

The Adams County Council met August 8, 2023, 8:30 a.m., in the Adams County Service Complex. Those present were Council Members, Dennis Bluhm, John Summers, Cathy Mitchel, Bob Rhoades Cory Sprunger, Fred Velez, Rex Moore Adams County Auditor, Tony Mellencamp, County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown; County Attorney, Mark Burry, Attorney, Clayton Lengerich, Chief Deputy Auditor, Brianna Lee, and HR Coordinator Shannon Greene. Commissioners, Steve Bailey and Stan Stoppenhagen, and Steve Kuhn, were also in attendance.

IN RE:

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Cathy Mitchel and second by Rex Moore, the July 11, 2023 Adams County Council Minutes were approved. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger and second by Fred Velez to close the Adams County Council Meeting in order to hold a public hearing for the Adams County Income Tax Council. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Bob Rhoades to open the Adams County Tax Council Hearing. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger and second by Fred Velez to approve Ordinance 2023-13B, LIT rate changes to start January, 2024. Motion Carried. This will add to the Public Safety Lit (.04), create a PSAP .02), with .6% certified shares, .4% Economic Development, and property tax relief at .29%, and will change the percentages of the property tax relief allocation from 84% in the 1% allocation, and 16% in the 2% allocation, to 55% in the 1% allocation, 10% in the 2% allocation type, and 35% in the Residential Property allocation type.

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Bob Rhoades to close the hearing of the Adams County Tax Council. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Bob Rhoades to reconvene the regular meeting of the Adams County Council. Motion Carried.

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 estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each taxing unit. The 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 necessary information 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 Cory Sprunger and second by Bob Rhoades to approve the County Auditor sending the taxing units requirements. Motion Carried.

COUNCIL ATTORNEY

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by John Summers to approve Resolution 2023-18, an additional ARPA amount for the generator project. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Bob Rhoades to approve Resolution 2023-19, approval of Decatur Parks and Rec to construct pickleball courts at Riverside Center, from ARPA at an amount of \$80,698.00. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by Bob Rhoades and second by John Summers to approve Resolution 2023-20, an ARPA allocation to Oakwood Housing Addition to replace aging water main infrastructure at an amount of \$110,035.00. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by John Summers and second by Fred Velez to approve Resolution 2023-21 an interlocal agreement between Decatur and Adams County for up to \$200,000.00 of ARPA revenues for land acquisition, HVAC work in order to supply a location for construction of a garage to house Council on Aging vehicles. Motion Carried.

IN RE:

AUDITOR

Auditor Mellencamp submitted the following salary ordinances and additional appropriation:

Fund#/Dept.	Requested	Approved
Golden Meadows (0622)		
Resident Med. Coordinator (NE5) (retro 6-24-2023)	\$19.23	\$19.23
Transfer Fees (2502)		
Plat Book Tech. (bi-weekly)	\$461.54	\$461.54

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

Identification Protection (1160)

1160.34400.000.0000	Equipment Software	\$3,354.00	\$3,354.00
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Upon a motion by Bob Rhoades and second by Cathy Mitchel to approve the additional appropriation. Motion Carried.

ADAMS COUNTY COUNCIL
TRANSFER BY RESOLUTION

<u>FUND #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Circuit Court				
1000.11500.000.0232	Overtime	\$500.00		\$500.00
1000.11905.000.0232	Temp Asst Court Reporter		\$500.00	\$500.00
Golden Meadows				
1000.30100.000.0622	Contractual Services	\$51,193.28		\$51,193.28
1000.11406.000.0622	Administrator		\$28,485.08	\$28,485.08
1000.11605.000.0622	Admin. Asst.		\$22,708.20	\$22,708.20
Clerk IV-D				
8899.42601.000.0000	Equipment	\$1,236.29		\$1,236.29
8899.21100.000.0000	Office Supplies		\$1,236.29	\$1,236.29

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger and second by Fred Velez to approve the transfers. Motion Carried.

IN RE: OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY PRESENTED

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and second by Rex Moore to approve advertising budget hearings in Room 125 of the Service Complex on Monday, August 28, and Tuesday, August 29, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore and second by Cathy Mitchel to cap the cost of the attorney retained, John Becker, at \$2,750.00 for researching and advising Council regarding the Hospital Bond agreement with the Adams Memorial Hospital, to be paid from the attorney line in the Council budget. Motion Carried. Voting aye were Rex Moore, Cathy Mitchel, Bob Rhoades. Nay Votes were Fred Velez, John Summers, Cory Sprunger. Since it was a tie, the Council President broke the tie with an aye vote.

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger and second by Bob Rhoades to approve the school liaison position to be an NE 5 or non-categorized depending on whether the person has a medical degree or not, following a wage review. Motion Carried.

Upon a motion by Bob Rhoades and second by Cory Sprunger to approve an additional ARPA request of \$90,261.09 for the Web Ex project. Motion Carried.

A discussion was held between Commissioners and Council regarding the status of Golden Meadows. There have been several issues with retaining staff as well as the belief that residents are just not being provided the level of care necessary, even though the staff works very hard and is dedicated. The expertise needed at various levels is just not there. All members expressed the main concern is that residents are provided better places to reside to handle their care as well as staff being aided in seeking other employment should the facility lose in the future. It was noted that Adams Memorial Hospital has been aiding in this process at no cost to the county and it is appreciated by the governing bodies.

In discussing the additional appropriation, the August 8, 2023 additional, was just to appropriate revenues and not new revenues, Mellencamp noted he would add certain information on any additional in the future to show what the balance of that line was on January 1 of the previous year, January 1 of current year, and projected or estimated balance on January 1 of the next year. As of August, there have been no additional as the Auditor’s Office urges Departments to look for places to transfer revenues, rather than seek additional revenues.

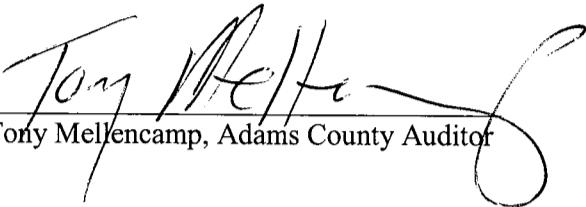
Auditor Mellencamp discussed the issue of plat book technician with Council. Surveyor Mike Werling had been the plat book technician for years, but when elected as Surveyor he could not do both due to “two lucrative positions” in state statute. It is a very technical skill set and there are very few people who can do it. Those who would have been qualified to do it had been asked about the job and none would accept it. This caused deed work to fall behind. Therefore, when State Board of Accounts recently audited Adams County, Mellencamp asked them for advice on how to proceed. They stated that other positions currently get paid above their elected salaries to do extra duties, so Werling could also do so. That means that Werling would get paid for doing plat book work as part of his Surveyor duties. His Surveyor job would be priority and the plat book work would take place whenever he could fit it into his schedule.

Passing the salary ordinance to reflect this solved the issue. It was also noted that this extra pay would not be automatic if another Surveyor were to be elected, unless they would also be qualified to do the work.

IN RE:

ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Fred Velez and seconded by John Summers to adjourn. Motion carried.


Tony Mellencamp, Adams County Auditor


Dennis Bluhm, Council Chairman

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