

VANDERBURGH COUNTY COUNCIL
November 11, 2020
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**VANDERBURGH COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2020**

The Vanderburgh County Council met in session this 11th day of November 2020 in Room 301 of the Civic Center Complex. President Tom Shetler, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

President Shetler: Alright, guys, getting started a little bit late, apologize. Still counting votes somewhere, I don't know what the excuse is here, but today is September¹ 11th, Veterans Day, welcome all. The first thing I will ask is for attendance roll call, please.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Terry?

Councilmember Terry: Here.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Montrastelle?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Here.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Kiefer?

Councilmember Kiefer: Here.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Goebel?

Councilmember Goebel: Here.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Raben?

Councilmember Raben: Here.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Koehler Lindsey?

(Not present)

Kathy Glaser: President Shetler?

President Shetler: Here. There being six present and one absent, we have a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION
--

President Shetler: Then next I would like to ask Councilman Kiefer if he would lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

Councilmember Kiefer: I'll do the prayer.

President Shetler: You're going to do the invocation, and Councilman Goebel is going to do the Pledge of Allegiance.

(The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation were given.)

President Shetler: Alright, thank you.

¹ Should be November.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2020
BUDGET ADOPTION OCTOBER 7, 2020**

President Shetler: Next is, a motion would be in order for approval of the minutes.

Councilmember Goebel: So moved.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Second.

President Shetler: We have a motion and a second. Do I have any questions? That's on the County Council, October 7th, and the budget adoption on October 7th. Do I have any questions/comments? All in favor signify by saying aye.

All Councilmembers: Aye.

President Shetler: Is there anyone opposed?

(None opposed)

President Shetler: The motion carries.

(Motion approved 6-0)

**OLD BUSINESS:
DAVE RECTOR: UPDATE ON COURT PROPOSAL RENOVATION COSTS**

President Shetler: Next is underneath old business, Dave Rector sent out to us yesterday an update on the operating costs. I don't know if anybody has any questions about that.

Councilmember Kiefer: The only comment I would like to make, Mr. President, is that when I asked Dave about the timeline, it appears that it is a fairly long timeline to get everything done. I was surprised that it would take so long, you know, it just seems like a long stretch, 18 months. I mean, I'm still a little shocked that it would take that long to complete that project.

Dave Rector: Dave Rector, Building Authority. That was design, bid, construct, and occupy. I really think it's a pretty realistic timeline. By the time, if this is approved and moved forward, we'll have to advertise for the loan again, and hopefully get better rates than we had before. We'll probably be in design for three to four months, a couple of months to bid and then probably gonna, between the new construction and the renovation about a year in construction. So, I think we're probably seeing 18 months.

Councilmember Kiefer: As you said, the difference between the private sector and the public sector.

Dave Rector: Oh, we've got steps that we follow that the private sector doesn't have to.

President Shetler: James?

Dave Rector: Judge Kiely and Judge Shively are here to address any questions, and the Sheriff is here. I think all of us have tried to keep the ongoing operating costs to a minimum, the best we can to help make this project happen because I think long-term it gives us some real opportunity for savings. So, they're also here if you have any questions.

Councilmember Montrastelle: And, you said that we need to hire a new Deputy at approximately 80K a year with benefits and so on. I guess, the Sheriff weighed in on that, and we couldn't do that just by having, with his existing staff?

Dave Rector: I'll let the Sheriff address that.

Councilmember Montrastelle: To provide security.

Dave Rector: Actually, I think additionally he thought perhaps two. He, again, like the rest of us, are trying to keep this to a minimum, and he's going to do it with one. Sheriff, do you want to address how you're going to do that?

Dave Wedding: What happens in the courts is there's a lot of unexpected duties that are tasked to us. You know, like with COVID, you know, we're over at the Old National Events Plaza. So, we're guarding another building. When you have jury trials, you may need a minimum of two, sometimes three Deputies, depending on the volatility of the trial, especially if it's a murder or something very sensitive in nature, where you have rowdy spectators. You may have courts operating, and you have a contested divorce, or where a judge is getting ready to give somebody's pension away, and that person gets really rowdy, they call on a couple of Deputies to solve that. So, you don't want to run the courts on a lean or skeleton crew. You need to have a surplus because at a moment's notice we can have something break out and we won't have the manpower to address it right away, and to protect every judge while they're in session if needed. If we add the additional courtroom, and we were to add another trial, then we would at least need two Deputies at all times to sit in during the jury trial. The reason we backed it down to one was, we're trying to do more video courts, and if we can keep building this video court system up, we can transport less here, which frees up at least one Deputy, we would hope more. Now, the flip side to us traveling around the states sending prisoners out, is we've had to use more Deputies in our court system to make trips every day to these adjacent counties and other counties, and states that have our prisoners. So, we've been tasked to do a whole lot with COVID, and with the jail being severely overcrowded. So, we've had to assign Deputies that were once assigned here to handle transports. The judges can tell you, we think we've got a pretty good system with video courts going on, but sometimes a jail system malfunctions and we have to send the Deputies to transport them here because they have a hearing that has to be addressed right away. So, we're fortunate that we're only asking for one, because originally, we were thinking at least two, but we did trim that back by one, hoping the video court would ease our Deputy Sheriff's staffing with us here at the courthouse.

Councilmember Raben: Okay. Dave? Not Dave Wedding, Dave Rector. So, these numbers that you gave us yesterday or whenever it was, I mean, so these are for what package? Because we looked at two or three different scenarios. So, these are based on which scenario?

Dave Rector: Yeah, this is the, all phases. This will be for a complete build-out.

Councilmember Raben: Okay, so we've not actually decided that that's the direction we need to even go.

Dave Rector: Right, and if not, utilities would be backed off some.

