

**MINUTES**  
**ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING &**  
**2025 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Reading & Adoption**  
**117 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Room 104, Goshen, In. 46526**  
**October 17th,2024**

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Sheriff Jeff Siegel at 4:00 p.m., in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Members present were Council President Thomas W. Stump, Council Vice President David L. Hess, Darryl J. Riegsecker, Randall D. Yohn, Steven E. Clark, Adam M. Bujalski and Douglas S. Graham. Also, present were Patricia A. Pickens County Auditor, Tiara Jackson First Deputy Auditor, and Craig Buche County Attorney.

\*\* This meeting commenced pursuant to public notice under the Indiana open door law. This meeting was made available for the public and press to attend in-person and virtually in remote real-time observation via Web-Ex.

**MINUTES:**

- (a) Approval of CC Minutes for September 19th,2024
- (b) Approval of CC Minutes for Public Hearing on September 9<sup>th</sup>,2024
- (c) Approval of CC Minutes for the Special Budget Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

On motion made to approve all the minutes together by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 7 to 0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Weirick commented upon the Park's restroom project and ribbon cutting.

COUNCIL: None

SHERIFF: None

County Attorney Craig Buche requested an Amendment be made to the agenda under the Reductions. Please note the reduction was advertised but was missed on the agenda due to clerical error.

L. ARPA (#8951)	
Commissioners (980)	
Capital Outlays	-\$762,347.54

On motion made to Amend the agenda by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the motion with a 7 to 0 vote.

**EDC MATTERS:**

Craig Buche:

1. **\*\*Public Hearing\*\***  
**\*\*GDC\*\***

On motion to open the Public Hearing made by Yohn and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved opening the Public Hearing with a 7 to 0 vote.

President Stump asked if anyone wished to speak on this matter. President Stump asked that the record show no one wished to speak.

On motion to close the Public Hearing made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the motion to close the Public Hearing with a 7 to 0 vote.

(a) Commitment & Payment Agreement

Craig Buche explained the details of the possible tax phase-in. The Company plans to spend \$6 million in real estate improvements, \$2 million in new manufacturing equipment, \$200,000.00 in new information technology, \$360,000.00 in new logistics and distribution equipment and \$315,000.00 in new research and development equipment. They will create 38 new full-time employment positions with an annual payroll for those new positions of at least \$1,601,600.00 dollars.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Commitment and Payment Agreement with a 7 to 0 vote.

(b). Approval of Confirmatory Resolution CC-2024-28

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Confirmatory Resolution CC-2024-28, with a 7 to 0 vote.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:**

A. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$792,347.54 to complete the Parks Latrine project. This replaces project 222650 Parks Latrine funds (\$762,347.54) plus \$30,000.00 to cover miscellaneous expenses for the project paid earlier.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the request with a vote of 7 to 0.

B. CTP (#1123)

1. Community Corrections (980) requested \$5,713.00 be transferred of SRS Supervision and Drug Testing Fees from CTP to Project Income Funds per IDOC Directive.

Karen Chandler presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

C. PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT (#1130)

1. Community Corrections (980) requested \$16,098.16 be transferred of CY2023 Unspent Grant Funds to CY2025 Grant Fund (9157-980) per IDOC Directive.

Karen Chandler presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Yohn and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

D. WESTERN GATEWAY TIF (#4506)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$2,500.00 for a Pledge of 95% increment reimbursement of TIF revenues to pay toward County Loan. Spring increment was \$104,671.58 thus \$99,438.00 is due for debt payment. Fall reimbursement paid in March was \$52,894.88, thus \$152,332.88 is due for payment in 2024. \$150,000.00 was budgeted in 2023 for 2024 reimbursement, thus we have a budgeting gap of over \$2000.00. In 2023, the 95% debt payment due was \$106,341.00, about \$46,000.00 less than the amount due this year.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the request with a 7 to 0 vote.

