We are staying fairly steady but they are lower. For mass vaccination updates, We opened January 13<sup>th</sup> and have been in operation 19 weeks, 77 days. As of last week we were at 36,000 vaccinations. We will climb over 37,000 by next week. The highest in one day was 872. We wanted to reach the 1,000 mark but we didn't get there. Folks peaked and then started to wane a bit. The future, we have just been informed by the State that we will be vaccinating into 2022. It will trickle by that time and we hope to be back to our site by that time. We will remain at the Coliseum through June. I want to say thanks to these guys because we could not have done what we did here as quickly and as well and efficiently without their crew and their site and the planning that we had done. They are great every single day. We do plan to move back to our regular site probably at the end of June. That is our plan right now. By that time, the numbers per day we should be able to handle. To show you the peak again with these just last month and then a stark decline. The top numbers were just averages per day. The numbers in the blue were just our highest amounts that week. This is the State's vaccination trending and their peaks are the same and their trend downward is the same. Fully vaccinated, we have 122,000 that were fully vaccinated in Allen County. We have 136,000 people that have had their first shot. We are getting there but we are getting there slowly now. That brings 258,993 vaccinations of Allen County Residents. We get asked a lot about the zip codes and where we are seeing the highest amount vaccinated or not. On the left you see all of the States and where they are at from a vaccinated standpoint. Indiana trends behind, as do other States and for a number of reasons. Indiana is 49<sup>th</sup> in public health funding and so staffing is a lot lower. We also have fewer vaccines to the State as I am told by the State. On the right you see the entire State and those are zip code colors. You are looking for blue and dark blue is the best and means the highest amount vaccinated. Then there is light blue and down to the darker red. We aren't awful but we do have work to do. If you look at a broader picture of the State, there is a lot of orange. That is only 20% to 30% done. We have a lot of areas with 40% and 50% plus. We continue to focus on those that are in the darker orange and red colors. We have a number of clinics and pop-ups that

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will occur and have occurred over the last few weeks and into the next few weeks to target those areas where it might be more difficult to travel. This gives you an idea of where Indiana is. We were vaccinating between most of the sites but primarily Parkview and our site and we are vaccinating 20,000 a week just a month ago. Now we are down to about half of that. We are seeing a lot more no shows and we continue to focus our efforts on that. The people that don't show and have had the first shot, we try to reach out and see if we can get them in. We are trying to target now more so than just have appointments open. We are still seeing hundreds per day, like yesterday we did close to 500. That is quite a lot for one site and Parkview probably did about that many. The pharmacies generally do in the low hundreds per day. Between Parkview and our site, we combined efforts. A little collaborative partnership and we started vaccinating the homebound. They are the ones in the FFSA's portal and can't leave for one reason or another. We have gotten nearly all of them done that want the vaccine. We would do about five a day. It takes longer to do one person at a house and you have to wait for that document and then go back. This is a real good partnership and from what I understand from across the State, it is one of the best. We anticipate that numbers will begin to wane but we are still going to focus on that. We have got to get the higher percentage done if we are going to see these masks and other measures go away. We know that Pfizer's eligibility dropped last week and so we did see a bit of an increase which is good and we did a targeted campaign toward that. We called it Take the Winning Shot. It was sort of a play on athletics and other extracurriculars. We focused on the main allowances of being vaccinated which are that you don't have to quarantine which is a problem for so many sport teams, choir and bands. One person gets it and then the whole team is out. We have really tried to tout those incentives. A few last minute things, the State and Parkview are doing some pop-up because they can be a little more mobile than we can. They are doing some pop-ups in specific zip codes. We will announce one on Tuesday that the State is coming to do for several days. Parkview needs to be given a little bit of gratitude for doing this. They don't receive any funding, like we do, to do these vaccinations. We don't know when the vaccinations will begin for children under 12 but we hope and suspect at some point in the summer but there are still no target dates. That will be another large population and different population. Super Shot is working through approvals to be able to vaccinate and when that happens we will store their vaccines because they don't have the equipment to do that. It will be a great thing to get them back at a trusted site and folks might feel better for going there for children. A few issues and general thoughts, our testing turnaround time is one day. It took a while to get to the appropriate lab to make that happen but it is great. For the last few months it has been about 24 to 48 hours even from Saturday to Monday. Testing amounts, we are now in the 300 to 500's versus the 800 to 900 range prior. The positivity rate at our site is still fairly high. Most people coming to us are ill. Vaccine amounts and coordination since December is very inconsistent. We look forward to talking about the new pandemic package, at some point. In short, we will be testing and vaccinating for quite some time. We currently have just below 40% fully vaccinated. It is not enough and we hope it increases. We will continue to employ our part-time contract staff to assist at both our testing and vaccination sites. Everybody that supplements what we do, we needed way more than what our staff could do. We need to get some of our staff back for the summer work that can't not be done. They have been out, like me, for sixteen months. I haven't

