

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2022
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 8:30 am in the Chambers in Citizens Square. The purpose of the meeting was for additional appropriations, transfer of funds in excess of the current budget, grants, and any other business to come before Council.

Attending: Robert A. Armstrong, Sheila Curry-Campbell, Kenneth C. Fries, Tom A. Harris, Kyle A. Kerley, Paul W. Lagemann and Christopher Spurr.

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

President Kyle Kerley: Good morning and welcome to the Allen County Council meeting of Thursday, March 17th, 2022. President Kyle Kerley, and I call the meeting to order. We are going to start with The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

[pause 00:00:47]

President Kyle: Amen.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: Amen

President Kyle: Do I have a motion to adopt the agenda?

Paul Lagemann: So moved.

Mr. Spurr: Second.

President Kyle: Motion and a second, all those in favor, say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed. Agenda is adopted 7-0. Approval of the Minutes for February, 17th, 2022.

Mr. Harris: Mr. President, I move for approval of those minutes.

Council Member: Second.

President Kyle: I have a motion and a second for the approval of minutes from February 17th, 2022. All those in favor, say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed. Minutes are approved 7-0. Mr. Jordan, auditor's report.

Nick Jordan: Good morning council. In your notebook, you see the financials through the end of February, nothing real significant to report. We have confirmed, we are going to

receive a supplemental distribution for the local income tax. We did budget that in actually this year, if we wouldn't have received that, it would've been more detrimental than a surprise of receiving it. That's about \$2 million for the general fund.

Then the LIT public safety fund gets a chunk and the economic development fund also gets a piece of it, but the biggest piece comes into the general fund. I can take any questions you have, if not, I'll keep it short.

Mr. Harris: Mr. President I move for approval of the financial report.

Council Member: Second.

President Kyle: We have a motion and a second to approve the financial report, any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed. Thank you, Mr. Jordan. Approved 7-0

Nick: Thank you.

President Kyle: Total appropriations requested in the general fund, \$0. Total appropriations requested in other funds, \$135,000. I will now open the floor for public comment, is there any public comment. Seeing no one come forward, I can have a motion to close public comment.

Council Member: So moved.

Council Member: Second.

President Kyle: Motion and a second public comment is closed. Drug and Alcohol Consortium, please come forward.

MaryClare Clark: Good morning.

President Kyle: Good morning.

Council Members: Morning. Morning.

MaryClare: I'm here just to go over our community grants that we do.

President Kyle: Can you please introduce yourself?

MaryClare: Sure. MaryClare Clark formerly Akers with the Allen County Drug and Alcohol Consortium. Good to see you all. We have about \$135,000, just about \$500 shy of that that was allocated this year from the collections for OWI and drug interventions, charges that come back to the county, and those get split four ways.

If you're not familiar, those go to intervention and treatment services is one portion of that, justice and training purposes for the police departments. Then the third area is intervention scholarships for individuals there in treatment for substance use disorder. Then that fourth area comes back to the Drug and Alcohol Consortium to administer those funds and complete all the MOUs and grants and oversight of that. You all have this in your packets, I assume?

Council Member: Yes.

MaryClare: Any questions on those different areas? I'd be happy to summarize them beyond the summaries there, if you do like.

Paul: I do have a question, MaryClare.

MaryClare: Sure.

Paul: The grant cycle when you allow for requests for grants, can you go over the dates of those? I know we talked about a couple of public safety ones in the past and just for everybody's edification, what's the grant cycle look like and the timing on that grant cycle?

MaryClare: Sure. The grant cycle is a full year. We release the request for proposals in mid-December just so people can get a jump on it before the holidays, and then it's due, I believe by the third Monday in January. Once those come in, those go through a funding committee that is put up of people on our board and our finance committee, and community members of interest.

We do post that in several places, send it out to a whole email list and ask if anybody wants to be a part of that. Then we go over those grants. They come to this committee once the funding committee has made decisions and then they have to go back to the Criminal Justice Institute at the state and the Criminal Justice Institute then has to approve them before we can release any of the funds.

The hopeful date is that they release them by April 1st so that people can start their programming right away because April 1st is the beginning and goes all the way through the 30th of March for the programming. It's kind of a weird grant cycle. It's not on anyone's fiscal years, not the state's or ours or anyone's. That's how they have a setup to start.

