

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
January 24, 2023

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mr. Rivas called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Andy Bozak, Council Member Mike Brickner, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Greg Simms, and Council Member Red Stone. Also present was, Auditor Karen Martin, Auditor Chief Deputy Ryan Kubal, Council Attorney Harold Harper and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Mr. Rivas, All right, we have a quorum.

Minutes

Approval of minutes for January 3, 2023 Council Reorganization Meeting.

Mr. Rivas, Approval of the council minutes for January 3, 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Ms. Jessen, So moved.

Mr. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second to approve, discussion? All in favor, signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

First Reading

Mr. Rivas, First reading Madame Auditor. On the first reading.

Mr. Bozak, Just by title only please.

Auditor Chief Deputy Ryan Kubal, Oh got it...the whole thing?

Mr. Rivas, Yes

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Porter County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Porter County, Indiana will meet in the Porter County Government Administration Building located at 155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso Indiana 46383 on January 24th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to consider the following appropriation adjustments to the county budgets for the year 2023 and to transact any further business which might come before the Council:

General Fund			
Sheriff General Fund	1000-11100-000-0005	Salaries	\$ 3,187.00
Jail General Fund	1000-11100-000-0380	Salaries	<u>\$ 6,214.00</u>
			\$ 9,401.00
Accident Report Fund			
Accident Report Fund	1101-12400-000-0005	Per Diem	\$ 13,071.00

Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund

CCD Fund	1138-44200-000-0068	Motor Vehicles	\$	49,000.00
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Emergency Medical Services Fund

Emergency Med. Services	1151-36100-000-0068	Maintenance Agreements	\$	29,944.40
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Development & Storm Water Fund

Dev. & Storm Water Fund	1182-11100-000-0079	Salaries	\$	3,630.00
Dev. & Storm Water Fund	1159-12100-000-0079	FICA	\$	278.00
Dev. & Storm Water Fund	1159-12300-000-0079	PERF	\$	407.00
			\$	4,315.00

Assessor Reassessment Fund

Assessor Reassessment Fund	1188-39300-000-0013	Dues and Subscriptions	\$	5,952.00
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School Resource Officer Fund

School Resource Officer Fund	4923-12300-000-0005	PERF	\$	1,845.00
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Coroner Fatality Review Fund

Coroner Fatality Review Fund	4930-36300-000-0007	Equipment Other than Vehicles	\$	1,100.00
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97.067 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Grant Fund

Dept. of Homeland Security	8157-45400-000-0005	Other Equipment	\$	112,186.67
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21.027 ARP COVID Fiscal Recovery Fund

ARP COVID Fiscal Recovery	8908-39501-000-0000	MOH Contractual Services	-\$	5,000,000.00
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Taxpayers appearing at such meeting shall have a right to be heard thereon. The appropriations adjustments as finally made will be referred to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Where applicable, the DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations to support the appropriation made.

Karen Martin
Auditor of Porter County

Publish January 12, 2023

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Rules of Conduct for Council Meetings

The public comment session, which will immediately follow First Reading, is provided as an opportunity for residents to address the Porter County Council about agenda items. Participation is encouraged; however, to respect others who wish to speak, public comment is not intended to be a public conversation. Before speaking, a person must provide their name and address. Exceptions may be considered, if requested by emailing the Council (council@porterco.org) prior to the commencement of the meeting. A speaker will be given a reasonable amount of time (as determined by the Council President) to make a comment and/or express an opinion. No person will be recognized more than once per meeting. All speakers must remain at the podium, unless an exception is granted by the Council President. Any speaker that engages in personal attacks and/or acts in an uncivil manner will be stopped and may be prohibited from future opportunities to publicly address the Council. The Porter County Council Member(s) and County Official(s) are available after the meeting for questions and more extended discussions.

Commissioners

Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund - 1138-000-0068

Additional \$49,000 to 44200 Motor Vehicles. Reason: Reimbursement to the CCD fund from the vehicles sold at the Sheriff's 2022 auction that were paid out of the CCD fund.

Emergency Medical Services Fund - 1151-000-0068

Additional \$29,944.40 to 36100 Maintenance Agreements. Reason: Appropriation needed for 2023 Heart Rate Monitors payment.

Mr. Rivas, We have Commissioners...a couple of requests up here. There's an additional \$49,000 to Motor Vehicles, the reason...

Commissioner Laura Blaney, Do you want us to come up?

Mr. Rivas, Yes please. The additional \$49,000 to Motor Vehicles, the reason reimbursement for the CCD fund from vehicles sold at the Sheriff's 2022 auction that were paid out of the CCD fund. Do you just want to start there? Or do you want to do them both together?