Councilmember Raben: Okay. And, then, I guess, my second question relative to your piece of this, you know, we're already, it's part of our average. I mean, that building, that vacant space has been part of our square footage price average always, since we vacated it. And that's what 25 years ago, 20 years ago?

Dave Rector: We moved into the new jail '06, January of '06.

Councilmember Raben: Oh, so 14 years.

Dave Rector: Yeah.

Councilmember Raben: So, I guess my question is, I mean, I need to know, from you, that we're not going to jack with square footage prices two years from now when this project, at whatever phase we approve, is complete. I mean, our square footage price shouldn't change throughout the county because we filled more space, that we've already been paying for anyway.

Dave Rector: It shouldn't. I mean...

Councilmember Raben: I mean, shouldn't or won't?

Dave Rector: We've taken steps to, on utilities to reduce those, the LED lighting, with water conservation. I think that's going to help. Obviously, in the new construction, we'll

continue with the energy opportunities there. Our expenses, mechanical expenses go up, we've got an old building. I guess I'm trying to see we'll see no significant increase.

Councilmember Raben: See, I don't, I mean, I wouldn't expect any increase.

Dave Rector: And, you know, I think I've kept it the same for the last three years.

President Shetler: Well...

Councilmember Raben: Okay, well, I need to know, I think this Board needs to know.

President Shetler: ...let me clear that up. So, on that specific space, if we improve it, would there be a difference in the rental?

Dave Rector: No.

President Shetler: Okay.

Dave Rector: It will be the same.

President Shetler: Okay, Right.

Dave Rector: Yes.

President Shetler: Okay, because I think you were maybe being hesitant a little bit on answering it because Rent may go up on the whole building.

Dave Rector: Right.

President Shetler: And, that you don't know.

Dave Rector: Yeah, I just...

President Shetler: But, that specific space will not be treated...

Dave Rector: It will stay the same.

President Shetler: ...any differently because it's been improved.

Dave Rector: Correct.

President Shetler: Because we're already paying, as it is improved.

Dave Rector: Yeah, it will not change.

President Shetler: Correct. Does that help?

Councilmember Raben: That's, yeah, I mean...

Dave Rector: Okay.

Councilmember Raben: ...that's where I'm trying to get to.

Dave Rector: I'm sorry, I misunderstood the question.

Councilmember Kiefer: I have a question, maybe it's more like a comment in a question. But, if I understand the way the bills or the Rent rate is established, you're not looking at, oh, this specific space there costs so much, so that goes to the county. You're looking at the overall cost of the overall building, and then it gets divided up by the city and county by their allocations.

Dave Rector: Correct.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay.

Dave Rector: It's about a 70/30 county. I mean, I could probably 70 with the city at 30 percent.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay, that's what I was trying to understand to make sure is correct.

Dave Rector: Yes.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay, thank you.

President Shetler: Something that the Sheriff brought up a moment ago kind of triggered something with me, in that he mentioned about the transportation from the jail, and also the video things that we're doing and stuff. Are we making a bit of a mistake here by not entertaining the idea, or at least looking at, exploring the idea of a courtroom out at the jail? Where we wouldn't have so much transportation. Where we would have the people there that can be, you know, it would be minimal as far as one of the judges going down there, whoever would be in charge of that. And, then would that make better use of every, you know, the whole cost elements that we're already dealing with? We may not need the extra Sheriff Deputy (Inaudible), we've got people...

Dave Rector: Last year we took roll call and converted it into a video arraignment space, so he does have two video arraignment, I think its space constraints, don't you, Sheriff?

Dave Wedding: When I was referring to the transportation, is when we have to bring them from the other jails back to Vanderburgh County.

President Shetler: Right, right.

Dave Wedding: Due to their video system flaws.

President Shetler: Yeah.

Dave Wedding: I think we've done a pretty good job, and it's been enhanced by COVID. I think everybody's been more receptive to video. We even have a third, kind of roll around video courtroom that we can take to specific areas of the jail. So, I think as far as the courtroom out there, if we can keep working on enhancing the video courts, I don't think we will need it at the jail, as long as we can make sure we utilize the video court system. Because it has relieved our transportation by up to 70% at least.

President Shetler: The other question I had really deals, I guess, probably, as you had indicated, the judges or the Sheriff perhaps too, in that was also, I assume that there's a certain amount of savings that we're going to get on the backside of all this. Because if we move people through quicker, they're not sitting waiting for trial, you know, obviously, we're not having to pay for them while they're sitting around. So, do we have any calculations on how that may work?

Dave Rector: Yeah, going through some numbers, as Judge Kiely said last time, I think that could be some really good savings involved, getting inmates through.

David Kiely: Yeah, David Kiely, Circuit Court Judge. I can give you hard numbers from 2019. In 2019 I had 38 trials that I could not try because I didn't have the court space for it. I was trying other cases. Okay? And, that totaled 3,724 days of extra inmate time. There was 3,274, or 3,724 days. I was figuring it at \$35 a day before. That's extremely low. I've been researching costs, and \$50 is low, but I'm going to use that as a figure. It costs the county, in my court, \$186,000 in 2019, by not having that court space. I could have tried those cases, and it would have saved the county \$186,000. I do 2/3 of the caseload, criminal caseload, Judge Pigman does the other third. Let's figure what his costs would have been. It would have been another \$93,000. So, we're looking at \$279,000, that if we would have had another jury courtroom, I think we would have saved this county in 2019. And, it's not going to change. It's going to be this way until we have that extra jury courtroom. The other things we're looking at that are very important too, is Circuit Court's working out of Micro Circuit, which the Sheriff will attest to this, it's a disaster waiting to happen. It is a scary courtroom to work out of. And, then the other big thing is we're talking about Constitutional rights. We're not giving these inmates their speedy trial.

