

CASS COUNTY COUNCIL October 18, 2019

The Cass County Council met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Hearing Room. Present were Brian Reed, Bruce Ide, Grover Bishop, Mike Stajduhar, Dave Redweik, Tracy Williamson, George Stebbins, Attorney Jeff Stanton, and Auditor Cheryl Alcorn.

Mike Stajduhar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Mike Stajduhar welcomed new council member, Bruce Ide. Ide was selected in a caucus to finish the partial term of Stacey Donato.

MEETING MINUTES – Grover Bishop made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented, George Stebbins seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET HEARING MINUTES – Grover Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes from 2nd reading of the 2020 Budget, Dave Redweik seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – MODIFYING LOCAL INCOME TAX RATES

Mike Stajduhar introduced the proposal to modify the CEDIT tax rate from 0.1500% to 0.2500% and increase the Correctional Facilities Rate term from 20 years to 22 years.

Council opened the floor to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Dave Kitchell spoke in support of reinstating the CEDIT tax in a joint effort between City and County for the Memorial Center Project at City's expense. Mayor Kitchell informed council of the future plans for the Memorial Center and the economic development it would provide to the community. Revenue received through the CEDIT tax will provide financial support for the rehabilitation of the Memorial Center.

Commissioner Ralph Anderson addressed the council to support the proposal to modify local income tax rates. Future economic development projects for the county will be dependent upon the amount available in the CEDIT Fund. The one percent reduction in the CEDIT rate, that was approved last year, needs to be reinstated to insure funds are available for economic growth.

Commissioner Jim Sailors gave an update on the Jail addition project. Sailors explained the reason for the proposal to extend the term of the Correctional Facilities tax rate. Expansion of the project for future inmate housing will be more cost effective to include in the current renovation project.

Sheriff Ed Schroder added in regard to the need for a juvenile facility. Circuit Court is addressing a better way to handle the needs of juvenile offenders. The transport of juvenile offenders to detention centers will relieve the need for a juvenile retention facility. Schroder

addressed the jail overcrowding problem, the change in legislation to house level six felony offenders at the county level has contributed to the problem.

ORD. 2019-10 MODIFYING LOCAL INCOME TAX RATES – Grover Bishop made a motion to modify the CEDIT tax rate from 0.1500% to 0.2500% and to increase the term length of the Correctional Facilities Rate from 20 years to 22 years, Tracy Williamson seconded. Motion carried 5 in favor; 2 opposed. Brian Reed and George Stebbins opposed.

RES. 2019-07 AIRPORT AUTHORITY FUND TRANSFER – Jill VanHorn presented request for approval of cash transfer from Rainy Day Fund to Debt Service Fund in the amount of \$10,070.42.

George Stebbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-07 Airport Authority Fund Transfer, Brian Reed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RES. 2019-08 SURRENDERING CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL FUND – The balance of the Congressional Township School Fund will no longer support distribution to area schools. Funds cannot be used for any other purpose; therefore remaining balance shall be surrender to the State of Indiana upon approval by council.

George Stebbins made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-08 Surrendering Congressional Township School Fund, Grover Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS – Planning Department requested an additional appropriation from Non-Reverting Fund 2520 in the amount of \$27,000 for building demolition.

George Stebbins made a motion to approve additional appropriation from Fund 2520 in the amount of \$27,000, Brian Reed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.


SHERIFF DEPARTMENT – DEPUTY POSITIONS’ EMPLOYEE DATE – Sheriff Ed Schroder requested approval to begin the employment process of two full time deputies. Positions will fill the vacancies of two deputies that will become School Resource Officers at the first of next year. Current budget will support the additional positions.

Bruce Ide made a motion to approve request to begin the employment process for two deputy positions that will become vacant at the first of the year, Tracy Williamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Ralph Anderson thanked the Council for approving the Ordinance modifying the local income tax rate.


Ralph Anderson announced the Civic Players and Jr. Civic Players' production of Sleepy Hollow on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at McHale Performing Arts Center.

ADJOURNMENT – George Stebbins made a motion to adjourn, Brian Reed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.


Mike Stajduhar, President


Brian Reed, Vice President


Grover Bishop


Dave Redweik


Bruce Ide


George Stebbins


Tracy Williamson

ATTEST:

Cheryl Alcorn, Auditor