

The Adams County Council met January 12, 2021, 8:30 a.m., in the Adams County Service Complex. Those present were Council Members, Dennis Bluhm, Yvette Weiland, Cathy Mitchel, John Summers, Cory Sprunger, Keith Blythe, and Fred Velez; County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown; and County Auditor, Tony Mellencamp, and Deputy Auditor, Brianna Brodbeck. Commissioners, Stan Stoppenhagen, Steve Kuhn, and Rex Moore were in attendance as their meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

**IN RE: REORGANIZATION**

Auditor, Tony Mellencamp, opened the nominations for the 2021 appointment of Chairman of the Council because the previous Chairman of Council and Vice-Chairman are no longer on Council.

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by John Summers, to appoint Yvette Weiland for President of the Council for 2021. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Cathy Mitchel, seconded by Keith Blythe, to close the nominations for President of the Council. Motion carried.

Council President, Yvette Weiland, opened nominations for the 2021 appointment of Vice-President of the Council. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Cathy Mitchel, to nominate Cory Sprunger as Vice- President of the Council, seconded by Fred Velez. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Keith Blythe, to close the nominations for Vice-President of County Council, seconded by Cory Sprunger. Motion carried.

**IN RE: MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by Keith Blythe, the December 8, 2020 Adams County Council Minutes were approved. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by John Summers, approving the minutes for the special November 30, 2020 joint meeting with Adams County Council and Adams County Commissioners. Motion carried.

**IN RE: COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2021**

President, Yvette Weiland, opened the floor for Council Members to decide whether they wanted to remain on the same boards for 2021 which they were on in 2021.

<b>COUNCIL MEMBER</b>	<b>BOARD ASSIGNMENTS</b>
Dennis Bluhm	Health Board Economic Development Corporation Health Insurance Meetings
John Summers	Community Corrections Board
Cory Sprunger	Emergency Management Board County Job Classification Appeals Board
Yvette Weiland	County Job Classification Appeals Board
Cathy Mitchel	Bi-County
Fred Velez	Planning Commission Board
Keith Blythe	Solid Waste

**IN RE: COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021**

Appointer	Position	Term beginning	Term ending	Appointee
Council	County Council Attorney	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	Julie-Marie Brown
Council	a member of the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	Don Kuhn
Council	a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Board	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	Toby Sprunger
Council	Board of Zoning Appeals	1/1/2021	12/31/2024	Anna Steiner
Council	Parks & Recreation Board	1/1/2021	12/31/2024	Marc Ripley
Council	Parks & Recreation Board	11/10/2020	12/31/2022	Melissa Fey

Upon a motion by Dennis Bluhm, seconded by Fred Velez, to approve the above appointments to the Council Appointments for 2021. Motion carried.

**IN RE: PUBLIC SAFETY CONSULTING**

Barry Ritter, didn't show.

**IN RE: ADAMS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Colton Bickel, introduced himself to the board. Mr. Bickel gave an update on the EDC, along with the 2020 success sheet. In 2020 they went through getting a vision and mission statement as the EDC has never had one. They do have a new COVID part on their website.

Mr. Bickel discussed the new M.E.R.I.T Center. City of Decatur purchased the old elementary school in July 2019, which will help give them a place to use for the M.E.R.I.T Center. They will be able to train and help with job placements, along with community resources. Family counseling or day care are up for discussion also. If anyone needs office space or any gyms for recreational, wedding receptions, they may contact Mr. Bickel. They also housed the EMS over the summer 2020 months because of COVID-19.

John Summers, asked if the City of Decatur will maintain the building and EDC takes care of the tenants? 501C is being done that over sees the building.

EDC is also working on broadband countywide. Mr. Bickel is working with the Amish community as they continue to grow in our community, how do we engage with them more efficiently.

Mr. Bickel would be happy to meet with any elected official to go over what is happening in Adams County.

IN RE: BUDGET TASK FORCE

President, Yvette Weiland, asked Cory Sprunger to discuss having a task force for budgets. Mr. Sprunger explained that budgets are 3 days long and budgets need to be worked on before we get to that time. Council needs to know the difference between the funds. If they could create a task force to meet once a month, to go over budgets on how we are doing financially he believes that would be very helpful in this process. Cory stated he felt the individuals on the task force should be as follows; Council President, Commissioner President, Auditor Tony Mellencamp, Deputy Auditor Brianna Brodbeck, and himself. He feels that we need to hire someone like Baker Tilly to take a deeper look into the counties financials. Cory opened it up to the floor for any discussion on this matter.

Dennis Bluhm stated we are going in this thinking taxes are too high and that is not correct. We have enough money to run the county and the cost of doing business. How long can we run without any income and we are here to serve the public. Mr. Bluhm said he has never had anyone say that our taxes are too high. Do we really have an excess tax rate? Dennis doesn't believe we do. We did address this issue a couple years ago through Umbaugh (now Baker Tilly). We need to look how we manage our money instead of lowering tax rates.