President Shetler: Now, that number that you came up with, David, that was....there's too many David's, right?

David Kiely: There are.

President Shetler: The number you came up with is \$166,000 a month or thereabouts?

David Kiely: A year.

President Shetler: A year? That was a year? Okay. So, in other words, this could be a net savings of about, well, \$120,000-\$130,000.

David Kiely: And, I think if you can take it a step further if at some point we start talking about jail expansion again, that's going to be less inmates maybe we have to build for, which is going to reduce the cost of the addition. I don't think we know that number until we get into this, but, from what Judge Kiely is saying...

President Shetler: Do we have your word on that one?

Dave Rector: If we build less, it will cost less.

David Kiely: Yeah, I mean, I have no doubt that we're going to move the inmates quicker, with another jury courtroom. No doubt about it. So, that's going to reduce that number.

President Shetler: Thank you, Judge. Okay, I think Mike was next and then Jeff.

Councilmember Goebel: Judge, on the backside of that, if you do get your courtroom space, and can move the cases much more quickly, what happens then with the inmates that, what percentage will be put out of the county jail regardless after their trial is over? Will there be, what are the numbers, as far as going to jail or going to prison, coming out of your courtroom?

David Kiely: My courtroom is the major felony courtroom. So, the majority of my cases are not going to end up, if they're sent to prison, they're not going to end up in our county jail. They're going to go to DOC. I don't have those numbers. I can get it to you. Because only the Level 6's would stay in the Vanderburgh County Jail, where you would get the reimbursement.

Councilmember Goebel: And, you don't have, you don't deal with Level 6?

David Kiely: I do, I do deal with them, and I can get those numbers.

Councilmember Goebel: Okay.

David Kiely: But, that's not the majority of my court.

Councilmember Goebel: I understand. Thank you.

President Shetler: Actually, the 6's we're better off shipping out because we don't even get the \$35. I think we get twenty something dollars, as it works out.

David Kiely: It's that magic calculation by the State.

President Shetler: Yeah. So, James, did you, yes?

Councilmember Raben: Briefly, I mean, I didn't know we were going to get into actual nuts and bolts on the build-out, but, Judge, I guess, as I look at it again, if I walk over there, as an example, now, are there no empty courtrooms?

David Kiely: I know I'm in trial right now. I know that there are definitely, I would say, during the day, yes, every one of them is in use. This, right here at 9:00, I can't say they're all in use. But, I can tell you, my jury, I have a jury trial going right now, Judge Fink's handling it. At 9:00 I have (Inaudible) my other Magistrate in my Micro Circuit, and we will be there 9:00, 11:00, and 1:00, plus the jury trial going on. And, I tried a case Monday and Tuesday.

Dave Rector: I think, as you've explained to me when we see an empty courtroom sometimes, it's because the trial was set, or the hearing was set, but it was settled at the last minute, and so the hearing didn't take place.

David Kiely: I can assure you that in Circuit Court there is absolutely no downtime in those courtrooms. It's, we're, I mean, we go every day at 9:00 and 1:00, and those are our routine matters, and we're looking at 30-40 calendar at those times. And, then on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we add an 11:00 session. Okay? And, then we have all of our motions to suppress, all of our civil matters.

Councilmember Raben: Well, I guess...

David Kiely: I mean, you know, the other thing...

Councilmember Raben: ...one of my concerns (Inaudible. Microphone not on.) is building out that space, the cost over time (Inaudible) carries. As long as you're here it works. But, the next guy (Inaudible). So, that's why (Inaudible) another Superior Court. Are there courtrooms busy five days a week?

David Kiely: Yeah.

Les Shively: I couldn't hear your question completely.

Councilmember Raben: Well, I guess, I was just asking, as far as court space, you know, in Superior Court, are all of (Inaudible. Microphone not on.)

Les Shively: For the most part, yes. In fact, Laurel will tell you this, we have to plan in advance when we have our trials and our hearings because there are not enough courtrooms for all of the judges. So, we are constantly moving. We don't have a judge that has a courtroom assigned to them. We use what we have.

Councilmember Raben: Well, (Inaudible. Microphone not on.) the fear is always (Inaudible) figure out ways to live within your means. And, you know, we don't get bigger, we just get faster.

Les Shively: Well, it just sounds like I'm, surely in Superior Court, but I can tell you one thing right now, my other six colleagues work their tails off, and you don't see an empty parking lot on Friday afternoon, you see those courts operating. I don't want to cast any dispersions on those in the past, but when I was a young practitioner, I didn't see as much energy around the courthouse as in the judges I see now. I'm not just talking about myself, I'm talking about my colleagues. We're very, and we have always new types of courts. We have, how many problem-solving courts do we have?

David Kiely: I mean, we have four, five problem-solving courts, which are your Treatment Courts.

Councilmember Raben: I appreciate all that. I mean, I do.

Les Shively: And, you've got to understand, those are courts that require the Judge to go over and above their normal docket and do extra duties. So, we've got a pretty industrious group.

President Shetler: John?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Judges, you know, when we're busy over here with these courts here, and then we do the new build, and we're, we've got courts going on over there at the same time, do you see any need for additional staffing down the road for you guys? Because you're going to be, how many more courts are we going to have over here?

David Kiely: Well, basically, the first plan is one new court.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah.

David Kiely: That's all.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Well, whether it's one, two, or three, don't you see additional staffing needs later on down the road?

David Kiely: No.

Councilmember Montrastelle: No?

David Kiely: That figure that we gave you is our hard cost that we think are the additional costs. Not in Circuit. I'm going to be able to run it two trials at a time, with my staff now. Now, they're going to be pushed.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah.

