

**Daviess County Council Meeting
Minutes
May 10, 2023**

Meeting began at 9:00 A.M. in the Daviess County Commissioners' Room, Daviess County Government Center. *(The Public was invited to watch a live stream of the meeting, go to www.daviess.org and click "Watch Public Meetings")*

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call.

Present: Darin Holder, Marilyn McCullough, Matt Meredith, Mike Myers, Mike Sprinkle, Tom Schaffer, Vice President, Tony Duncheon, President (Not voting).

MEETING MINUTES 4/12/2023

Motion: Approve meeting minutes for 4/12/2023, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Matt Meredith, **Seconded by** Tom Schaffer, Vice President.

Motion passed unanimously.

2023 WAGE COMMITTEE

The 2023 wage committee met on May 3, 2023, to discuss wage recommendations by looking at local and federal economic factors and the cost to Daviess County. The attendees consisted of Council members Tony Duncheon, Matt Meredith, Tom Schaffer, and Daviess County Auditor, Jennifer Welsh. The proposed recommendation for the 2024 budget were presented as a 3.50% wage increase for full-time employees and 3.50% wage increase for part-time, non-seasonal employees. The Daviess County Wage Committee was created to investigate and make wage recommendations for the purpose of budget planning for county departments. Although this is only a recommendation, the final approval will not be established until the official adoption date in September 2023. Mike Sprinkle, Daviess County Councilman, stated that in the past the Council has tried to be conservative but wanting to retain our current employees going forward. Mike Myers, Daviess County Councilman, expressed that we cannot always pay what the private sector can but being competitive to help retain employees is important. The wage committee will be meeting with department heads on Monday 5/22 and Tuesday 5/23. The exercise will allow the committee to receive direct input from the department managers concerning staffing compensation.

VISITORS BUREAU COMMISSION UPDATE- Doc1

Grant Swartzentruber, Daviess County Attorney, came before the Council with the Visitor's Commission and Innkeepers Tax Revised Ordinance. Mr. Swartzentruber stated in his opinion, the location of the funds being held by the Auditor's office is very important. Mr. Swartzentruber explains that the decision about separating funds into two different budget lines is completely up to the Council and only requests to clarify with a motion. After discussion it was asked how the Auditors would like to see this handled. Jennifer Welsh, Daviess County Auditor, stated that she would suggest that having the 1.5% be in an investment account. This would put 1.5% into an investment policy that is already structured by the Indiana State Board of Accounts and be able to see the growth. Ms. Welsh stated that Jamie Chapman, Daviess County Treasurer, can send out bids to get the investment process started. Once a year when the investment matures, and before reinvesting, the Council can look at pulling 1.5% off the top and back into investment. Darin Holder, Daviess County Council, explained that one important item that is in this Ordinance is "Commission shall not operate a bank account or foundation separated from the County

offices, obligations, and responsibilities, except with the prior approval of the commissioners and Council.” This clarifies confusion that has been an issue in the past.

Motion: Approve Visitor Commission and Innkeeper’s Tax- Revised Ordinance 2023-1, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Matt Meredith, **Seconded by** Mike Sprinkle.
Motion passed unanimously.

The Daviess County Council continued to discuss having the 1.5% in separate funds. Grant Swartzentruber, Daviess County Attorney, read section 1d. regarding fund handling which states “The Council may establish additional sub-funds, upon request of the Auditor and Commission. The Commission, or another party, may make a written request for an appropriation of such funds. Mr. Swartzentruber requested a motion to clarify what the Council wants to do with Visitor Commission funds.

Motion: Approve to have a separate fund for 1.5% and in an investment account, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Mike Sprinkle, **Seconded by** Mike Myers.
Motion passed unanimously.

WESTGATE

Grant Swartzentruber, Daviess County Attorney, came before the Council to discuss where the Westgate incentives are at in the process. On April 12th Council meeting a 10-year real property tax abatement was approved contingent to Economic Development Agreements. Mr. Swartzentruber stated that it was requested that Westgate take some of the cost of implementing certain incentives which have been agreed to. Mr. Swartzentruber explains in the agreement Westgate has agreed to cover costs up to a certain amount and will happen the first year they receive the incentive. Mr. Swartzentruber stated there will be further discussion about options south of 558 at Westgate which should be completed at the end of the month as well.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

**CLERK'S PERPETUATION-
Report**

<u>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</u>	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00

Motion: Approve , **Action:** Additional Appropriations, approved as presented, **Moved by** Tom Schaffer, Vice President, **Seconded by** Mike Myers.
Motion passed unanimously.