Paul: It was interesting when you shared that with me a few week-- or month or two ago and I just wanted to make sure the council is aware of it and anybody watching, which is probably not very many people, but it's good to know that. Thank you very much.

MaryClare: Yes. Absolutely.

Mr. Harris: Mary also another question a few years ago, we council approved through the commissioner's office \$500,000 for a pilot program tied with I believe Lutheran hospital. Is that anything in your area or is that something totally different?

MaryClare: It's not.

Mr. Harris: Are you familiar with that?

MaryClare: I'm not, it's not related to DAC specifically.

Mr. Harris: Okay.

MaryClare: Lutheran Hospital, not Lutheran Foundation?

Mr. Harris: Thank you. I think it was Lutheran Foundation, I believe it was. Thank you.

MaryClare: I was going to say, I think they are doing a pilot project, is it the one that's the Bienestar Sin Fronteras, the Wellness Without Borders?

Mr. Harris: That, I don't know if that was it or not, but it was a matching grant through the state. I think we contributed \$500,000 for the county and I think that was matching through the governor's office or something like that.

MaryClare: That one was not with us. We don't have that one. This is a pretty small one, it comes straight from fees assessed in courts.

Mr. Harris: Oh, I understand. I just wanted to see if that was in your area or not.

MaryClare: It's not, but if we'd like to put it there, I'd be happy to take it.

[laughter]

Mr. Harris: No. Thank you. Thanks.

MaryClare: Any other questions about the Drug and Alcohol Consortium or what we do?

Paul: I just want to commend you for the work that you've done. Keep in touch with members of your board. I know you guys are doing some great things and really helping people that need the help.

MaryClare: Thank you.

Paul: To get back on track and become more responsible and connected citizens and so great job, keep it up.

MaryClare: Thank you. Appreciate it, Paul.

Mr. Harris: With that, Mr. President, I'll move for the appropriation within the drug-free community fund 745 for program grants of \$135,000.

Paul: Second

President Kyle: We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all this in favor, say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed? Motion passes 7-0. Thank you for coming this morning.

MaryClare: Thank you.

Mr. Harris: Thank you.

MaryClare: Have a great day, y'all

President Kyle: Prosecutor's office.

Karen Richards: Good morning.

President Kyle: Good morning.

Council Members: Good morning.

Karen: Karen Richards, Allen County Prosecutor.

[unintelligible 00:08:21]

Mr. Fries: Good morning.

President Kyle: Good morning.

Karen: We are here because we need to get your permission for the renewal of a grant that's due March 31st. This is a grant from VOCA, which is the Victim of Crime Act. VOCA is federal money that comes down to the states through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. This is a grant that provides us with a victim advocate for domestic violence cases in misdemeanor court and also to adult protective services, victims of domestic violence. I don't know how much information you want. A lot of it's in the letter I sent but this is a two-year grant. It runs from this October, October of 22 to October of 24.

Mr. Fries: I have just one question.

President Kyle: Yes.

Mr. Fries: I'm noticing a salary for this position. It doesn't increase hardly at all over the next year, is there a reason for that? With inflation, the way it is.

Karen: Grant doesn't increase. It's a grant position and not to get too much into the weeds, but this grant is funded-- it's a federal grant it's funded by fees and fines that federal criminal defendants pay and VOCA has had less and less and less dollars every year. We struggle just to get the same amount of money. If we tie it into the grid system then we've got the problem of where to come up with the extra money. They normally fund 80% of what we're asking for. It may very well be that this also is a position that hasn't hit the five-year mark yet.

Paul: Thank you.

Mr. Harris: You may have mentioned this. How many years have you--

Karen: This one is not that old a grant. We've been getting this I think for two or three years--

Mr. Harris: I see.

Karen: -not a real long time. We've got another similar grant that's for our felony domestic violence person and that grant, we've been getting buy almost since I was first elected, so almost 20 years.

Paul: That was exactly the question I was going to ask.

Mr. Harris: Mr. President, I move for approval for permission to apply for the continuation of the VOCA Grant through ICJI.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: Second.

President Kyle: We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed? Motion passes 7-0. Thank you.

Mr. Harris: Thank you and good luck.

Karen: Thank you.

President Kyle: County assessor.

[pause 00:11:09]

Stacey O'Day: Good morning Council.

Council Members: Good morning.

Stacey: Stacey O'Day, Allen County Assessor. Thank you for your time today.