David Kiely: And, they're going to have to work hard. We're all going to work harder. I mean, you know, I'm not here asking for this extra (Inaudible. Talking over each other.)

Councilmember Montrastelle: I'm just trying to (Inaudible. Talking over each other.)

David Kiely: (Inaudible. Talking over each other.) for this extra space (Inaudible) comfortable (Inaudible. Talking over each other.)

Councilmember Montrastelle: ...I'm just looking at surprises down the road that might come up.

David Kiely: It's not. It's going to increase our caseload. But, it's what we should be doing. It needs to be done.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah. I'm not disagreeing. I'm just, you know, the thing, oh yeah, you know what, we could use an extra Assistant to do this or that, and, you know, before you know it, you're in front of us asking for...

Les Shively: (Inaudible. Talking over each other.) in our monthly Judges meeting, we were talking about this plan, and that subject came up, and none of the Judges assembled thought they would need any more personnel.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Okay.

President Shetler: Okay, I'm going to take a couple more questions...

Councilmember Montrastelle: Thank you.

President Shetler: ... or points, and then we'll try to wrap it up and I'll kind of make a suggestion here of how we might handle it, going down the road. Mike?

Councilmember Goebel: Judge Kiely, in the past you've been able to get, through the State, funding for additional Magistrates. Is that part of this plan as well?

David Kiely: Yes, with the additional two Magistrates, now I can try two at a time.

Councilmember Goebel: Thank you.

President Shetler: Okay, Joe?

Councilmember Kiefer: I just want to make a quick comment. I support this. I appreciate, I think we've got such a good Council, I can't even express how much I appreciate how well we try to watch the cost. And, I know you guys are trying to watch costs too. I do appreciate this, and I do support it, and I appreciate Dave Rector keeping the costs down as well, you know, as far as the Rent rate. That's important to us. Here's my one last parting comment, and I've talked to Judge Shively about this in the past, I absolutely love that Old Courthouse, I just wish we could do, even if it was some kind of thing just, some kind of courts over there now and again, just to say we do it, you know, a couple of times a year or something. One that wouldn't require security obviously, but I just would love to see something happen at the Old Courthouse occasionally, just for the fact that, you know, there's such a strong passion for the old building, and Judge Shively knows what I'm talking about.

Dave Wedding: I just want to add too, on behalf of the courts, I just checked with our Court Division, and today they're hearing 57 matters of incarcerated individuals. And they said the average is anywhere between 60 and 85. So, we process a lot every single day, and as the Judge stated earlier if you throw in a couple of jury trials, they're pretty busy every day. So, this does not include the people they have to have for people in Posey, Warrick, Pike, and the other counties outside of Vanderburgh. So, I 100% support them. They are busy, and if we can move the process along, it would be money well worth it, if we could do it.

President Shetler: Okay, thank you. Stephanie, do you have any questions or points?

Councilmember Terry: Sure, I don't have any other questions that haven't already been asked, but I do want to (Inaudible). This project (Inaudible) support us moving forward.

President Shetler: Okay, thank you. I don't think Angela is on. Okay. Here's what I'd suggest that we do. Is that, David, if you could put a more formal proposal together, a request for the appropriation, I guess, to at least head down the path of the appropriation. Because that wouldn't be final until we get whatever you need for some kind of preliminary.

Dave Rector: I would suggest that Joe Harrison work with Jeff on an MOU.

President Shetler: Okay. And, then we could do that either at the next meeting, which is, I think, December 2nd. Or we could wait till the first of January. Which, I don't know how much time you need to get that done.

Dave Rector: Let me talk with them.

President Shetler: Okay.

Dave Rector: I would think we've done enough MOU's, we could probably...

President Shetler: Right.

Dave Rector: ...have one ready.

President Shetler: And, then, I would like to have some kind of a framework there that we could have in our hands, so that we know what, you know, if there's any further questions or details that we need to know on that so that we could, you know, vote on it intelligently.

Dave Rector: Okay, I'll do that.

President Shetler: Alright. Anybody have any objections to that?

Councilmember Montrastelle: I think it's great. And, one other thing, Tom, we might have talked about this. It was how to pay for it, you know, the Public Safety money, whether or not that can be used to pay this bond if we vote in favor of this. I don't think we know that for sure. I think we should investigate that. Maybe Jeff could look into that, whether or not that is a revenue stream we can use.

Dave Rector: And, I asked, I guess, on the MOU, do you want that drafted in the phases, so that you all can decide.

President Shetler: Yes.

Dave Rector: Okay.

President Shetler: Okay, anything else. Yes, Mike?

Councilmember Raben: John, answer, oh, go ahead.

Councilmember Goebel: Just a comment that this vacant area has been here since, what 2004-2005? And, we're finally making a move to utilize this building to its capacity, I think. It's a good move.

President Shetler: Who said government moves slow?

Councilmember Raben: And, John, I'll answer your question, real quick.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yes.

Councilmember Raben: We can use that fund. If we can't use it directly to pay debt service here, you can shift other accounts, out of the Sheriff's Office, as an example, and Jail. So, one way or the other, indirectly or directly, we can use that fund.

Dave Rector: I think Judge Kiely believes that's the case, that there is a line in there that it could be used directly.

David Kiely: I think there's an argument to be made that it could be used directly, but it's tied with the Sheriff.

Jeff Ahlers: Yeah, when I looked at it, it is kind of vague, but what you can do, as Mr. Raben said, it does say (Inaudible) for Probation. So, you could use the funds to pay the Probation, and take the money that you're currently using out of a different fund to pay the Probation Officers, use that, but you would have to move them around, but using it directly for this, I think, is a little vague. So, there's probably a better way to do it, just to make sure, but you get to the same place.

Councilmember Raben: We'll work through making the sausage.