Mr. Bozak, Yes together.

Mr. Simms, Second.

Mr. Rivas, What happened?

Mr. Bozak, I said do them together, but I'll make a motion on this.

Mr. Simms, Oh thought you were making the motion...okay never mind.

Mr. Rivas, Okay together, Emergency Medical Services fund we have another additional of \$29,944.40 to Maintenance Agreements. The reason appropriation needed for the 2023 Heart Rate Monitor payment.

Mr. Bozak, Move to approve both.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion and a second of the two additional. Discussion? So my questions is you sold the vehicles, I'm just interested in why do the additional? I mean...

County Attorney Scott McClure, When the money comes back in the State Board of Accounts says the money has to go back to the account that originally purchased it. So then that's the money that they rotate through to buy the next round of vehicles when it's in that budget line. So when it comes it comes. That's why it's off kilter from normal budget time.

Mr. Rivas, Okay I understand. Any other discussion? Questions, comments? Can we get a roll call on both of the additional please?

Auditor Karen Martin, For the first additional of \$49,000 dollars.

Mr. Bozak, Just to clarify are we just voting on one now? Because my motion was for both.

Auditor Karen Martin, Both?

Mr. Rivas, Yes we can do both.

Mr. Bozak, We don't have to do a roll call for each one right?

Mr. Rivas, Harold what do you think?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I don't think we need to do a roll call for each one, but we can. I don't think it hurts to do it individually, but it would probably save some time to do it together.

Mr. Bozak, The motion was made for both.

Ms. Graham, Right.

Mr. Bozak, Historically we have done it like that.

Mr. Rivas, Yes. Let's just do it on both of them just a roll call for both.

Mr. Bozak, Sorry I just want to be clear.

Mr. Rivas, No that's ok.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Mr. Rivas, All right are we good?

Auditor Karen Martin, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Is that everybody? Thank you. All right we are good, thank you.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, We will work our way through some kinks, we have new people and everything is good.

Commissioner Blaney, Have a good evening.

Mr. Rivas, Yes have a good night thank you.

Development & Storm Water Management - Director Robert Thompson

Storm Water Fund - 1182-000-0079

Additional \$3,630 to 11100 Salaries, \$278 to 12100 FICA, and \$407 to 12300 PERF. Reason: Appropriation needed to cover the 2023 Salary, FICA and PERF for Executive Assistant County Engineer/Assistant Director.

Form 144 \$43,260 to \$46,890 Executive Assistant (County Engineer/
Assistant Director)

Reason: Executive Assistant (County Engineer/Assistant Director) increasing the salary an additional \$3,630.

Mr. Rivas, Development & Storm Water additional for \$3,630 to Salaries, \$278 to FICA, and \$407 to PERF. The reason, appropriation needed to cover the 2023 Salary, FICA and PERF for Executive Assistant County Engineer/Assistant Director. And the Form 144 \$43,260 to \$46,890 Executive Assistant to County Engineer/Assistant Director. The reason Executive Assistant to (County Engineer/Assistant Director) increasing the salary an additional \$3,630. Correct me if I am

wrong, but this is just some clean-up from what we had agreed on during budget session. Is that what we are doing or is anything new?

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Correct.

Mr. Rivas, So this is just a little cleaning up, the same thing we've got to do with the Sheriff a little bit too. So yeah, just cleaning it up.

Mr. Jessen, I'll make a motion on the Additional and the Form 144.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Stone, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a couple of seconds, discussion? Can we get a roll on the additional and the Form 144 Madame Auditor? Thank you.

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Auditor Karen Martin, Point of order?

Mr. Rivas, Yes?

Auditor Karen Martin, If there is are any issues with reference to any individual ones it's going to be a problem if you do them all together.

Mr. Bozak, What was the comment about that?

Auditor Karen Martin, Well when you handle five different issues at one time, and there's any discrepancy we're going to have an issue with it. So we need to have individual...I know it's quicker just to do all five at one time...

Mr. Rivas, If that's what you want Madame Auditor, I've got no problem with it.

Auditor Karen Martin, From a standpoint of having problems.

Mr. Rivas, If that's...if you're comfortable with that we can. I've got no problem with it so with that being said you guys with the additional...why don't we just separate those two then. Then let's start over the Storm Water additional...

Auditor Karen Martin, Well it's already been voted on so we don't have to retract it.

Mr. Rivas, You don't want to redo it?

Auditor Karen Martin, No

Mr. Rivas, Okay, all right from now on we'll do it separately from now on the additional. So, thank you this passes and you are good.

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Thank you very much.