Tracy Mitchener: Good morning. Tracy Mitchener, Assistant HR Director.

Erika Beachem: Good morning. Erika Beachem. Today we have the County Assessor here Kayla Tilly and Stacey O'Day. We would like council to consider a salary ordinance for a new position, personnel property team leader. It's currently at PAT 5 that we're considering for this position.

Kayla Tilley: And, it is exempt.

Erika: 37.5. It was reviewed by personnel 2D0 for approval.

President Kyle: That's number two of the items on the agenda, correct?

Erika: Yes, correct.

Stacey: If your council wishes, this position line item was actually created in the budget. It already exists in the general fund. We just got a little sidetracked during COVID when we were getting the job description done. We're not asking for any new money out of the general fund, the line item does exist. The prior position, if you look at I think you believe you have our office chart in here. We did have the commercial team leader oversee the personal property division as well. It was actually too much. I think also in your packet there you've got a timeline of the office statutory duties for the state of Indiana. As you can see, they coincide and it just did not flow the way I intended it to. I really believe that the commercial team needs a team leader and the personal property needs its own team leader.

Mr. Harris: I would just ask, Stacey in terms of that process, how is it going overall for your function? The challenge of COVID as well as the changing of our community, how are you doing keeping up with everything?

Stacey: I think we're keeping up fine. I think like most county employees, we really didn't have time just to skip a beat on anything. We were in our offices getting the job done. We

never did close our doors. We had tools and techniques that were available to us, thank goodness. We had Pictometry for example, which is the aerial photography of the whole Allen County. We were able to continue our work by doing desk audits and measuring most of the buildings, continuing that work product. We were able to think outside the box and get the job done.

Paul: Stacey, I know that the office population has changed substantially in the last several years. You were at 50-ish what? About a year ago or two years ago or something like that? [crosstalk]

Stacey: No, that was actually I think back in 2008 and the township government was dissolved.

Paul: Oh, okay. That's right.

Stacey: Yes, but we have consolidated many of our staff. We are around 33 right now, give or take depending on the need.

Paul: That's great. Thanks for being efficient with county dollars. You've done a great job with that.

Stacey: Thank you. I appreciate that.

Mr. Harris: Mr. President, I move for the consideration of a salary ordinance establishing a personal property team leader at PAT 5 to \$58,603, 37.5 hours per week exempt.

Council Members: Second.

President Kyle: We have a motion and multiple seconds. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed? Motion passes 7-0. Next item would be number three, right?

Erika: Yes. We also have a recommendation for council to consider for FLSA status change moving three other positions that are similar to the personnel property team leader. We are recommending that these positions that are existing go from non-exempt to exempt. Due to the nature of their job duties, it would be warranted to move them to an exempt status as well.

Mr. Harris: Mr. President, I move for the consideration of the salary ordinance reclassifying the two senior assessment team leaders into a commission of property team leader from non-exempt to exempt.

Council Member: Second.

President Kyle: Motion and a second. Any further discussion? Yes.

Mr. Fries: I have a question. If we decided that number one on the agenda was going to be moved until we completed this study, why wouldn't this one also be moved until we complete the study? Because we're changing from non-exempt to exempt, and is the study going to be

anything that's going to show we should or shouldn't do that based on job descriptions? I don't know, that's why I ask.

Tracy: Yes, that is part of the study.

Mr. Harris: But, it's also possible that this position has been in a non-exempt period for some time. One of the challenges-- by the way, I compliment HR for attacking and going after these. We brought this up about two years ago that we've got many jobs that are classified as non-exempt that should be or could be considered exempt. This makes more flexibility for the employee and allows more for management as well and I think it's the right thing to do from my standpoint.

Tracy: Kenny is right. If we're not doing number one because of the study, we probably shouldn't do this one either. We can address number one if you would like.

Mr. Harris: Well, I made a motion and it's been seconded so I'll move the question.

President Kyle: Yes, we have to have a [crosstalk] discussion.

Mr. Harris: Yes, that's fair.

President Kyle: Motion and discussion?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Council Member: Second.

President Kyle: We have a motion and a second on the floor to reclassify the positions from [unintelligible 00:17:39] from a non-exempt to exempt. All those in favor say aye.

Mr. Harris: Aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed, aye.

Mr. Harris: Just to say we're speaking about three, right?

President Kyle: Yes, three.