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seen my office since October. It has been difficult for a lot of them but they are troopers. We do look forward to the future too because there are National and Statewide efforts to better the public health system. Again, Indiana is 49<sup>th</sup> in funding. Allen County is 57<sup>th</sup> in staffing in the State and second largest City and third largest County. We know that there are efforts underway to better that for the future. It did show that we don't have enough folks to do what is needed. People ask me what does it cost you. So far, current as of last week, just over \$860,000 in expenditures and reimbursements were close to \$600,000. A good portion is personnel cost. Supplies and services and the last one is our testing site costs. As far as reimbursements, a good portion was grant funded. We have been very lucky to receive a portion of what would have reimbursed the employee cost through grants. CARES ACT was about \$83,000 and local foundations have chipped in for things that tax money and State money cannot be used for. I am glad to answer any questions on that and then I have three requests for you.

**Tom Harris:** Just one quick question. The numbers you were showing were just your costs and not Parkview stats?

**Mindy Waldron:** The numbers of vaccinations are for both. We get all of the data once a week and it is very, very raw. It is an excel spreadsheet with a bazillion columns and in no way clean. I will spend days cleaning it, each week so that I can get to the bottom denominator numbers. All of those numbers and anything I reported on, I think those are ours but the 260,000 is everyone. If there is other data that you need and zip codes and all of that is all inclusive but the money is just ours.

**Tom Harris:** And you guys keep track of influenza?

**Mindy Waldron:** We do but it is not reportable. The only thing that is reportable with influenza is death. What I can tell you is that we may have had one. That is likely because of masking and no one being out. The numbers have been very, very low. We speak with the hospitals each week but they are not reportable so we don't investigate those.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I just had a couple of questions. Thanks for all you have done to keep your staff safe. I know that has probably been your biggest concern. Everybody has to be healthy to do this. My concern is my church is in 46803. We are one of the oldest churches in Fort Wayne. We still have members with COVID. They are not in the church and we are not finding out that way but they are at home and you call to find out why they aren't coming and blah, blah, blah. How do we attack this to where we are actually going, I have seen the 150 and 190 that you and Parkview have done but how do we make this a movement? How can we take some of these dollars and go to those hard reach? I am speaking of the African American community and they are probably the same in other communities but I am talking about what I know. In my African American community, in the 46803 and 46806, there are a lot of sick seniors that are at home. They don't even go out and don't want to go into a nursing home and so the families try to do all that they can to keep them safe and at home. How do we get to these people to let them know we will come to you? We will come and vaccinate your mother or your special needs child or whatever. How do we get that in the churches? Most churches are

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designed that way with the sick and shut-ins. I am just trying to figure this out. I am still hearing, I have COVID.

**Mindy Waldron:** If they are truly homebound and they won't leave or can't leave, if they call Aging and In Home Services, they put them in the portal that we see and know that they need to be done at the home. It's easy to do. We see those each day and try to reach those people very quickly. As far as getting it into the churches, it is becoming more commonplace now. These pop-up clinics over the next three week period will be in the 46803 and 46806 to make them closer. There are about four of them coming up and they are day's long. Some are provided by FEMA, some by the State and some Parkview is going to do at a targeted area. A little later I can connect you with the person at Parkview that is heading their pop-ups and they are glad to hear where they are needed. They would likely come and do something at a church.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** We need something in the neighborhood. We need help, East Central Neighborhood.

**Mindy Waldron:** Now that we are on the mobile side of things and are able to target, they have been the main go to. They are trying to get to the Amish population. There are a lot of different populations. Let me connect you afterwards to Michelle at Parkview. She would be glad to hear of good ideas.