Porter County Sheriff – Jail – Sheriff Jeffrey A. Balon

Sheriff

Sheriff General Fund - 1000-000-0005

Additional ~~\$3,187 to 11000~~ Salaries. Reason: To cover the cost of change in appointed position for Patrol Commander to Captain, and Lieutenant to Patrol Commander effective 1st pay period.

Form 144 ~~\$0 to \$71,980~~ ~~Captain (3 to 4 @ \$71,980=\$287,920)~~
 ~~\$68,793 to \$0~~ ~~Lieutenant (5 to 4 @ \$68,793=\$275,172)~~

Mr. Rivas, All right Sheriff, you have a General Fund additional \$3,187 to salaries. The reason to cover the cost of change in appointed position for Patrol Commander to Captain, and Lieutenant to Patrol Commander effective 1st pay period.

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Jeremy we actually would like to strike that.

Ms. Graham, You mean withdraw it?

Mr. Rivas, What are we striking, the whole thing?

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, No, just that one.

Mr. Rivas, Just the additional?

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, \$13,000 dollars and the Form 144 change.

Mr. Rivas, Well I was doing the additional out for the General Fund.

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, I’m sorry I said \$13,000, I meant \$3,187 dollars the Captain and Lieutenant.

Mr. Rivas, Okay, so you want to strike that additional?

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Yes sir.

Mr. Rivas, Okay you wanted to the Form 144 too?

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, No we are working on some restructuring.

Ms. Graham, Sounds great.

Sheriff Jeffrey Balon, Yes, yes so we’re going to table, because we’re working on some future restructuring within the department. We are just trying to get this ironed out before we come to you guys for some additional permission and to add on a different ranks and move some around, so we’re going to table that.

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, We just didn’t want to waste your time and we would come back for that later.

Mr. Rivas, So we just won’t take any action, that’s fine Harold just take no action?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Yes.

Accident Report Fund - 1101-000-0005

Additional \$13,071 to 12400 Per Diem. Reason: To cover the cost approved by Council 2023 budget. Advertised amount was less than total amount.

Mr. Rivas, Accident Report fund, there's an additional \$13,071 to Per Diem. The reason, to cover the cost approved by Council 2023 budget. Advertised amount was less than total amount.

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second, discussion? Roll Call on the Accident Report additional?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes

Mr. Rivas, Passes with a 7 – 0 vote.

School Resource Officer Fund - 4923-000-0005

Additional \$1,845 to 12300 PERF. Reason: Appropriation needed for line item due to salary adjustment.

Mr. Rivas, School Resource Officer fund additional \$1,845 to PERF. The reason, appropriation needed for line item due to salary adjustment.

Mr. Bozak, So moved.

Mr. Stone, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and second, discussion? Roll call on the additional for the Resource Officer?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Mr. Rivas, 7 - 0 vote.

97.067 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Grant Fund - 8157-000-0005

Additional \$112,186.67 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: Appropriation needed for replacement X-ray and Remote Firing System and PAN Stand Equipment.

Mr. Rivas, Department of Homeland Security Grant, an additional \$112,186.67 to Other Equipment. Reason: Appropriation needed for replacement X-ray and Remote Firing System and PAN Stand Equipment.

Mr. Bozak, That's a Grant?

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Yes sir.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and second, discussion? Nobody wants to know what the PAN is?

Mr. Simms, I didn't even...

Sheriff Jeffrey Balon, It's for the bomb squad...bomb squad stuff.

Mr. Bozak, Oh no kidding bomb squad stuff.

Mr. Rivas, All right any other questions, discussions. Can we get a roll call on the additional?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Mr. Rivas, 7 - 0 vote.

Jail

Jail General Fund - 1000-000-0380

Form 144 \$63,340 to \$55,442 Program Director/Chaplain
 \$50,374 to \$63,340 Support Services Director

Reason: No additional needed in salaries. The difference of \$5,048 additional in total annual salaries. Changing the Support Services Director & adjusting Program Director/Chaplain both effective 1st pay period.

Mr. Rivas, Jail General fund.
Form 144 \$63,340 to \$55,442 Program Director/Chaplain
 \$50,374 to \$63,340 Support Services Director

Reason: No additional needed in salaries. The difference of \$5,048 additional in total annual salaries. Changing the Support Services Director & adjusting Program Director/Chaplain both effective 1st pay period.

Mr. Stone, Move to approve.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and second. This was just something that kind of got crossed up, I think in the Salary Report that we did with the wage study.

Mr. Bozak, After talking to the Sheriff, he also said the employees know about this change.