RIVERBOAT-Report

<u>CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
TOTAL	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

Motion: Approve, **Action:** Additional Appropriations, approved as presented, **Moved by** Matt Meredith, **Seconded by** Tom Schaffer, Vice President.
Motion passed unanimously.

CASA-Report

<u>ADVERTISING</u>	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
<u>VOLUNTEER RETENTION</u>	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
TOTAL	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00

Motion: Approve, **Action:** Additional Appropriations, approved as presented, **Moved by** Mike Sprinkle, **Seconded by** Marilyn McCullough. Motion passed unanimously.

GRAND TOTAL \$75,500.00 \$75,500.00

TRANSFERS

COUNTY GENERAL-VOTER REGISTRATION

FROM: MEALS TO: COMPUTER EQUIPMENT \$950.00

Motion: Approve, **Action:** Transfers listed above, approve as presented, **Moved by** Matt Meredith, **Seconded by** Darin Holder. Motion passed unanimously.

SUPERIOR COURT

FROM: OFFICE SUPPLIES TO: TRANSCRIPTS/DEPOSITIONS \$1,000.00

Motion: Approve, **Action:** Transfers listed above, approve as presented, **Moved by** Tom Schaffer, Vice President, **Seconded by** Mike Myers. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

- a. Daviess- Martin Joint Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes 3-14-2023
- b. Daviess Community Hospital Finance Committee 4-20-2023
- c. YMCA Letter

SHERIFF VEHICLE

Gary Allison, Daviess County Sheriff, stated a deputy had an accident over the weekend, the airbags deployed, and he is assuming this vehicle will be totaled. Mr. Allison stated that Washington Chrysler has two Dodge Durango's on the lot and are ready for purchase. Mr. Allison explained that he wants to buy them now instead of waiting until the 2024 budget to acquire new vehicles. The two vehicles he will be replacing, are K-9 trucks which the cages will also need added for about \$13,000.00 for both. The Council recommended Mr. Allison go ahead and gather quotes on trade in values, money from insurance on vehicle that is totaled and let Washington Chrysler know we are interested in the two Dodge Durango's.

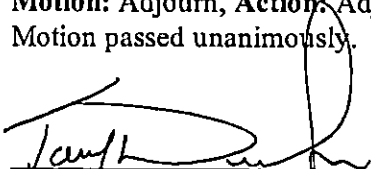
COUNTY TAX RATE

Mike Sprinkle, Daviess County Councilman, had stated at the end of the meeting that he wanted to share with everyone. Mr. Sprinkle looked up the tax rates of 92 counties on DLGF website and found that Daviess County was in the bottom third. Mr. Sprinkle also stated that 15-20 years ago Daviess County

was in the top ten in county tax rates. This shows that Daviess County has worked hard to generate revenue without raising the tax rate throughout the years.

ADJOURN

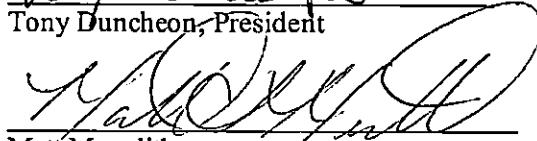
Motion: Adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Mike Sprinkle, **Seconded by** Matt Meredith.
Motion passed unanimously.



Tony Duncheon, President



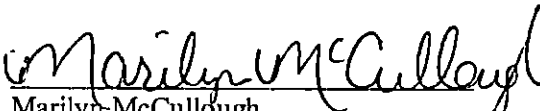
Tom Schaffer, Vice President



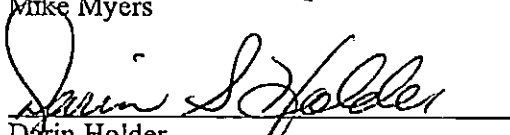
Matt Meredith




Mike Myers



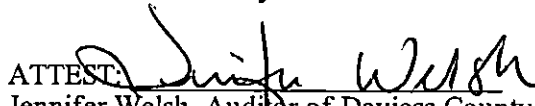
Marilyn McCullough



Darin Holder



Mike Sprinkle

ATTEST: 

Jennifer Welsh, Auditor of Daviess County