**Kyle Kerley:** Are there any other questions?

**Chris Spurr:** With more and more talk about the booster shots, how do you feel will impact the finances moving forward?

**Mindy Waldron:** We don't know exactly what will be required. We surmise it will be similar to what you do each year for the flu shot and we would have a part in it and so would pharmacies and doctors' offices. That is what we are guessing from what we are hearing. As far as the finances, by that time I foresee that we would do them and probably get some money for the first year from the State. We shouldn't incur an extreme amount of cost to do it because it would be widespread by then and in a number of providers, we hope. We hope to hear later this year. A lot of people ask and we do think it will come to be a need but we are very happy so far with seeing six-month immunity. It will only continue as they study. There haven't been more than six months in arms yet. It will likely be needed.

**Kyle Kerley:** Go ahead with your appropriation.

**Mindy Waldron:** I can lump them all into one thing even though they are coming out of different funds. We have multiple funds that fund different divisions. We have to continue the overtime payment for most of the staff. I think we are at a juncture where we really don't need to be paying those exempt people any longer for overtime like we were. We have appreciated that and I think that now if we are working overtime it is routine and is our job. We will work with the Auditor's Office to discontinue that portion. As far

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as the hourly staff, they will continue to work long hours and will need paid as they are now. All of the overtime money that has not yet been reimbursed since CARES ACT ended, we expended what we had in the budget for 2021 because we couldn't have predicted that in May of last year. We need to get that back so that all of our fairs and festivals that are coming up, we will be able to pay those things. It is a large effort throughout the summer. We will need to keep all of our contracts for all of our sites until we are able to stop testing and vaccinating at those sites. These three are for the same thing. They are just spread across different funds to carry us through 2021. This is out of our unexpended balance and we are not asking for any additional money.

**Tom Harris:** How many employees does this represent?

**Mindy Waldron:** Somewhere in the range of 30.

**Tom Harris:** Is \$148,500 spread over 30 employees is the appropriate way to look at that?

**Mindy Waldron:** An appropriate way to look at it is per effort. For example, we have over 70 fairs and festivals that we are responsible for, every food vendor and everything that occurs there. That is generally where that overtime is probably the \$50,000 one. That will just replenish what we would have budgeted for overtime for summer activities. That is gone to pay all of the other overtime for everyone that worked at the Coliseum, at test sites and every Saturday. I can't really tell you who that goes to but is to replenish that fund. The rest of those, the contract funds and Extra Deputy Hire is to continue for those we pay to continue to do pandemic work. What Jennifer, our finance person, did was extrapolate what we have expended so far to account for what we would need to do those same services for the rest of the year.

**Tom Harris:** A little bit of that challenge is we had talked about the idea of do we need to bring on more people. Companies and organizations do that all of the time but where is the line of overtime or do I hire that next person. You correlated that with the burn-out. This is all vague stuff and I get it. Where is the line of overtime, burn-out and hiring another employee? That all kind of comes together somewhere.

**Mindy Waldron:** A good portion of what this is funding and has funded for the last sixteen months are the duties that go above the 80 people that we already employee. We had to hire many people to do the seven-day work that we didn't do at the time either. This was not hiring to cut off all of that overtime. These last few months we have hired more so that some of us were not incurring those extra hours but we will need to continue that. There is no end for us. While certain things are now allowed and that goes away and this goes away, ours doesn't and we have to continue to get all of the community out of those efforts. I didn't prepare per person and we just use bucket money to hire the positions that are needed in contract form so they are easily end able. I can get you any detail you would like afterward.

**Tom Harris:** No that's fine. Thank you.

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**Chris Spurr:** Based on what you said earlier, what would you estimate out of these figures, how many are exempt and how many are non-exempt?

**Mindy Waldron:** This shouldn't be exempt anymore because I think what I am saying here today is that we won't do that anymore. I think we are at a point where the hours we are now working are high but are relatively normal for what we would see with what we are doing. I don't feel this will be for any exempt people. It is for hourly people or contract Extra Deputy Hire money for people through the end of the year.

**Tom Harris:** I will move for appropriation in the County Health Fund 285, overtime for \$35,000, \$50,000 and \$63,500 for a total of \$148,500.