President Shetler: Yeah, and the bottom line is, we're looking at a net calc of a hundred and thirty, well, about \$10,000 a month. Savings could perhaps be had, that we're currently taking out of that fund. So, it could end up being, you know, a net savings there. So, anyway, we've got a game plan.

Dave Rector: Okay.

President Shetler: So, come back on December 2nd, hopefully, and get us the framework (Inaudible).

Dave Rector: Okay, thank you all.

President Shetler: Thank you.

PERSONNEL REQUESTS

President Shetler: Alright, next is personnel requests.

Superior Court: Request to Fill Vacancy for Bailiff & Child Placement Officer:

President Shetler: Superior Court, and I see Laura is on. I assume Laura is going to take on.

Laura Tomes: Yes, can you hear me?

President Shetler: We can.

Laura Tomes: Laura Tomes, Superior Court. The first vacancy we're asking for is the Bailiff vacancy. This is a vacancy that came about due to a series of promotions through the court. So, we are wanting, Judge Lloyd is wanting to fill this position. It's available on November 27th.

Councilmember Montrastelle: I motion to approve.

Councilmember Raben: I'll make a motion. Do you want to include both of them?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Well, yeah, I was. The Bailiff, I mean, that's a position that resulted in somebody being promoted, and the second one, there was a retirement there, so, yeah, I make a motion to approve both the Bailiff and the Child Placement Officer.

President Shetler: Okay, we have a motion and a second. Does anybody have any questions about it? Stephanie?

Councilmember Terry: No questions.

President Shetler: Okay. All in favor signify by saying aye.

All Councilmembers: Aye.

President Shetler: Anyone opposed?

(None opposed)

President Shetler: The motion carries.

(Motion approved 6-0)

Laura Tomes: Thank you.

President Shetler: Just a little delay there, Stephanie, sorry.

Work Release-User Fees: Request to Move Business Director Position to Superior Court:

President Shetler: Okay, next is Work Release. Does anybody...

Councilmember Raben: This one here, it looks like the request is, it has been funded out of User Fees, they're now wanting to shift this cost into the General Fund. Is that the way I understand this? So, does this fall under the Judge, the judges, or? The Work Release piece, is that Dave is that you, or is that the courts? I guess this would be, so we've got a request for Business Director at the Work Release that was funded out of a grant, that they're wanting to shift in, well, out of User Fees. They want to move it into General Fund. Oh, so, that's –

President Shetler: Superior Court.

Councilmember Raben: ... a Superior Court line.

Teri Lukeman: This request was...

Dave Wedding: Yeah, because I'm not familiar with that.

Teri Lukeman: The request was submitted from Judge Trockman's Office.

Laura Tomes: I believe Judge Trockman was wanting his Business Director position moved from the User Fees to the Superior Court General Fund budget.

Councilmember Raben: But, is he eliminating, I mean, is this, is he creating a new line item within the General Fund? Or is this replacing a line item or an employee that's in the, that we're currently budgeting for?

Laura Tomes: It would be creating a new line item within the General Fund.

Councilmember Kiefer: So, it seems to me that then we're short, one of these accounts is short. I mean why is the IDOT Grant or the User Fee Account Fund not producing enough money to pay for this? And, so, you know, again, maybe this needs, you know, maybe there is some LIT money that can be used on this, but I just don't understand why are we short funds in the IDOT Grant or the User Fee Account. We're short of some money somewhere. That's why we can't pay, that's why he's got to get money out of General Fund, correct?

Laura Tomes: That I don't have an answer to, because I don't handle this User Fee Account. I would think that would probably be a question for either Judge Kiely or Judge Trockman or Jodi Uebelhack, but none of them are on. So, I just thought I would jump in and try to (Inaudible).

Councilmember Goebel: I move we table until we get more information on it. Because the position is not going to go away. If it's funded in the current set up.

Councilmember Raben: I'll second your motion.

President Shetler: Yeah, this is, I don't believe it's a situation where it's like dire that it's going, you know, in the red, but it's an account that's been diminishing over time because they're not getting those fees in as they were at one time.

Councilmember Goebel: Correct. The position is not going to go away, it's a matter of how we're going to fund it in the future. So, let's wait.

President Shetler: Okay, so we've got a motion and a second to table it. So, we'll just table that.

Sheriff: Request to Fill Vacancy for Deputy Sheriff:

President Shetler: Next is a Sheriff's request to fill a vacancy for a Deputy Sheriff.

Councilmember Raben: I'll move approval.

President Shetler: We've got a motion.

Councilmember Goebel: Second.

President Shetler: And a second. Do I have any questions? Any comments? If not, all in favor signify by saying aye.

All Councilmembers: Aye.

President Shetler: Is there anyone opposed?

(None opposed)

President Shetler: Okay, the motion carries.

(Motion approved 6-0)

President Shetler: Thanks.

Requests to Fill Vacancies: Prosecutor, APC, DADS, Public Defender & Victim VOCA Justice for Families:

President Shetler: I know Nick's on the line. He's been waiting there for a little bit.

Councilmember Raben: Mr. President, I might move, I want to make sure, I'll ask Teri possibly, none of these other requests are like this? I mean, they're all General Fund requests currently, and they're all just vacancies, correct?

Teri Lukeman: Items D, E, F & G are all in the General Fund. Now, item H is the Victim VOCA Justice for Families, that's outside of the General Fund. But, D through G are requests to fill vacancies within the General Fund.

Councilmember Raben: Okay. My point is, we're not running risks of creating any more new line items within the General Fund?

Teri Lukeman: No. These are existing lines.

Councilmember Raben: With that, Mr. President, I'll just move that salary requests, or all vacancy requests be approved.

Councilmember Goebel: Second.

