

The Adams County Council met March 9, 2021, 8:30 a.m., in the Adams County Service Complex. Those present were Council Members, President Yvette Weiland, Cathy Mitchel, John Summers, Cory Sprunger, Keith Blythe, and Fred Velez; County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown; and County Auditor, Tony Mellencamp, Commissioners, Stan Stoppenhagen, Steve Kuhn, and Rex Moore were in attendance as their meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by John Summers, seconded by Fred Velez, the February 9, 2021 Adams County Council Minutes were approved. Motion carried.

IN RE: EMA

John August, Director of Adams County EMA, sought approval of two grants: an HMEP grant for hazardous materials emergency preparedness and the EMPG grant for emergency management salary reimbursement. Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger and second by Cathy Mitchel. Motion Carried.

IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Brad Yoder, Highway Department Superintendent came before Council seeking an additional appropriation in the amount of \$4,000 for wrecker repairs. It had been used more due to more accidents with the snow and ice this winter. Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Cathy Mitchel. Motion Carried.

Brad Yoder updated Council on the extension of Covid pay coverage and thanked them for extending the federal guidelines through March 31. There was some discussion as to whether or not to extend it further for the entire county. It was decided to let the extension end as originally planned on March 31, 2021.

PROBATION

Jack Odle, Probation Department Director, sought approval for a grant for AED's in Superior Court and Probation Department. He will apply with Adams Community Foundation for an amount of \$3,840.00 for an AED for Superior Court and one for Probation Department. Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Keith Blythe. Motion Carried.

IN RE: DRUG FREE ADAMS COUNTY

Kelly Sickafoose, Drug Court Coordinator, sought approval of the Drug Free Adams County Grant. Upon a motion by Cathy Mitchel and second by Fred Velez. Motion Carried.

IN RE: BZA COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

Mark Wynn, Building and Planning Director, explained the process of selecting an appointment to the Adams County BZA. This particular council appointment requires the appointee to reside in a certain area. Two names expressed interest in the appointment and submitted resumes. They were Patrick Laux and Trevor Gray. Upon a motion by Cathy Mitchel and second by Fred Velez to appoint Patrick Laux. Motion Carried.

IN RE: PUBLIC DEFENDER

Stipend

Public Defender Brad Weber – stipend pay board members. The Public Defender Commission audited and discovered a stipend could be given to board members per Indiana statute. The amount is \$150 per board member for a total of \$450. He sought a transfer of \$450 from the Appointed Pauper Council Fund into the Stipend Fund to cover this cost. Upon a motion by Keith Blythe and second by Fred Velez. Motion carried.

IN RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Jessica Bergdall, Health Department Director, sought an additional appropriation of \$45,000 into the 1168 Local Health Maintenance Fund, equipment line item, for a 2021 Ford-F150 truck to be used by the department. The department receives grant monies each year under that fund and unused monies go into a carryover fund available for Health Department use only, with the approval of the Indiana Department of Health. Prior approval is obtained from that agency before any of these monies can be spent. Upon a motion by John Summers and second by Fred Velez. Motion Carried

IN RE: PAYROLL DEPUTY-BENEFITS

Eran Hackman, Payroll/HR Deputy Auditor, addressed the council as regards the benefit package offered to county employees. She explained to council all of the fringe benefits available to county employees and the costs associated with those benefits.

IN RE: SALARY ORDINANCE

<u>FUND</u> <u>#/DEPT.</u>	<u>REQUESTED BI-</u> <u>WEEKLY</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Golden Meadows (0622)		
Office Manager (NE5)		
Vivyan Lloyd (retro to 2/8/2021)	\$1,388.80	\$1,388.80
Administrator		
Danielle York (retro to 2/10/2021)	\$2,230.77	\$2,230.77

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by Keith Blythe, the above Salary Ordinances were approved by Council. Motion carried.

IN RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

		<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
<u>Cumulative Jail (1142)</u>			
1142.37501.000.0000	Maintenance Property	\$73,949.00	\$73,949.00
<u>Health Maintenance (1168)</u>			
1168.42601.000.0000	Equipment	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
<u>Highway (1176)</u>			
1176.34300.000.0533	Wrecker	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Total All Funds		\$122,949.00	

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by Fred Velez, the above Salary Ordinances for 2021 were approved by Council. Motion carried

IN RE: TRANSFERS

<u>FUND #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Drug Free Adams				
1148.42601.000.0000	Equipment	\$3,570.00		\$3,570.00
1148.11605.000.0000	Admin. Asst.		\$1,080.00	\$1,080.00
1148.32501.000.0000	Bowen Center		\$490.00	\$490.00
1148.32604.000.0000	Sheriff's Dept		\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Supp. Public Defender				
1200.11811.000.0000	Stipend Fund	\$450.00		\$450.00
1200.13500.000.0000	Appointed Pauper Council		\$450.00	\$450.00

Upon a motion by Cathy Mitchel, seconded by Fred Velez, the transfer for Drug Free Adams County. Motion carried.
Upon a motion by Keith Blythe, second by Fred Velez, transfer for Public Defender from Appointed Pauper Council to Stipend fund. Motion Carried.

IN RE: OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY PRESENTED

Under other matters it was brought up by President Yvette Weiland that Council will be taking over its own agenda. The paperwork will still be submitted to the Auditor per the established deadlines but Council will determine what and who gets on the agenda.

Cory Sprunger provided an update to Council regarding the budget task force and what has taken place thus far. He noted that the next meeting will involve the DLGF representative. That next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24, at 9 a.m.

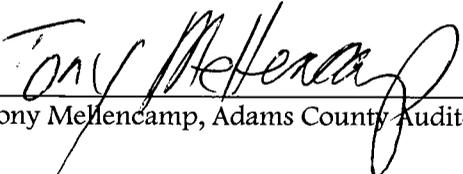
County Attorney, Mark Burry, introduced Council to Adam Bartrom of Barnes and Thornburgh, to inform council of pending and threatened litigation. This involves septic and privy issues in the county prompting Adams County to enforce the state statute regarding privy and septic systems. Several Amish families have filed a lawsuit in Federal court through attorneys in Ohio, claiming this statute violates their religious freedoms. They believe they are exempted from tying into the sewer system because of religious freedoms. Bartrom discussed three sets of documents he handed out to Council. In essence, all documents mentioned the exemption the Amish who filed claimed religious reasons. The documents also noted the answers to that by the attorneys representing Adams County. Bartrom noted that essentially the suit was filed against the State of Indiana for, they allege, violating religious freedoms with their state statute.

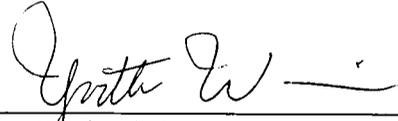
Discussion was held regarding invitation to council to join committees on time clock management and animal shelter. Depending on when meetings will take place Fred Velez would join the Animal Shelter Committee and Keith Blythe would join the time clock management committee.

IN RE: ADJOURN

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

ATTEST:


Tony Melencamp, Adams County Auditor


Yvette Weiland, Council Chairman