**Joel Benz:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. The Coliseum is next on the agenda.

**Randy Brown:** Randy Brown, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Memorial Coliseum.

**C J Steigmeyer:** C J Steigmeyer, Vice President of Finance and Chief Operating Officer at the Coliseum.

**Randy Brown:** Let me start with a few details before I hand it to C J to talk about the finances. Some of what I would have said you have already heard from Dan O'Connell and Visit Fort Wayne and Mindy Waldron talking about vaccinations. It has been a long sixteen months. I just want to start off with a thank you for your support of the Coliseum and your financial support to keep our operation going. It is definitely not an understatement to say we couldn't be doing this without you. We would have had the doors boarded up if it wasn't for your support so thank you for that. Looking back to 2020, we had over 300 events that were cancelled, postponed or rescheduled. Of the postponed or rescheduled events, our attendance downturn was in excess of 750,000 people. We were pretty normal and performing on all cylinders through the almost full first quarter of the year. The first quarter of the year is our strongest financial year. That is when the biggest shows, the Home Show, Shrine Circus and those events happen. Looking at 2021, to date we have lost approximately 150 events with approximately 250,000 people. That is events like the Boat Show, the RV Show, losing the Shrine Circus, Disney on Ice, Vera Bradley Outlet Sale and the Global Leadership Conference. That is the outright loss of attendance. What this doesn't say is hockey, where a year ago in the first quarter, we would have attracted over 5,000 people per game. Now we are attracting barely 2,000 people a game. We did host the Home and Garden Show. The Home and Garden Show would normally do upwards of 40,000 people and it was half that. We are starting to host events again but as Dan said, the numbers aren't there yet. There is a segment of the community that is not comfortable coming out but we are working hard at that. Early in the year we were fortunate, we had applied to GBAC which

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is the Global Biorisk Advisory Council for certification. It is a long process to do that but it gets into how we clean, how we sanitize and the things we have done with escalators and elevators and filtering and cleaning. We worked hard to be prepared for the reopening. Hockey started in February. We are starting to see an uptick in events. A good example is this weekend we have three hockey games and a major wrestling tournament, youth sports, taking place and two wedding receptions. Of course, the vaccine clinic continues. Events are happening but they are just not generating revenue at the level we need to be successful. That is the highlight of where we will start and now I will turn it over to C J to really get into some of the numbers. But again, thank you. We are glad we have you on our team.

**C J Steigmeyer:** Thank you for having us here today. Back in June of 2020 when we first appeared before you requesting some assistance, it was a request that we haven't had to make. We had been operating on our own for as long as I have been there which is over 21 years and as long as Randy had been there over thirty years. It was something that we were unaccustomed to having to do. We still aren't accustomed to having to do this. We don't like doing this. As Randy indicated, the events are starting to return. The numbers of events we've had this year are double from when the pandemic hit and through the end of the year. Through your support we were able to host a lot of events that were from other States that came here locally and provided a large impact to the community. To the travel and leisure industry that Dan O'Connell mentioned was so hard hit and is still being hit. The report that is before you, the bottom box is what we presented last June indicating what we thought 2020 would look like. It indicated a loss of about \$3.5 million to \$3.6 million. We ended up, the middle box there, is showing the 2020 actual results which was a loss of just under \$1,050,000. Better than what we had projected originally but still a large number. At the very top of the page is the 2021 estimate which includes actual through March. April is just about concluded in terms of the final numbers but it is still listed as projected. The months of May through the end of the year are also projected showing total expenditures of about \$6,050,000. Currently the Council appropriated \$3,500,000 at the beginning of the year. Of that \$3,500,000, we have utilized approximately \$1.6 million to \$1.7 million through the end of April. This additional request should get us through the rest of the year. You had asked us to come back for that proposal. It is something, as Randy indicated the revenues are just not such that they are supporting 100% of the operations yet. We still need some assistance in order to get through the year. Hopefully, in 2022 the plan is if everything goes as planned, we will be on our own in 2022. That is the goal and where we would like to be. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Tom Harris:** Just maybe to start, with the \$2.5 today, what is the total we have provided?

**C J Steigmeyer:** With the \$2.5 and the \$3.5 will get us to the \$6,050,000 this year. Council approved in 2020 around \$3.5 million and we utilized \$2.2 million of that.