President Shetler: Okay, we have a motion and a second. Do I have any questions about that motion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

All Councilmembers: Aye.

President Shetler: Is there anyone opposed?

(None opposed)

President Shetler: The motion carries.

(Motion approved 6-0)

President Shetler: Thank you, Stephanie.

Councilmember Montrastelle: I do have a, is Mr. Wells on the line with us?

William Wells: (Inaudible), can you hear me?

Councilmember Montrastelle: I can. I have just a quick question about the DADS, the Drug and Alcohol Deferral Service. That particular person, how many people does that person work with regularly? I'm just curious. How many are they trying to help?

William Wells: (Inaudible).

Councilmember Montrastelle: Did you understand what he said? What did he say?

President Shetler: I don't think I could spell it.

Councilmember Montrastelle: 150-200 at a time?

William Wells: Over the course of a year, and that includes (Inaudible) 75-100.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Okay, the person that you have, do you have somebody in mind to fill that vacancy?

William Wells: I do not at this time. I posted the position about a week ago on Indeed. I have 40 applications that are there right now. So, I'm getting approval to hire, I'll go (Inaudible).

Councilmember Montrastelle: Wow, I mean, 40 applications, that's really good. What kind of background do you look for someone in that? Do they have a degree in a specialty or what?

William Wells: A four-year degree is required by the State (Inaudible). What I look for particularly (Inaudible) somebody with education (Inaudible) working with addiction. I've got a lot of applications for general Social Workers, however, they don't have the background (Inaudible).

Councilmember Montrastelle: Okay. Alright, thank you, Mr. Wells, appreciate your answering my questions.

William Wells: Thank you.

President Shetler: Okay, we had a motion that passed.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

ELECTION OFFICE APPROPRIATION & CLERK'S OFFICE REPEAL

President Shetler: Next would be the appropriation ordinance, Election Office.

Councilmember Raben: Okay, Election Office, we have a request, this is for the past election, Library Poll Worker, and Election Clerk. And, the explanation with that was is that the demand was high. But, the rationale does say that there's a repeal, and that's not on our agenda. In fact...

President Shetler: Uh, the next one. Cashier to Juvenile. Cashier and Juvenile Clerk.

Councilmember Raben: Oh, yeah, it is. Okay, alright. I was looking at the next one as an appropriation.

President Shetler: Yeah.

Councilmember Raben: So, okay. Alright, so I'll move approval. In fact, I'll move approval of the Clerk Repeal in the amount of \$30,000.

Councilmember Kiefer: I would like to make a comment if I could.

President Shetler: Hold on. Do we have a second to that motion, I guess, real quick?

Councilmember Terry: Second.

President Shetler: Alright.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay, thank you, sir, Mr. President. You know, on Election Day, yes, James, you know, I sit outside, I sit in the Washington Square Mall in that office building behind Sears, the old Sears, and I could see the lines at the library lined up, you know, during early voting, but I also noticed during Election Day, working the polling place, running for office, that, you know, by 4:30-5:00 you could shoot a canon through the Washington Square Mall. I mean, normally the Washington Square Mall is jam-packed, you know, all the way up until, you know, closing time, and this time there was nobody there. So, it could be, and there were several polling places I visited the day where there were no lines, no activity. So, maybe the Election Office ought to re-evaluate how many polling places we have on Election Day, or how we do things on Election Day, because while we had a record turn out, so many people voted early that a lot of these polling places on Election Day were pretty darn quiet, and, you know it might have been busy early in the morning, but I know Washington Square Mall, which is typically the busiest one, had nobody coming in after 5:00. Nobody, so we may want to re-evaluate that. That's all I'm saying for future elections.

President Shetler: Mike?

Councilmember Goebel: Well, I think the advent of early voting really kicked into gear this year and took away a lot of people on the day of. So, I think you've got to factor in a lot of things. I know, both parties got together before '16 and devised the plan to have these polling places resituated. And, I think that worked out really well. I think we were under 2016 locally, as far as total votes, but I think that's something that they, another group might look into, without a doubt, because you're right, there were some dead, there was dead time at a lot of places. I want to congratulate all of those poll workers though because they did a phenomenal job, early voting and during Election Day itself. I think, maybe if we get a chance to talk to the Election Office, they might have a little more information. I believe what the news came out with on the day of, and things like that, a lot of people didn't realize that a good portion of the votes had not yet been counted, and maybe a little update on how many votes still had to be counted would be nice, for candidates and the general public. Because people seem like they were out of the know on that. I just think they do an excellent job though of doing their jobs, doing them securely, and finishing the democratic duty of every local citizen, as far as their opportunity to vote. But, I don't know if we need to change the sites or not, because some of them this time were more crowded than they have been in the past. I don't know how you can gauge the way people are going to move. Thank you.

President Shetler: Jeff?

Jeff Ahlers: Yeah, I was just talking to (Inaudible). One polling place I was thinking that and I don't know (Inaudible), but Washington Square Mall, just like two blocks down is Caze Elementary. I thought that was kind of odd that there's two polling places within like, a couple of blocks, but I don't know what the numbers were at Caze, and if that one's really necessary (Inaudible).

Councilmember Goebel: Caze was very crowded.

Jeff Ahlers: Oh, was it?

Councilmember Goebel: When Washington Square was not. Go figure.

Councilmember Raben: Okay.

President Shetler: Okay, so we have a motion and a second to approve both the appropriation and the repeal. Do I have any questions on that? If not, all in favor signify by saying aye.

All Councilmembers: Aye.

President Shetler: Is there anyone opposed?

(None opposed)

President Shetler: Hearing none. The motion carries.