Cory stated we need to dig in and see if the county has a problem. He feels there are some warning signs. Cory stated expenditures are up, wheel tax has brought in more revenues but expenditures are up. There was a short meeting with the DLGF rep, and it just may be shifting rates between the funds.

Yvette Weiland updated the Council to take a look at the 1782s. Deputy Auditor, Brianna Brodbeck, did email those out to Council on 12/9/2020. Auditor, Tony Mellencamp, stated our DLGF rep would be open to doing another teams meeting with a couple council members.

Council President, Yvette Weiland, stated we want expert help on where we should be paying bills.

Commissioner, Rex Moore, stated that Council members need to get into Gateway and see the numbers on there own. Mr. Moore compared the 2010 to the 2020 budget and has grown 32%, with the cash balance growing.

Councilman, John Summers, stated we need to start with our resources here before branching out.

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by Dennis Bluhm, to create the budget task force containing the members of; Cory Sprunger as chair, Council President, Commissioner President, 1 floating council member, Auditor Tony Mellencamp, Deputy Auditor Brianna Brodbeck. Motion carried.

IN RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Department Public Health Nurse, Holly Degitz, no show.

IN RE: AUDITOR

**Resolution 2021-2 Council Meeting Dates 2021**

Yvette Weiland, introduced Resolution 2021-2, a resolution of the Adams County Council for the designation of regular meetings of the Adams County Council, County of Adams, State of Indiana, for calendar year 2021.

Cory Sprunger stated that if the Council meetings are held in the evening the public can come. Commissioner, Stan Stoppenhagen, stated that they need to remember that during regular business hours you are more open to the employees. We just spent thousands of dollars in the Commissioners/Council room and making meetings more accessible by way of Web-ex. Treasurer, Ed Dyer, stated it could be more money spent by having to pay overtime to employees having to come to meetings after hours. Mr. Dyer also asked if they are doing this as a personal benefit to themselves. Councilman, Dennis Bluhm, stated he feels it is a plus to have the Commissioners in the room during their meetings. Berne Newspapers wanted Council to be aware there are meetings every night of the week and if they would change theirs to evenings there is a chance to not have meetings covered. Councilman, John Summers, stated he has been coming to meetings for almost a year now and hasn't seen anything controversial to bring the public in and usually they have no one in attendance of the public.

Upon a motion by John Summers, seconded by Dennis Bluhm, to approve Resolution 2021-2 for the 2021 meeting dates of the Adams County Council. Motion Carried.

IN RE: COUNCIL ATTORNEY

**COVID Clarification**

Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown, FFCRA that mandated the Covid-19 leave, ended 12/31/2020. It expired at the federal level, the new one passed does not have the FFCRA.

Keith Blythe stated to extend to 3/31/2021, and revisit it at that point.

**Resolution 2021-1**

Resolution 2021-1 was introduced, a resolution terminating compensation of employees pursuant to the United States Department of Labor Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), extended benefits through 3/31/2021.

Upon a motion by Keith Blythe, seconded by Fred Velez, to adopt Resolution 2021-1 extending benefits through 3/31/2021 and following the FFCRA guidelines. Motion carried.

**Prosecutor's Office**

Julie-Marie Brown, made Council aware that the Prosecutor's Office is all working from home today due to the office being 50 degrees.

IN RE: ADAMS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Barry Scherer, introduced himself to Council, because of the new members. Mr. Scherer updated the board that there has been a delay in the repayment of the loan. The sewer district will be paying interest up until the day it is repaid.

IN RE: AUDITOR**CARES Grant – Second Reimbursement**

Deputy Auditor, Brianna Brodbeck, updated Council on the Safety Awareness Coronavirus Relief Fund grant that the Mayor of Decatur had asked the County to help with. She submitted two requests to the IFA December 30, 2020. The first request was for \$9,791.00 and this was for billboards and pictures per the Decatur Chamber of Commerce. The second request was for \$56,154.03 and this was for the Adams County Health Department. After these two requests were submitted it leaves Adams County with a balance of \$49,671.97 to still use. Mrs. Brodbeck contacted the IFA and they are hoping to have approvals back on the two requests sometime next week.

IN RE: SALARY ORDINANCE

	<b>REQUESTED BI-WEEKLY</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>Jail</b>		
Jailer		
Emily Osheski (effective 12/12/2020)	\$1,355.00	\$1,355.00

Upon a motion by Dennis Bluhm, seconded by Cathy Mitchel, the above Salary Ordinances for 2020 were approved by Council. Motion carried.