**Tom Harris:** Randy, I know you are on some national organizations but is there any indication that the event industry is starting to see some light and that they are feeling

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better about things? We are watching the 500 and different things starting to let people in. Do we see any kind of announcement coming from the event industry saying it's okay?

**Randy Brown:** We are getting there. It really has to do with vaccination rates and once we get 70% vaccinated as a world community, we are going to be in a much better shape. The Indy 500 will be operating at 50% capacity. We are opening up Komet Hockey with playoffs at an increased capacity of 50%. All of the high school commencements and college commencements that we are doing, we are still using the pod system, social distancing, face masks required by the clients and those things but we are not there yet but I do believe in 2022 our booked business is very good. I am optimistic and I am the one that mentioned to C J that it is my goal that we are back to being self-supporting in 2022. Is that optimistic? Maybe but I think it is realistic.

**Tom Harris:** I think between that and COVID fatigue is starting to set in and it will be interesting to see how society decides to rebound out of this.

**Randy Brown:** Big events, and I am talking major touring concerts we are seeing a lot of contemporary Christian starting to tour and we have concerts scheduled through the end of this year at full capacity. Most of the major Country and Rock acts are waiting until 2022. I just had one this week that pushed back to 2022. We are still seeing some of that. Our consumer shows and trade show business is strong like it usually is. Weddings and meetings, a lot of it is pushed to 2022. We had one this week that was going to be a fall event and they made a decision that they are just not comfortable coming out yet. Global Leadership Conference, within the last month or so, postponed until September of 2022. I think 2022 has the potential to be a blockbuster year. I said that about 2020 but if you think about our concert activity in 2020, up until the pandemic hit, everything was selling well. We had two NCAA tournaments that were selling better than the other regional sites. We look in the rearview mirror of what could have been but I really believe in 2022 when we are talking about concert activity, which are the high revenue events, how much disposable income is going to be available if you have events on top of each other? When you look at the number of holds that we have, usually rule of thumb is to do one Country concert a month but it is possible that it could be more than that. Right now there is a lot of pent-up demand and more and more shows are starting to go on sale now. We put Mercy Me on sale last week and off to a good start with that. When you have multiple sales going on in a given week plus the other venues in town, we will have to wait and see how that turns into ticket sales.

**Tom Harris:** Last question, if there was to be another ask from the Coliseum, what would be the timeframe that you would be back in front of us?

**C J Steigmeyer:** I would it would be 2022. There could be something where one of the things with one of the requests we have before you, assuming everything stays as it has been with the appropriations and where it is located in terms of 100 Series, 200 Series or 300 Series, there could be the potential to have to come back to ask for a transfer within those funds. Any additional request would probably be within the 2022 budget.

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**Tom Harris:** That is what I am trying to understand. We are going into the budget season or getting close to that and just trying to anticipate what that might look like. You would be able to present something during the budget for next year or would we get a meeting request in January or February that says it is not working out and we need more money in 2022.

**C J Steigmeyer:** My thought, and I have not talked to Randy about this yet, is to budget something in 2022 similarly to what we did this year. We budgeted 100% in our Coliseum operating budget as well as the 100 Fund that we currently are using now. That requested basically boiled down to the \$3.5 million. My thought would be to budget something in that fund as a safety net. We can work together with that as we get a little bit closer and are open to discussing that and what the Council wants to see.

**Randy Brown:** And to say what I did a couple of minutes ago is our intent and desire for 2022 is to be self-sustaining and self-supporting as we have been. Maybe that is optimistic but that is where I see us heading.

**Joel Benz:** This is based on the financials here but it looks like your operating expenses and revenue means that you are not projecting to do anything through the end of the year more or less. If things would start coming in towards the end of the year your revenue and operating costs would kind of make each other increase.

**C J Steigmeyer:** Correct.

**Joel Benz:** The revenues, the State changed the laws this year but does that go into effect this year that you can use some funds for operating costs?

**C J Steigmeyer:** I am not sure...

**Kyle Kerley:** They are not able to use them for operating cost.

**C J Steigmeyer:** Are you referring to the Professional Sports? The original language was changed. There was a request originally to include that we could utilize up to 40% of the Professional Sports dollars towards operations. That was not passed.

