

The Adams County Council met August 9, 2022, 8:30 a.m., in the Adams County Service Complex. Those present were Council Members, Dennis Bluhm, Keith Blythe, Cathy Mitchel, Cory Sprunger, John Summers, Fred Velez, and Yvette Weiland; Adams County Auditor, Tony Mellencamp, County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown; Chief Deputy Auditor, Brianna Lee, and HR Coordinator Shannon Greene. Commissioners, Steve Kuhn, Rex Moore, and Stan Stoppenhagen, were also in attendance.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by Yvette Weiland and second by Fred Velez, the July 12, 2022 Adams County Council Minutes were approved. Motion carried.

IN RE: ARPA REQUESTS

Several ARPA requests were submitted to the Auditor and Council Attorney were brought up and discussed. Several months ago, Council had asked if requests could be sought and gone over with Council and Commissioners present to discuss them.

The requests included: Adams Public Library, seeking \$17,000 as supplemental compensation for 26 employees who worked during the pandemic. This would qualify under the "Premium Pay for Essential Workers" category.

Adams County Health Department, requesting \$16,328 as supplemental compensation, also under the "Premium Pay for Essential Workers" category.

PAWS of Adams County requested \$200,000 for a building project. As a tax exempt 501 (c) (3), this qualifies under "address negative Impacts" category.

The Adams County Recorder sought \$391,162.75 for equipment, software, and service/support of a new imaging and indexing system for the office of Recorder. This would qualify under the "revenue loss" category.

The Adams County Auditor requested \$35,450 which includes implementation and one year of the annual cost for a software and support for a system that will expedite and track state and federal grants, including ARPA allocations, as well as aid in preparation of SBOA audits annually. This is eligible under the "revenue loss" category.

Council on Aging sought \$200,000 for a building project and remodeling at their location in the Merit Center. They sought this from county ARPA revenues rather than the City of Decatur, due to the fact that the Council on Aging serves residents county wide. This would qualify under the "address negative economic impacts" category. The City of Decatur could perhaps be involved in helping out with this project since the Merit Center is in Decatur This was taken under advisement to see what the city might do as well as the county.

All requests were taken under advisement. The ARPA revenues must have a plan to be spent by the end of 2024 and must be spent by the end of 2026.

IN RE: BUDGETS

Auditor, Tony Mellencamp, informed Council per SEA 321-2016 repeals IC 6-1.1-17-3.5 and thus eliminates the current county Council review process. It adds IC 6-1.1-17-3.6 to establish a new process for county fiscal body reviews and non-binding recommendations.

The County fiscal body shall review at its first meeting in August the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each taxing unit. The County fiscal body will either prepare and distribute a written recommendation for the taxing units or the County Auditor will distribute the minutes of the meeting to all taxing units after the minutes are approved by the fiscal body.

Council reviewed the estimated levy limits and estimated circuit breaker impacts and made no recommendations or comments. The County Auditor will distribute the minutes of the meeting to all taxing units after approval of the fiscal body.

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Keith Blythe to approve the County Auditor sending the taxing units the requirements. Motion Carried.

IN RE: COUNCIL ATTORNEY

County Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown, introduced Ordinance 2022-7.

Upon a motion by John Summers and second by Fred Velez to approve Ordinance 2022-7, which commits Adams County to an additional eight years as a member of the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority, or in the alternate joining the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority. Motion Carried.

IN RE: AUDITOR

Auditor Mellencamp submitted the following transfers and salary ordinances:

IN RE: TRANSFERS

<u>FUND #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>	<u>APP.</u>
<b>Coroner</b>				
1000.21701.000.0007	body bags, etc	\$100.00		\$100.00
1000.31700.000.0007	travel	\$100.00	\$100.00	
<b>Probation</b>				
1000.31700.000.0273	travel	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00

1000.31700.000.0012	secretary		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Community Corrections</b>				
2540.21100.000.0000	office supplies	\$500.00		\$500.00
2540.22302.000.0000	wearing apparel	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
2540.2301.000.0000	vehicle maint., supplies	\$5,375.00		\$5,375.00
2540.31200.000.0000	training	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
2540.31800.000.0000	telephone	\$500.00	\$500.00	
2540.33102.000.0000	utilities	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
2540.34004.000.0000	court solutions	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
1123.50000.000.0000	community transitions		\$18,375.00	\$18,375.00

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and seconded by Yvette Weiland to approve, the transfers. Motion Carried.

2022 AMENDED SALARY ORDINANCE

**Probation DOC Grant (9104)**

Probation Officer	Requested	Approved
Sarah Derosett (effective 7-18-2022)	\$17.73	\$17.73

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Keith Blythe to approve the above salary ordinance. Motion Carried.

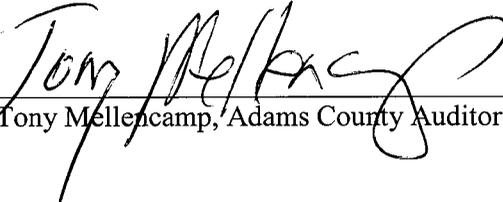
IN RE: OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY PRESENTED

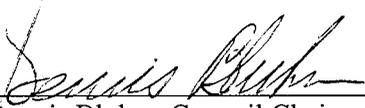
Darren Bates, DataPitstop, discussed the change necessary in property tax relief allocation due to a change at the DLGF. After discussion regarding the need to change the property tax relief due to the Qualified Residential Property no longer being available, it was decided to put a certain percentage in the top 2 categories, believing this would be closer to where these credits had been going. It was noted by Bates that out of 92 counties in Indiana, Adams is 36<sup>th</sup> lowest in income taxes paid by residents.

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Cory Sprunger to put 84% of property tax relief in Category 1% and 16% in Category 2%. Motion Carried. This will now allow the County Attorney to write an ordinance to this effect which will come before Council in September, and allow a 30 day notice to be given to other members of the tax council in the county to respond. The Tax Council is based upon population, with Adams County Council making up the majority at 55%, with the other cities and towns making up the other 45%. There was a deadline to get this approved by October.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Cathy Mitchel seconded by Fred Velez to adjourn. Motion carried.

  
 Tony Melencamp, Adams County Auditor

  
 Dennis Bluhm, Council Chairman