ELECTION OFFICE		REQUESTED	APPROVED
10001210-121119	LIBRARY POLL WORKER	23,000	23,000
10001210-121118	ELECTION CLERK	7,000	7,000
TOTAL		30,000	30,000

TOTAL GENERAL FUND REQUESTS:

30,000	30,000
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GENERAL FUND REPEAL REQUEST

COUNTY CLERK		REQUESTED	APPROVED
10001010-101153	CASHIER - CHILD SUPPORT	20,000	20,000
10001010-101118	JUVENILE CLERK	10,000	10,000
TOTAL		30,000	30,000

(Motion approved 6-0)

TRANSFERS

President Shetler: Transfers?

Councilmember Raben: Okay, give me one second. I'm going to make a motion to approve all transfers as listed, but I want to verify one thing. Yeah, I'll make a motion to approve all transfers as submitted.

President Shetler: I have a motion to approve all transfers. Unless you want to go through them individually, I need a second.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Second.

President Shetler: Thank you. Any questions about the motion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

All Councilmembers: Aye.

President Shetler: Anyone opposed?

(None opposed)

President Shetler: The motion carries.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

PROSECUTOR		REQUESTED	APPROVED
From:			
10001080-108103	DEPUTY PROSECUTOR	4,521	4,521

To:			
10001080-108111	DEPUTY PROSECUTOR	4,521	4,521

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**REQUESTED APPROVED**

From:			
10001230-260000	SUPPLIES	285	285
To:			
10001230-331000	TRAINING & EDUCATION	285	285

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**REQUESTED APPROVED**

From:			
10001300-300000	INSURANCE	15,000	15,000
To:			
10001300-314000	COMMUNICATIONS	15,000	15,000

SUPERIOR COURT**REQUESTED APPROVED**

From:			
10001370-137154	RIDING BAILIFF	7,000	7,000
10001370-363000	EQUIPMENT LEASE/RENTAL	2,000	2,000
10001370-331000	TRAINING & EDUCATION	3,381	3,381
10001370-393100	YOUTH SERVICES	2,000	2,000
To:			
10001370-137135	COURT REPORTER	7,000	7,000
10001370-422000	OFFICE MACHINES	5,381	5,381
10001370-260000	SUPPLIES	2,000	2,000

SUPERIOR COURT**REQUESTED APPROVED**

From:			
10001370-390200	GRAND JURORS	2,379	2,379
To:			
10001370-422000	OFFICE MACHINES	2,379	2,379

CCD - BURDETTE PARK**REQUESTED APPROVED**

From:			
11381450-413000	PARK MAINTENANCE & IMPROVE	21,487	21,487
To:			
11381450-423000	MOTOR VEHICLES	21,487	21,487

LOCAL ROADS & STREETS**REQUESTED APPROVED**

From:			
11690000-353000	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	5,000	5,000

To:			
11690000-361000	LEGAL SERVICES	5,000	5,000

HIGHWAY		REQUESTED	APPROVED
From:			
11760000-200000	MATERIALS	13,000	13,000
To:			
11760000-223000	GARAGE & MOTOR	12,000	12,000
11760000-319000	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	1,000	1,000

RIVERBOAT - COMMISSIONERS		REQUESTED	APPROVED
From:			
11911300-311200	INFRASTRUCTURE	40,000	40,000
To:			
11911300-361000	LEGAL SERVICES	40,000	40,000

(Motion approved 6-0)

President Shetler: Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS

President Shetler: Next is new business, which we haven't any.

AMENDMENTS TO SALARY ORDINANCE

President Shetler: Amendments to the salary ordinance. You're getting those now.

Councilmember Raben: Alright, I am going to, everyone's been given a document that includes all the amendments to the salary ordinance. I'm going to ask that this document be entered into the minutes and make a motion to approve.

President Shetler: Okay, we have a motion.

Councilmember Montrastelle: I second that.

President Shetler: And a second. Do I have any questions?

Councilmember Montrastelle: I do have a question, really on the Confinement Officers.

President Shetler: Okay.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Just wondering, do we still have a lot of vacancies on Confinement Officers? We do? How many, Dave? Half a dozen?

Dave Wedding: A lot.

Councilmember Montrastelle: A lot.

Dave Wedding: About 15-20.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah. Okay. Okay, thank you.

President Shetler: Sheriff, it seems as if when you do have vacancies they're usually about 20'ish. I assume, like how many applicants or qualified applicants do you get?

Dave Wedding: Well, for the record, by December we will have hired 42 Confinement Officers in 2020.

President Shetler: Okay.

Dave Wedding: We have probably interviewed in excess of 100 plus, and many of them don't meet the basic criteria after an interview. Then after they go through their backgrounds, psychological testing and we weed some out that way as well. A jail is just not a very attractive place for people to come work. And, also because Evansville and Vanderburgh County, our jail is five times the size of any surrounding jails. Sometimes people leave our jail to work in a smaller jail, which is almost the same pay, less stressful. But, we're trying, we're working every avenue out there to keep recruiting new applicants. We're interviewing some today, as a matter of fact. But, I think in the last four or five years I've hired in excess of 150 Confinement Officers.

President Shetler: So, refresh my memory. How many Confinement Officers, about 110'ish?

Dave Wedding: If we're at full complement with the Supervisors, we would probably about 110.

President Shetler: So, basically, you're dealing with almost a 40%--

Dave Wedding: Yeah, we're down drastically.

President Shetler: ...turnover every year?

Dave Wedding: Yes.

President Shetler: Wow!

Councilmember Montrastelle: 40% turnover?

President Shetler: 40, you said 40 this year, right?

Dave Wedding: Well, now remember, we had some vacancies, and then we were approved 11 new hires back several years ago by the Council.

President Shetler: Maybe it's 30%.

Dave Wedding: So, we already counted the 11 as being trouble...

President Shetler: Right.