**Joel Benz:** Okay, I misunderstood a little bit.

**Kyle Kerley:** We got an increase in money but we can't use it for operating.

**Randy Brown:** Something that could be good news is that we have applied for a shuttered venues grant through the SBA and the amount request is a little over \$1.9 million. If we are successful, we are in tier three which is a governmental tier and based on the grants that have been applied for to date, there is still money left. That is if everybody gets the full amount that they have asked for. We will know before the middle or end of next month. If we are successful with that it will have a material effect on this.

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**Joel Benz:** We will just have to keep an eye on things as the remainder of the year plays out. Thank you.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I know we have talked about salary before, is there anything you can do? I know it is going on all over the country that people can't find folks because of the rate of pay versus what they are getting on unemployment. I guess those things are going to change also. I just saw a sign at Menards for \$15 an hour. I know you are a long way from that but is there something that you could do with salary to maintain some folks out there?

**Randy Brown:** Our labor situation is dire. I will put it that bluntly. With food service, which is Aramark and Leader Staffing which provides our cleaning as well as changeover crews. It is a problem and salary adjustments have been made. Unfortunately it has not significantly moved the needle in terms of getting more people to apply. I could tell you if we could find them we could hire close to 100 people.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** What is that rate of pay though that you are at right now? I think your rate of pay is kind of low.

**Randy Brown:** It varies depending on position, of course. With Aramark, we are talking about bartenders with tips it is well beyond the \$17 an hour. We are competitive in the food service industry. There are some areas, could we do more? Of course and we are going to need to. The other side of that coin is it has a significant impact on the operations. We are already adjusting our expense side for guests. Rental rates and we are looking at a parking lot increase for September when we typically do that. We know that we are going to have to adjust those rates. By all forecasts, we are not going to see any significant improvement in the marketplace for attracting employees in the next year. I hope that is wrong but that what some of the forecasts have said that what we are seeing now will continue through 2022.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Those folks that are serving, what are they making? Are they at \$10 or...

**Randy Brown:** All positions at the Coliseum are above \$10. We did that several years ago. Starting this October season, because of the issue, we did a 10% adjustment beyond that. The Coliseum is a great place to work. Once we get you in the door and you join our team, probability is we are going to have you for years, We are very fortunate with that but we have to get people in that to apply and experience our culture.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Is this your hiring season? When is it?

**Randy Brown:** In a normal year, it would be September or October. Summer is a little slower time period but with the event capacity increasing, for hockey if we were attracting more than 3,100 we have a hard time servicing the 3,100 capacity. Cleaning between events such as a back-to-back game like this weekend, it is almost all hands on

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deck day to have the building ready for the next event. Leader Staffing has done two salary adjustments within the last year.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Thank you.

**Tom Harris:** The good news, Sheila, is the private sector is driving that more than government officials setting it. With that I will move for approval of the appropriation in Memorial Coliseum General Fund for Salaries at \$1,361,429, Supplies at \$84,166 and Services, \$1,104,405 for a total of \$2,550,000.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Is there any discussion or new business? Are there any recent or upcoming meetings?

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Arts United I think is next week.

**Joel Benz:** Councilman Spurr and I sat down with them and we'll get you up to speed. I don't know how much needs to be discussed publicly but I think we need to have some discussions in the near future about exactly how we are going to handle their request.

**Tom Harris:** Their request and non-profit requests land in the Commissioners' seat.

**Kyle Kerley:** Are there any liaison reports?

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I met with a couple of people, Austin Knox of Wayne Township. They are trying to get food out to people. They are still closed and have a skeleton crew there and trying to get the vaccine into folks' arms. That is another initiative they are trying to do. I met with Kevin Biggs and did a tour through the old General Electric plant. My mom retired from there so I will keep calling it General Electric. They are doing great things over there and I think the community really needs to see if for themselves what this is going to look like. That campus is going to be very unique and I know the farmers market started a couple of weeks ago. We need to go out and support that. Thank you.

**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 May 20, 2021.

**Kenny Fries:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** **All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 7-0.**

**Kenny Fries:** Move to adjourn.

**Tom Harris:** Second.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Kyle Kerley: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 7-0.**