Mr. Harris: Okay.

Mr. Spurr: All those opposed, aye.

President Kyle: Aye. Motion passes, 5-2(Kyle & Ken). Do you want to touch on one real quick or--?

Stacey: Yes, just on the other item on the agenda. Because of the study that's going on that everybody's discussing right now, I'm willing to hold the GIS Tech positions to be reviewed at a later time. I'm hoping we can get equity within the system and I think the study is very valuable and I think we need it for the county employees. We do have these two positions are equal to what the auditor does have now but again, I'm willing to wait till the study is done to bring this back to the table.

Tracy: This position does score though as a PAT 4 and it is similar to other positions, and therefore it would be internal equity that we could fix right away. If the study does show that they both should go down, then they both go down. That way, at least we're on the same playing field and it's level and it's equitable.

President Kyle: Can I just ask a question in general? In the past, it's my understanding that these two positions between the auditor's office and the assessor's office were at the same PAT grid, correct?

Tracy: The auditor's office was a PAT 3 until it was reclassified. You have to remember that, we don't do-- It's all up to the elected official, department heads. You have to get everyone on board. You have to look at all the positions. We have 1900 employees and so we're seeing a problem now, and we're trying to address it, and this is going to continue to happen as we go through things. That's what part of the study is about, is making sure that our internal equity is correct. Right now we're addressing that and that's why it was brought to attention.

President Kyle: I think one thing we have to realize when we go through the study is that we need to make sure there's a mechanism in place that when there's positions that are tied together across departments, when one department requests to reclassify that position as a higher level, that there's a trigger mechanism that goes in place that puts all those other positions that are tied to it as well. Otherwise, we're going to have this constantly revolving door of department after department coming to us and say, "Well, department X did this, so now we need to do it as well."

There needs to be a trigger mechanism that puts all those positions that are tied together under review at the same time, it makes it more efficient for council. I would think it would also make it more efficient for you guys in the HR department instead of always trying to play catch up across the board and having these problems. Just something to keep in mind as we go.

Tracy: I agree. We just need council support on that, right? Because as we know, as we've gone through surveys, that is one of the concerns with some department heads and elected officials is coming in front of you and not having the funds and asking for general fund money. It's not always the most pleasant experience to come before you. Therefore, I think that we have to-- nobody wants to ask for money. It's just like as a kid, you don't want to ask your parents for money. I think it's the same thing. We would have to have council support as well, that if we do see these inequities that you guys will address them and be fair.

Mr. Harris: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Fries: Motion in discussion.

President Kyle: She started first.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: May I speak?

President Kyle: Yes.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: Okay. Thank you so much for being here. I know this process is-- This process, we know that there's a flaw. We're trying to do something to fix it. We know that there's inequities in the departments and across the board. What I want us to be mindful

of is when we're behind these closed doors, having these conversations, we need to be respectful.

I know that there were some people that were out of order. This is women's history month. I'm sorry I wasn't in that room to defend you, but I would never allow anyone to disrespect a woman on my watch. What you went through, I apologize on behalf of those individuals. I'm hoping that we get through this and we're able to fix these inequities because we know that they exist. Thank you, Mr. President.

Tracy: Thank you. I appreciate that.

President Kyle: Mr. Spurr.

Council Member: Just motion and discussion and a second.

Tracy: Are we going to not talk about this in relating to the study?

President Kyle: Well, she withdrew it.

Tracy: Okay.

President Kyle: Once she withdrew it, we don't have to,

Tracy: Well, you guys could still pass it if you wanted to.

Mr. Harris: Well, thank you for that, but no, it's actually been withdrawn at this point, so thank you. Thanks.

President Kyle: Do we have a motion and a second to and discussion? All those in favor, say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

Tracy: Thank you.

Erika: Thank you.

Stacey: Thank you.

President Kyle: Thank you. ACJC

Mr. Jordan: Morning council. Just an accounting transfer here. ACJC is purchasing some tangible items for their incentive program for use in the program. It was coming out of a 300 series. We're just moving it to a 200 series again because it's a good and not a service.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Jordan, if you might help us understand a little bit about what incentive supplies might be that would be exciting to understand that maybe a little bit better. There we go.

Mr. Jordan: I'll refer to Wendy from ACJC.

Mr. Harris: Promotional expenses and incentive supplies are exciting. It sounds exciting. [laughs].