Dave Wedding: ...but we're still short, that's quite concerning. You can't adequately staff our shifts.

Councilmember Montrastelle: If there's, the turnover is that bad, because once someone is approved to be hired, you've got to put them through all kinds of training to bring them up to speed to be able to work in the jail, and there's a cost associated to that. And, then if one of every three leaves after the first, you know, within the first year...

Councilmember Kiefer: It's expensive.

Councilmember Montrastelle: It's expensive, and I just wonder if I'm not, I'm certainly not wanting to spend more money, but should we compensate, should we give them a reason to stay, even though the job is tough, and not real pleasant? To those that do stay, and try to reduce that turnover by compensating them in some way.

Dave Wedding: Well, and we have. We're working, Councilman Raben and I are working right now with the Teamsters on a new contract for the Confinement Officers, which would include some incentives and pay raises, but the Sheriff's Office has created multiple

avenues for them to advance; Training Officers, Sergeants in the Jail, Staff Sergeants that we're looking to make Commanders with our existing Confinement Officers and take the merit Deputies out of that position, so they have a better career path.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Right.

Dave Wedding: Right now, what we're finding is it's just tough to track suitable candidates for the job. And, it's not just here in Evansville-Vanderburgh County. My fellow Sheriff's across the state, they all tell me they can't staff their jails. We do have, for a community our size, we have a fairly large jail. The way its designed, probably isn't the best for a person working in a jail, because it's a direct supervision model, and a lot of people don't like being in and amongst the inmates. So, in the future, we would try to design something a little different.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah.

President Shetler: Okay. Alright, well, thank you, Sheriff. We need to vote on that yet, okay. So, we have a motion and a second on the salary ordinance, all in favor signify by saying aye.

All Councilmembers: Aye.

President Shetler: Anyone opposed?

(None opposed)

President Shetler: Hearing none. The motion carries.

(Motion approved 6-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Shetler: Next is public comments. Anybody on the line? We don't have (Inaudible). Yes, James, and then Joe.

Councilmember Raben: Well, I would like to congratulate the two that are here today (Inaudible), congratulations.

Councilmember Kiefer: Thank you.

Councilmember Raben: It is kind of sad to lose a team member here, we've worked together for the last (Inaudible) years (Inaudible)...

Councilmember Terry: I can't hear, Jim.

Councilmember Raben: Pardon me?

Brian Gerth: You're mic's not on.

Councilmember Raben: Oh, but, again, it's sad losing Angela, that's very unfortunate, at the same time, I guess, we need to welcome our new member, and that will be after the first of the year. But, again, congratulations on Joe and Mike.

President Shetler: Yes, I think Joe and then Mike.

Councilmember Kiefer: I was just going to say the same thing. So, I ditto what Councilman Raben just said. You know, I think, you know, anybody that runs for public office, I thank them for putting their name out there. I know there is always, unfortunately, has to be somebody, you know, that doesn't win. I don't want to use the word loser, because nobody's a loser, but just not everybody wins the seat. But, you know, working out there at the polling places, you get to know some of the candidates, and we were lucky, we had a lot of good candidates running for office. Not only for Council but for some

of these other seats. So, you know, I welcome Jill, and, obviously, we'll miss Angela, but I think we're going to have a good group next year.

Councilmember Goebel: I concur.

President Shetler: Mike?

Councilmember Goebel: I just want to say what a great field it was, particularly at County Council. This particular election, any of those candidates, any of the candidates could have represented this county very well. I feel blessed and fortunate. I know Joe does as well. We're going to miss Angela and welcome Jill. So, thank you.

President Shetler: And, just to reiterate, I think running for public office is one of the most humbling experiences anybody can go through. So, it is, it's a challenge and it's difficult, but yet, at the same time, it's rewarding to be able to serve the public.

REMINDER UPCOMING MEETING DATES/TIMES
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President Shetler: Last is a reminder that December 2nd is our next meeting, and that will be at 3:30. So, we're back to...

Councilmember Montrastelle: Football is over with.

President Shetler: ...I don't if it's an ordinary schedule or unordinary schedule.

Councilmember Goebel: I hope it goes to that week.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Well, what is that? Is that Championship week, if you get there?

Councilmember Goebel: No, that's Thanksgiving weekend for whomever gets there. We're not looking anywhere near that far yet.

President Shetler: So, and the other is the Personnel & Finance meeting, December 16th. So, the other thing we can be proud of is that we do have two undefeated college teams in the State right now. So, that's Indiana, the Hoosiers, and Notre Dame.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Notre Dame.

Councilmember Goebel: Wow, wasn't that something, both of them.

Councilmember Kiefer: When was the last time Indiana was in the top 10? Somebody told me it's been more than 50 years.

President Shetler: Oh, I'm sure. It was probably back in the '40s.

Councilmember Kiefer: No, 1968, maybe, or-

President Shetler: Really? Undefeated?

Councilmember Kiefer: Didn't they go to, no, no, no, not undefeated, I said in the top 10.

President Shetler: Oh.

Councilmember Kiefer: I said in the top 10 rankings.

President Shetler: Oh, in the top 10.

Councilmember Goebel: '68 with Harry Gonzo and those guys, they made it.

Councilmember Kiefer: Yeah.

Councilmember Goebel: They were pretty good.

Jeff Ahlers: Who would have thought? We're a football State. Now we've got a basketball problem.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shetler: Okay, so motion for adjournment?

Councilmember Kiefer: So moved.

President Shetler: Okay, thank you, guys.

(There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was 9:28 a.m.)

SIGNATURES

VANDERBURGH COUNTY COUNCIL

President Tom Shetler, Jr.

Vice Pres. Angela Koehler Lindsey

James Raben

John Montrastelle

Mike Goebel

Joe Kiefer

Stephanie Terry