<u>FUND #/DEPT.</u>	<u>REQUESTED BI- WEEKLY</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
<b>Assessor (0008)</b>		
Mary Beery (effective 1/1/2021)	\$1,939.56	\$1,939.56
Level II Certification	\$38.46	\$38.46
Level III Certification	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Commissioners (0068)</b>		
County Attorney - Mark Burry (effective 1/1/2021)	\$1,346.15	\$1,346.15
<b>Drainage Board (0063)</b>		
Drainage Board Attorney - Mark Burry (effective 1/1/2021)	\$384.62	\$384.62
<b>Council (0061)</b>		
Council Attorney - Julie-Marie Brown (effective 1/1/2021)	\$576.92	\$576.92
<b>Prosecuting Attorney (0009)</b>		
Prosecutor Investigator		
Cleveland Inge (effective 1/4/2021)	\$2,115.38	\$2,115.38
<b>Building Department (0312)</b>		
Sarah Anderson (effective 1/7/2021)	\$1,240.80	\$1,240.80
<b>Jail (0380)</b>		
Jailers (effective 1/1/2021)		
Emily Osheski	\$1,396.00	\$1,396.00
Aaron Stroncsek	\$1,461.20	\$1,461.20
Gabe Schwaller	\$1,405.00	\$1,405.00
Kyler Green	\$1,405.00	\$1,405.00
Parker Collingsworth	\$1,405.00	\$1,405.00
<b>Sheriff (1170)</b>		
Deputies (effective 1/1/2021)		
Bryce Kukelhan	\$1,832.76	\$1,832.76
Larry Butler	\$2,189.13	\$2,189.13
Matron (effective 1/1/2021)		
Cami Schultz	\$1,697.00	\$1,697.00

**E911 (1222)**

Dispatcher (effective 1/1/2021)

Ashley Rhodes	\$1,378.40	\$1,378.40
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**Golden Meadows (0622)**

C.N.A. Full Time (effective 1/1/2021)

Brandi Wells	\$12.55/hour	\$12.55/hour
Holly Jacobs	\$12.55/hour	\$12.55/hour

**Community Corrections (2540) (effective 1/1/2021)**

Executive Director

Ian Gilbert	\$794.08	\$794.08
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Assistant Director

Jeremy Wetter	\$518.85	\$518.85
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Administrative Assistant

Magen Wilson	\$459.81	\$459.81
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Field Officer

Aaron Thieme	\$377.88	\$377.88
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Education Coordinator

Aaron Scheumann	\$1,151.19	\$1,151.19
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Part Time Field Officers

	\$18.10/hour	\$18.10/hour
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**Health Dept. (1159) (effective 1/1/2021)**

Environmental Director

Jessica Bergdall	\$2,031.65	\$2,031.65
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Public Health Nurse

Holly Degitz	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
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Attorney

Adam Miller	\$519.23	\$519.23
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Upon a motion by John Summers, seconded by Keith Blythe, to approve the above Salary Ordinance as presented for 2021. Motion carried.

IN RE: OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY PERSENTED

Council President, Yvette Weiland, said that invoices should not be paid if there is not enough money in the budgeted line item per DLGF.

Council wants to do additional and transfers monthly for 2021.

Council President, Yvette Weiland, made comment that no council members are assigned to county departments for budgets. She feels that they need to be able to know what's going on with departments. She would like every council member to take three departments at a minimum. Deputy Auditor, Brianna Brodbeck, spoke that usually the auditor asks in April the salary increases from Council, and budget requests are usually sent out to departments in May with a letter from Council. Mrs. Brodbeck stated that having Council members speaking to different departments at different times is a way that departments could be getting different information since not all coming from the same people versus getting the information from a Council meeting or letter from Council.

Yvette Weiland would like to get ahead of employee salaries before May rolls around and we need numbers for 2022 budgets. Do we start comparing to other counties ourselves? Councilman, Cory Sprunger, stated his feelings are we wait as we have a lot of other things on the fire right now and we just updated salaries 2 years ago. We don't need new employee data. We are on track but doing it a different way. Council President, Yvette, stated the way it looks right now is no one will be getting a raise in the future. County Attorney, Mark Burry, stated that wage scale can get out of whack if you just do a percent each year. If you do a higher raise on lower tiers and lower raise on higher tiers, it can even itself out. Cory Sprunger said we can fix that by doing a dollar amount.

IN RE: SHERIFF

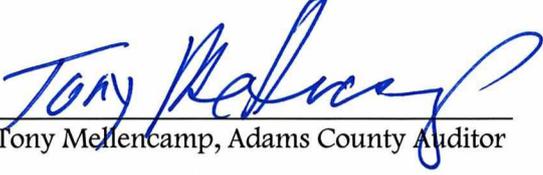
Sheriff, Dan Mawhorr, addressed Council on the overtime issues of his department. Currently they can get the first 6 hours over 80 at straight time, and the 87<sup>th</sup> hour is comp or overtime pay. Per the FSLA they should then have a cap of 480 hours' comp but they have been told to keep under the county policy of 80 hours comp. Mr. Mawhorr presented to Council that anything over 80 hours will now be overtime or comp time, and they will follow the cap of 80 comp hours per county policy. This is for all sheriff deputies, jailers, and dispatchers since they work 12-hour shifts.

Upon a motion by Fred Velez, seconded by John Summers, to approve the sheriff deputies, jailers, and dispatchers to earn comp or overtime after 80 hours with a cap of 80 hours of comp. Motion carried.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Per Roberts Rules of Order being no further business, meeting was adjourned by President Yvette Weiland.

ATTEST:

  
Tony Mellencamp, Adams County Auditor

  
Yvette Weiland, Council Chairman