E. NORTH BAUGO TIF (#4512)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$2,000.00 pledge of 80% increment reimbursement of TIF revenues to pay toward County Loan, Spring increment was \$47,485.03, thus \$37,988.02 is due toward debt payment. Fall reimbursement paid in March was \$33,986.83, thus \$71,984.85 is due for payment in 2024. \$70,00.00 was budgeted in 2024 reimbursement, thus we have a budgeting gap of about \$2,000.00. In 2023, the 80% debt payment due was \$63,731.00, about \$8,250.00 less than the amount due this year.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

F. AMAZON TIF (#4516)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$501,763.91 a pledge of 70% increment reimbursement of TIF revenues pay toward reimbursement agreement with developer.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

G. ARPA (#8951)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$156,796.00 additional funds required for engineering & construction inspection services for additional easements needed to service existing connections, additional engineering work and construction inspection hours required during the construction phase. Original scope of work was for 300 days of construction administration. 390 days were required to complete the project. 3 additional progress meetings were added. Coordination, rework and review of electrical quotes and homeowner coordination required more hours. The added scope and requirements were work the County requested to be completed.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

H. ARPA (#8951)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$807,882.38 reallocating ARPA funds for Courthouse Construction #222643. These funds are from the ARPA Foraker, Southwest and Tecumseh project. These funds will be used to upgrade the County fiber network configuration to provide redundant fiber for the courthouse. This configuration also provides redundancy for other critical county operations (e.g. jail and 911 center).

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker. The Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

I. ARPA (#8951)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$1,211,073.00 reallocating ARPA funds to the Courthouse Construction #222643. These funds are from project 222540 Foraker, Southwest and Tecumseh (448,725.46) and project 222540 Parks Latrine (\$762,347.54). The total amount to be appropriated is \$1,211,073.00.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

**Total Appropriations: \$ 3,496,173.99**

**REDUCTIONS:**

**J. CUMULATIVE DRAIN (#1141)**

- 1. Surveyor (980) requested a reduction in the amount of -\$274,805.43 to return the unused funds after completion or dismissal of projects.

The County Auditor presented this request to the Council.

**K. ARPA (#8951)**

- 1. Commissioners (980) requested a reduction in the amount of -\$1,413,403.84 for Funds to be appropriated to other projects to close out the ARP funds by the end of 2024.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

**L. ARPA (#8951)**

- 1. Commissioners (980) requested a reduction in the amount of -\$762,347.54. These ARPA funds are being shifted to other ARPA project Accounts. The remaining Parks Latrine project costs will be paid from new project #241015. The Commissioners requested this reduction be reduced by .02 making the new requested amount -\$762,347.52.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve all 3 reductions by Yohn and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the motion with a vote of 7 to 0.

**Reduction Total: -\$2,450,556.79**

**TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:**

A.	GENERAL FUND (#1000)	
	Elkhart County Judiciary (172)	
	From: 43020 Medical Services	95,000.00
	To: 44500 Motor Vehicles	95,000.00
B.	LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (1161)	
	Health Dept. (980)	
	From: 44310 Improvements	9,750.00
	To: 43090 Otr. Prof. Services	9,750.00

C.	LOCAL HEALTH PUBLIC SERVICES (1161)		
	Health Dept. (980)		
	From: 42195 Oth. Oper/ Supplies		250.00
	To: 44535 Data Process. Hdw.		250.00
D.	WIC (8101)		
	Health (312)		
	From: 42195 Otr. Oper. Supplies		416.00
	To: 44510 Otr. Equip.		416.00
E.	ADULT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (#9156)		
	Community Corrections (980)		
	From: 41120 Professional		32,000.00
	41130 Protective Services		8,000.00
	41165 Excess Hours		2,500.00
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		Total	42,500.00
	To: 43060 Prof. Services		42,500.00
		Total Transfers	147,916.00

On motion made by Clark to approve all the transfers above together and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the motion with a 7 to 0 vote.

TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:  
(Available in the Auditor's office)

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Craig Buche:

1. Consideration and Approval of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to Interlocal Agreement between the Elkhart County RDC and the Town of Middlebury for design engineering for several intersection improvements.

Craig Buche presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Hess and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

2. Consideration and Approval of CC-2024-27 An Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Establishing the 90.404 HAVA Election Security Grant Fund (8199) for the Elkhart County Clerk's Office.

Craig Buche presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

## **AUDIENCE ITEMS:**

Glenn Null expressed concern over poll workers not being paid. He discussed the tax phase-in with GDC, INC. and where the transparency is since no one knows what GDC, INC. stands for. The Council explained to him the company is Goshen Die Cutting Incorporated. He stated he would like to see everything the Council sees before the meeting.

Pam Keyser expressed her concerns over the tax phase-in with GDC, INC. and the EDC involved with that process. She named the investors of the EDC and expressed concern whether this was possibly a conflict of interest when it came to tax phase-ins. Councilman Clark and Councilman Bujalski discussed the tax phase-in process in great length and what was the determining factors. Councilman Graham discussed the score card system that gives the Council information on the investments for the Community and what new jobs it brings.

## **2025 2<sup>nd</sup> BUDGET READING & ADOPTION:**

### **Second Reading and Adoption of the Elkhart County 2025 Budget:**

1. First Deputy Auditor Tiara Jackson presented the second reading of the Notice to Taxpayers Budget Form No. 3 for Elkhart County. Jackson read the approved individual budget totals and reductions previously made by the Council.

### **2025 Net Tax Levy and Tax Rates:**

1. Auditor Patricia A. Pickens read the net amounts of the tax levies and tax rates by funds., using the estimated valuations shown on the bottom of the 17-line statement, for Elkhart County.

### **2025 Salary Ordinance:**

1. 2025 Salary Ordinance CC-2024-26 was read by title into the record by County Attorney Craig Buche. Buche asked the Council for a motion and second to approve the 2025 Salary Ordinance CC-2024-26 as presented.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this motion with a vote of 7 to 0.

### **2025 Recorders Perpetuation Ordinance:**

1. 2025 Recorders Perpetuation Ordinance CC-2024-25 was read by title into the record by Craig Bushe County Attorney. Buche asks the Council for a motion and second to approve the 2025 Recorders Perpetuation Ordinance CC-2024-25.

On motion made to approve the Recorders Perpetuation Fund Ordinance CC-2024-25 as presented by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council carried and unanimously approved Ordinance CC-2024-25 with a 7 to 0 vote.

### **2025 Elkhart County Budget Ordinance:**

1. President Stump asked for a motion/second to adopt the 2025 Elkhart County Budget Ordinance CC-2024-29 as presented.

On motion made to approve by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council carried and unanimously approved Ordinance CC-2024-29 with a 7 to 0 vote.

### **Elkhart County Council 2025 Meeting Schedule:**

1. President Stump asked for a motion/second to adopt the 2025 Elkhart County Council meeting schedule.

On motion made to adopt the 2025 Elkhart County Council's meeting schedule by Graham and seconded by Bujalski. President Stump asked for a roll call vote, the Council members votes are as follows: Bujalski-Aye, Clark-Aye, Graham-Aye, Hess-Aye, Riegsecker-Aye, Yohn-Aye and Stump-Nay. With a roll call vote of 6 to 1 the Council adopted the 2025 Elkhart County Council meeting schedule as presented.

### **Elkhart County Council 2025 Finance Meeting Schedule:**

1. President Stump asked for a motion/second to adopt the 2025 Elkhart County Council's Finance meeting schedule.

On motion to adopt the 2025 Elkhart County Council's Finance meeting schedule by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council carried and unanimously approved the 2025 Elkhart County Council's Finance Meeting Schedule with a vote of 7 to 0.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Bujalski seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:15 pm.

Cindy Chadwell  
Recording Secretary

A complete recording of this meeting is available in the Auditor's Office. The recording of this meeting will be available for one year and then erased.