Wendy Kyler: Wendy Kyler, Budget Analyst for Allen County Juvenile Center. Basically, promotional expense is more with the JDAI program, we're trying to mentor these kids that are on probation to start onto a different path. The promotional incentives is more like taking them to the zoo or taking them to a Mad Ants game or something like that. Something that's not really a tangible type item.

The incentive supplies on the other hand would be items that they would need like toiletry items, maybe a gift card if they complete some of the steps that they get done, something that's more tangible, which would be a regular supply item.

Mr. Harris: Got you. Thank you.

Paul: Mr. Chairman, I make the motion that we transfer within JDAI grant fund 223, from, 223-5501-4213303 promotional expenses, \$8,771 to fund number 223550142129-04 incentive supplies.

Mr. Spurr: Second.

President Kyle: We have a motion and second. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed? Motion passes 7-0.

Mr. Hunter: Thank you.

Wendy: Thank you.

President Kyle: Thank you, both. Any new business Ms. Curry-Campbell.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: Well, I didn't know if-- I had spoke with Mr. Harris in the compensation study meeting about us possibly having a special meeting. Did you want to speak on that or do you think it's necessary or should we have a meeting after this meeting or should we actually call a special meeting to discuss those issues?

Mr. Harris: Yes, at this point I don't see the need to pull that meeting together. However, during that process, we did speak about bringing the team back together and I volunteered to-- this is a little bit different issue, Sheila. We decided that I would meet with HR to come up with a process flow map. I'm going to do that next week and we're going to spend a few hours that technique or excuse me, that tool will be helpful for that team, but it'll also be helpful for, I think council and we'll have something to be able to see the flow as well as see where the hiccups are in the process of job evaluations.

That's going to happen. I think the-- Paul correct me if I'm wrong here, but I think we're then going to get back together as a group. Then the finalist would be coming back to talk to us. The idea is that everybody on this subcommittee will all have a pretty good understanding about the flow. Then we can talk a little bit more strategically with the consultant in a finalist discussion and any thoughts.

Paul: Mr. Chairman?

President Kyle: Yes.

Paul: That was my understanding as well. That came out of a discussion where we talked about as a new councilman understanding the process of hiring from first concept to final hiring of that individual. I really wasn't familiar with that whole process. I think that'll be a good education for all of us, certainly me as the new guy. I think that'll be a really fruitful and helpful map to create. That was my understanding.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: Mr. President, may I speak?

President Kyle: Yes.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: I guess one of the biggest concerns is a lot of these departments don't want to come before us and the reason they don't want to come before us is because they feel as if we're going to burn them down or embarrass them on camera. They choose not to come. Well, we don't want people to feel that way. We want to be mindful that we're also county employees. The folks that's coming before us is looking out for county employees.

We are all in the same boat and so we want to be mindful. These people livelihood is on the line and we do not want them to feel intimidated or feel as if they cannot come before county council to make these requests because of the inequities. I just think that we need to have a meeting so that we are doing the right thing when we're voting up or down on these salaries. Thank you.

Paul: Mr. Chairman.

President Kyle: Yes.

Paul: I think that really having a better sense of what those look like, having a better sense of preparation in advance of our meetings is critical. I think the most important element in all of this is making sure that the liaison appointments to each of those entities, be it the elected or department head entities are critical. If the liaison is not engaged with their departments, then we end up with this gap in information and we don't have constant sharing. We don't have engagement prior to the meetings.

This needs to be sort of like a dissertation where we've prepared and prepared and prepared so when we come to these meetings, we're not just looking at the agenda and reacting to it, but we know exactly kind of what's happening, what the justifications for changes in employment or any appropriation look like. That's the due diligence that's our responsibility and must happen every time.

I really do believe that the more we improve our liaison engagement, the fewer times we'll have messy or no votes or what have you because the conversation will have begun. It will have happened and we'll be just more rehashing information we already know as opposed to bringing new information before this body. I would encourage all of us to really take seriously and really engage with our liaisons or with our liaison departments so that we don't have surprises when we come to the table.

President Kyle: Councilman Fries.

Mr. Fries: I agree and disagree with both of you. As a department head in the past coming in front of council, I can tell you, I never came in front of council, worried they were going to

embarrass me on camera. That was never my concern. My concern was more that I knew what I needed to run my department and I didn't know if council would understand partly to your liaison positions. However, public dissent is what we should have. It shouldn't be behind closed doors. The public has a right to understand what we're talking about and why we ask those questions.

