

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

November 13, 2023

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
Greg Patterson	District 1		Present
Leah Beyer	District 2		Present
Mark E. Gorbett	District 3	Vice President	Present
Jorge R. Morales	District 4	President	Present
Matt Miller	At Large		Absent
Bill Lentz	At Large		Absent
Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence	At Large		Present
Pia O'Connor	Auditor	Secretary	Present
Dalene Pattingill	Auditor	Chief Deputy	Present
Chris Monroe		Attorney	Present

The Bartholomew County Council met on November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Morales called the meeting to order.

Pastor Adam Rodriguez of St. Peter's Lutheran Church gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Morales.

The first item was the Approval of Meeting Minutes from the Council meeting held on October 10, 2023. President Morales called for a motion. **Greg Patterson moved to approve the**

minutes for October 10, 2023. Mark Gorbett Seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Abatement Request for George Utz, Inc. presented by Penny Grubs, Finance Manager and Mike Shidoh (President of Americas). Mrs. Grubs requested a ten-year tax abatement on both personal and real property. The total investment amount is \$26.6 million, \$15.1 million in real property and \$11.5 million in personal property. This will bring 32 new jobs to Bartholomew County by the end of 2025. Greg Patterson asked when the last expansion approval was given, to which Mrs. Grubs responded February of 2023. Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence asked if any new infrastructure would be needed for the addition. Mike Shidoh answered there would be some additional transformers installed and that would be included in the abatement. **Mark Gorbett motioned to approve the ten-year abatement for George Utz, Inc. Leah Beyer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an additional appropriation presented by Circuit Court Office Manager Tammy Johannesen via Zoom. Mrs. Johannesen stated that Family Recovery Court had received a grant in the amount of \$100,865 and would like the money available for immediate use in January of 2024 to cover an employee salary. President Morales called for a motion. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$100,865. Greg Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 for professional services presented by Superior Court I Judge Worton. Judge Worton stated that they have already overdrawn this line item in the amount of \$3,000 and still have pending claims. This money goes towards appeals, public defenders, interpreters, mental health evaluations, etc. and the \$30,000 will get them through the rest of 2023. President Morales asked if the 2024 budget will

cover future expenses. Judge Worton said it's impossible to tell but is hoping the budget will cover necessary costs. President Morales called for a motion. **Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$30,000. Greg Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$18,036.50 presented by Jail Matron Bobbie Shake via Zoom. Matron Shake stated that an undercover officer does work with the DEA and they receive reimbursement for his overtime hours. This money is normally deposited into County General but they want the monies appropriated into the Sheriff's Department's account to pay for overtime for road officers. President Morales called for a motion. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the allocation of \$18,036.50. Leah Beyer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Matron Shake continued with her second item which was an additional appropriation in the amount of \$35,000 for the jail utilities budget. She said this amount will get the jail through the remainder of 2023. Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence asked what the difference in cost is from this year compared to 2022. Matron Shake did not have those figures but stated Duke Energy bills have reached around \$17,000 per month. President Morales called for a motion. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$35,000. Greg Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for additional appropriation for the Justice Partner's Addiction/SIM Grant in the amount of \$60,000 presented by Superior Court I Judge Worton. The grant is broken down with \$50,000 for contractual services and \$10,000 for training. This is for the fiscal year of 2023-2024. A second additional appropriation was requested for the Veteran's Court Grant in the amount of \$86,532 broken down with \$81,532 for the Case Manager Salary and

benefits and \$10,000 for training for the calendar year of 2024. President Morales called for a motion to approve the Justice Partner's Addiction/SIM Grant. **Leah Beyer moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$60,000. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** President Morales then called for a motion to approve the Veteran's Court Grant. **Greg Patterson moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$86,532. Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an additional appropriation for the Prosecutor's Office in the amount of \$16,800 presented by Prosecutor Lindsey Holden-Kay. Mrs. Holden-Kay stated that the Council previously approved two new employees for 2024 and she was in the process of hiring a new Investigator and Deputy-Prosecutor. The additional appropriation will allow the new employees to start in December of 2023 instead of waiting until January in order to help relieve some of the work load. She also mentioned that the salary for the Investigator position was meant to match the salary of Sergeant and Lieutenant Pay which has gone up since budget hearings, and she planned to come back in December and ask for an additional \$10,000 to cover that salary range. President Morales called for a motion to approve the additional appropriation to cover the salaries for the new employees. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the additional appropriation for \$16,800. Greg Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The council gave a consensus for approval of the additional \$10,000 in the December 2023 meeting due to the request needing to be advertised.**

The next item was a transfer request in the amount of \$450,000 for the local roads and streets presented by Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. Mr. Hollander stated that they would like to purchase a new truck and VAC trailer due to the new fiber that is being installed in

Bartholomew County. President Morales called for a motion. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the transfer of \$450,000. Leah Beyer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The final item presented was the Approval of the 2024 Council Meetings. President Morales asked if there were any issues seen with the schedule. Leah Beyer mentioned the March 12, 2024 meeting is during Spring Break. President Morales asked if it could be moved to another week in March. Auditor Pia O'Connor suggested that the March 2024 meeting not be scheduled unless absolutely needed and if anyone should need to join via Zoom, to do so. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the schedule as submitted and adjust as needed in 2024. Leah Beyer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

President Morales mentioned that a special meeting will be held in the council chambers on November 30, 2023 at 3 p.m. and will be discussing the Northern Gate Project and the approval of \$2.7 million.

Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence commented that the Auditor's office was to be commended for reducing man-power and cross-training in their office, to which everyone agreed. Mark Gorbett continued by thanking Chief Deputy Pattingill for answering a call for him on Veteran's Day and for her hard work.

President Morales adjourned the meeting.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNIL

By: _____
Jorge Morales, President

By: _____
Mark Gorbett, Pro-Tem

By: _____
Greg Patterson, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Matt Miller, Member

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Member

By: _____
Leah Beyer, Member

ATTEST: _____
Pia O'Connor, Auditor
Bartholomew County