

**STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2021**

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council at 1:00 PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Kay Gudeman, Brad Hazelton, Don White, Don Binkley, Todd Leinbach present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dave Pearman at 1:00 PM for the Budget Workshop and immediately following the Starke County Council Regular Session.

**AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Councilman Binkley made a motion to approve the minutes from April 19 and May 17. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**AUDITOR INELIGIBLE HOMESTEAD FUND USAGE REQUEST**

Auditor Oesterreich came before the Starke County Council to request an addition to the 2021 salary ordinance, to include a \$2000 one-time bonus for each Auditor Deputy. She explained that as per the State Board of Accounts this fund can be used for a one-time bonus but it must be a part of the salary ordinance as provided under IC 36-2- 5-11 and is subject to PERF. Councilman Pearman talked about the notion of using ARPA money for one-time bonuses for those employees who still came into work during the pandemic and the closure of county buildings, excluding those who had worked from home. Auditor Oesterreich advised that the State Board of Accounts is still working out the details of the use of the ARPA money as a bonus toward essential employees. Councilman Pearman stated that what he believes Auditor Oesterreich is trying to do the same concept with her own fund as her office had much additional work added to their daily duties with the food distribution and the management of all of that. He advised that if other department has this same concept available within their budget they could come forward and submit the same request. Councilman Binkley asked if any of the Deputy Auditor received overtime for the extra time that was put in during the pandemic with the extra duties. Auditor Oesterreich advised they did not.

Councilman Pearman asked if other Auditors have done this before. Auditor Oesterreich stated yes. Councilman Binkley stated he was thinking about this concept and related to the Starke County Sheriff's Department or Starke County EMS who had to work extra but those employees did receive overtime pay. Councilman Pearman asked if Auditor Oesterreich was allowed to pay any other department out of that fund. She advised no, because no other department does the research for the collections of the money for the ineligible homestead fund. Councilwoman Gudeman advised she would agree with the amount of \$1600. Commissioner Gourley stated he believes this would be a good use of that particular fund this year. Councilman Pearman stated that if they do find they will be giving out something nominal for essential employees later with the ARPA money, would Auditor Oesterreich agreed to abstain her employees from this up to the \$1600. Auditor Oesterreich agreed. Councilman Binkley made a motion to allow a \$1600 bonus for Auditor Deputies and to amend the salary ordinance to include the \$1600. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion. Motion was approved with 4 ayes and 1 abstain.

**2022 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the following County General budgets 0001 Clerk, 0002 Auditor, 0003 Treasurer, 0004 Recorder, 0005 Sheriff, 0006 Surveyor, 0007 Coroner, 0017 Annex 2 Maintenance, 0018 EMA, 0019 Election, 0021 Purdue Extension, 0022 Planning Commission, 0023 Drainage Board, 0024 Veterans Service, 0025 Commissioners, 0026 Courthouse Maintenance, 0027 Jail, 0028 Annex 1 Maintenance, 0029 Circuit Court, 0030 BZA, 0031 Soli & Water, 0033 Council, 0035 IT. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. After a discussion with Starke County Prosecutor Leslie Baker, Councilwoman Gudeman made a motion to approve County General 0008 and 0032. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Leinbach made a motion to approve 4907 as amended with the reduction of Misc. Supply from \$5000 to \$1000. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

Lisa Dunfee, Nurse Coordinator for Starke County WIC came before the Starke County Council to ask for an increase in pay beginning in the 2022 budget. She advised she has received information from State WIC Office of its desire to see more wage equity in WIC Clinics throughout the state. State goal is to see all WIC participants receive the same experience. She explained that WIC is financed with grant money from the State which ultimately comes from the USDA. She is requesting the following increases:

Clerical Assistant Position - \$10.84 to \$12.76

RN Coordinator - \$23.88 to \$26.70

RN/CPA - \$20.47 to \$22.93

Councilman White made a motion to approve as presented 9700 and 9705. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman White made a motion to approve 1112. Councilman Leinbach seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes. Councilman Leinbach made a motion to approve Funds 1114, 1135, 1138, 1140, 1156, 1159, 1168, 1169, 1175, 1176, 1188, 1217, 1222, 2100, 2105, 4006, 4101, 4110, 4902, 4919, 4925, 4997, 8500, 9117, 9133, 9141, 9157 as presented. Councilwoman Gudeman seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

With no other business or public comment to come before the Starke County Council, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 PM. Councilman Binkley seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all ayes.

**JUNE 11, 2021  
STARKE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Dave Pearman, President

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Brad Hazelton, Vice-President

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Kay Gudeman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don White

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**ABSENT**  
Howard Bailey

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Binkley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Leinbach

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Rachel Oesterreich, Starke County Auditor and  
Secretary to the County Council