The department heads need to be able to explain those to us, not only to us but to the public because it's their money we're spending. There should be some public dissent. We are not all going to always agree and that's fine. I think the department heads need to make sure they're prepared, make sure they contact the county council members before the meetings to say, "This is what we're going to be bringing up," but still be prepared to say it in front of the public, because they have a right to know.

Paul: Absolutely.

President Kyle: Ms. Curry-Campbell.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: I believe that as a requirement before they can come before council is to meet with the liaison, am I confused on that or is that true? I thought they had to go through their liaison in order to get on the agenda or come before county.

President Kyle: It is a request of council that they speak with their liaison prior. It's a request.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: A request, not a requirement? It's a request. I thought that was the case in order for them to come. We know that there's a problem with the process we're going through this compensation study so that we could figure out how we're going to make these adjustments moving forward. Thank you.

Paul: Mr. Chairman. Oh, go ahead. Please.

President Kyle: Go ahead.

Paul: Please.

Mr. Armstrong: I want to add something to new business. If you are timing into this--

Paul: Just sort of doing this discussion and hopefully not for much longer. The one issue that I found is I met with every department head in the county is that many of the department heads will reach out to their liaison and not have the dialogue. They don't get a call back, they don't get an email back, whatever. That's why these liaison appointments are so important, not just to make sure we have two-way consistent communication. We're all getting a little busy sometimes, but we got to answer those calls and we got to return those emails.

Mr. Armstrong: On a question that I have or want to address is, we all know the price of fuel and gasoline is out of this roof right now. My question is from my time on council is we used to get reports from the commissioner's office or the purchasing department on fuel contracts that back in the day, unless things have changed, we would go in with the city link and the county and get a set bid on fuel cost for diesel and for gasoline.

I'd like to know with the price of fuel today-- are we working under-- if somebody from the commissioner's office can answer this if there is anyone here. Are we working under a

contract right now or do we have a contract for our fuel, or are we buying it market value? If somebody could answer that question I think it's something that's important because if we're under contract, we're probably, and I'm just throwing this number out.

You're probably looking at buying gas at \$2, a gallon. I would think. If we're buying fuel at market value and not locked in contract negotiated price, what are we paying for gas at market value at this time? How is that going to affect departments' bottom line in their budget because I'm sure we didn't fund gas lines at \$4 a gallon or whatever the market value is.

That's my one concern, because I haven't heard too much rumblings yet about it, but I would venture to say that if we are not locked in on the market, that some of these departments are going to have to come back to us for additional funding to pave their fuel line. I think it's a concern. It's something that we need to know or look at. That's all I really got.

President Kyle: Mr. Jordan, would you know if purchasing entered into a fuel contract, and if so at what the price is?

Nick: I just forwarded you all the email from Purchasing Director, Dawn Rose that she sent on March 9th. That's the only thing I know.

Mr. Fries: What is it [unintelligible 00:36:39]?

Nick: I believe it says if we're not locked in with Lassus for 2022.

Mr. Harris: Do we know why?

Nick: I have no clue.

Mr. Armstrong: I'll ask this question because you're going to say you're going to have no clue too. Do you have any idea what we're paying for fuel?

Nick: No, I do not know [unintelligible 00:36:57].

Mr. Armstrong: I figured that. That's all right. You're off the hook. [laughs] Thanks, Nick.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: Mr. President, I just had a couple of questions for Nick. I had sent a request to Nick when I received information in reference to Lebrato. I've had discussions with the county attorney in reference to this from the beginning. There's several invoices. If you could speak on that and where are we with that request because I do not have a copy and I know that was one of the things I had requested.

Nick: To Miss Curry-Campbell's comments, I think we received three invoices, two from Beckman Lawson, and one from another law firm. I can't remember. I think it's Van Gilder a little bit less than \$10,000, I believe. Maybe around \$10,000. I'd put in a request a couple of weeks ago asking the Attorney, Gary, I forget his last name if he had the report and then he advised either Sheila or I to call him. I just emailed him again this morning while we're sitting here asking him if he could just provide a copy of the report, and we'll see what the response is, but those are the invoices to date. I think it's right around \$10,000.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: \$10,000. I just think that County should know what that \$10,000 is for. All I see in it is just saying report regarding Allen County, Chief Public Defender, Lebrato. What?

Nick: You just see the billing line item, so to speak that if you're familiar with attorney bills that one sentence or fragments of sentences just on the subject of the billing.

Ms. Curry-Campbell: Okay. Thank you. I just wanted to bring that to county councils-- I don't have it. I don't know what we spend \$10,000 on. Thank you.

President Kyle: Any other things? I'm going to make a general comment that March madness has arrived in Fort Wayne. Beginning tomorrow, the NCAA Division III men's national championship will be at the coliseum. I encourage people to go out. Additionally, the National Championship for the Lutheran Basketball Association is also taking place in Fort Wayne and will start tomorrow morning at the Turnstone Center.

There are 32 boys teams and 27 girls teams, I believe from 17 states that are coming into the area. They're expecting as many as 4,000 fans. That was a good addition for visit Fort Wayne to bring to town as the prior host was a university in the state that had a vaccine mandate. Schools, not all the schools wanted to attend, so they changed the location of the tournament to a more suitable location. I think that's a good opportunity. Both are great opportunities to put Fort Wayne on the national stage. I encourage anybody that's watching that likes basketball to check out either event. Yes.

Paul: Mr. Chairman, I have an unrelated comment. I just want to commend you and commend this body. Prior to my joining all of you throughout COVID you all courageously kept public comment consistent. You remained open to the public, which is absolutely critical. I think we talked a little bit about that and from several comments here in the [unintelligible 00:40:51] and I just really appreciate that.

Our sister body on the city side recently moved to block off the [unintelligible 00:41:03] thanks to the president of city council. I appreciate greatly all of you here for keeping the public engaged in our discussion and allowing the public access to whatever we're doing. I think that's the right thing to do, and I would encourage other bodies, other deliberative bodies to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

President Kyle: Any liaison reports?

Mr. Harris: h, then Mr. Present I move for the-- or did you have something Paul or no?

Paul: No. I don't have any reports. I reached out to every one of my liaison appointments and nobody had anything super important other than DPS. We are going through two things. We'll be addressing the glitch amendment here shortly. That changes minor items, everything from semantics within the comprehensive plan to at least one fairly substantial change to allow and alter the rules regarding single-family connected homes.

This is an absolutely critical move in the midst of a housing shortage, less than 200 homes on the market today in Allen county. Normally our stock's about 2,600 to 2,700 and we're working every day in the private sector and in the public sector to build our way out of this crisis. I'm pleased that we're doing everything we can from a DPS standpoint to do that. That's the most significant one. nobody else really had anything major.

Mr. Harris: Thank you. Mr. President, I'll just mention this-- oh, go ahead.

President Kyle: Yes, I was before you, the second, I've got a-- Councilman Lagemann and I have been meeting with DPS and planning redevelopment. If you guys remember back to

December, we had a company come before us asking for a residential abatement. Our current rubric addresses industrial abatements. It doesn't address residential abatements, additionally and I don't know if the government's signed the new law yet but the state legislature also has now passed some laws that may allow for agricultural abatements.

I think it's vital as a body to get consistency going forward that we have a rubric much like we do for industrial abatements that we have a rubric to score residential abatements and potentially score agricultural abatements as well. I've started to work with redevelopment on that. We brought Councilman Harris into our last meeting as well to kind of discuss some of that based on his longevity with council and understanding that process.

That's the big liaison update that I have, that we will be working on that. Once we have a draft of the rubrics, we will bring those before council for discussion and approval. Other than that, Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Yes. I was just going to mention that we were pleased to hear from the coliseum last month that the coliseum was rebounding a little bit faster than they anticipated. We also have heard just recently that the airport feels that they're starting to rebound a little bit faster than had been anticipated. With housing jobs and those parts of the economy all cooking it's a good thing.

We'll have to keep-- but I think we may be headed into some volatile, obviously with the economy and everything. We're going to have to keep an eye on that. With that Mr. President, I move for the approval to waive the second reading of any manner approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the county council meeting of March 17th, 2022.

Paul: Second.

President Kyle: Motion and second, all those in favor say aye.

Council Members: Aye.

President Kyle: All those opposed? Motion passes 7-0. The next county council regular meeting will be held 8:30 AM Thursday, April 21st, 2022 in the chambers room of Citizens Square and I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Paul: So moved.

President Kyle: We are adjourned.