Sheriff Jeffrey Balon, Yes, they are all aware of that and they understand so it's not an issue.

Mr. Rivas, So no money, it's just a Form 144 change here, any further discussion? Was there a motion and a second?

Mr. Stone, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, can we get a roll call on the Form 144 change please?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes

Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, See we're easy when you don't ask for money out of the General Fund.

(Laughter)

Sheriff Jeffrey Balon, That's good to know.

Coroner – Cyndi Dykes

Coroner Fatality Review Fund - 4930-000-0007

Additional \$1,100 to 36300 Equipment Other Than Vehicles R & M. Reason: Appropriation needed to pay the remaining costs for servicing mortuary cots.

Mr. Rivas, Coroner Fatality Review fund additional \$1,100 to Equipment Other Than Vehicles R & M. The reason, appropriation needed to pay the remaining costs for servicing mortuary cots.

Mr. Bozak, Move to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, discussion?

Mr. Bozak, What is servicing the mortuary cots like? Does that mean changing them out, deciding what needs to be done? What is it?

Coroner Cyndi Dykes, They'll come in and they will check the wheels, they'll lubricate them. If there's any parts that need replaced, they'll check all the screws and the rivets.

Mr. Bozak, I wouldn't have thought, thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions? Can we get a roll call on this additional please?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Mr. Rivas, 7 – 0. Thank you.

Coroner Cyndi Dykes, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, This crowds lightning up on you, you must be doing good now. I don't know...

Portage Township Assessor – Alta Neri

Reassessment Fund - 1188-000-0013

Additional \$5,952 to 39300 Dues and Subscriptions. Reason: Appropriation needed to pay subscription to CoStar which provides information and sales for Commercial and Industrial properties for appeals.

Mr. Rivas, Now the Portage Township Assessor and I think she is sick, so I don't know what you guys want to do with this additional. I will read it off whatever your pleasure is.

Ms. Graham, Do you want to table it?

Mr. Rivas, I don't care, if that's what you want to do, there's and additional \$5,952 to Dues and Subscriptions. The reason appropriation needed to pay subscription to CoStar.

Ms. Graham, I'd like to know a little bit more. Does the county have...

Mr. Rivas, You can make a motion to table if you would like?

Ms. Graham, I'd like to, okay I'll make a motion to table it. I'm going to ask a...

Mr. Simms, I'll second that.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion to and second to table, discussion?

Mr. Bozak, Should we ask Sue Neff is she know what that is?

Mr. Jessen, If she were here.

Mr. Bozak, Yeah she's here.

Ms. Graham, Oh okay.

Mr. Bozak, Do you know what the CoStar is? I'm sorry there's a motion and I shouldn't ask.

Mr. Rivas, No this is discussion, so have at it.

Mr. Bozak, Do you know what CoStar is? Do we use that for the county?

Assessor Sue Neff, Yes the Assessor's Office uses CoStar it's a multiple listing service if you will for Commercial. We use MLS for residential, but this is for the Commercial process.

Mr. Bozak, So she's asking for \$5,952 dollars. Do we pay for that already? And can you guys share a subscription or is this...

Assessor Sue Neff, Yes, yes we do. No we already pay for that, but she has to come here to use it. I think she is looking to get her own subscription.

Mr. Bozak, Oh and she doesn't have that now?

Assessor Sue Neff, She does not.

Mr. Bozak, Oh okay. I agree with the tabling.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Mr. Bozak, Excuse me, thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Any further discussion on the motion to table? Can we get a roll call on the motion to table please?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried to table on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Auditor – Karen Martin

Auditor Ineligible Homestead Fund - 1216-000-0002

Transfer \$1,166.01 from 21100 Office Supplies to 44400 Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100. Reason: Final invoice for new office chairs purchased by previous administration.

Mr. Rivas, All right Auditor Ineligible Homestead Fund transfer \$1,166.01 from 21100 Office Supplies to 44400 Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100. The reason final invoice for new office chairs purchased by previous administration.

Ms. Graham, It's about time they did that.

Mr. Rivas, It's about time they got some new chairs.

Mr. Bozak, Move to approve.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and second, discussion? Seeing none, it's a transfer so all in favor of the motion signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries to table on a unanimous voice vote.

21.027 ARP COVID Fiscal Recovery

ARP COVID Fiscal Recovery Fund - 8908-000-XXXX

Reduction **-\$5,000,000** to 39501 MOH Contractual. Reason: Appropriation reduction to MOH Contractual.

Mr. Rivas, ARP COVID Fiscal Recovery Fund there is a **reduction -\$5,000,000** in front of you to Memorial Opera House Contractual. The reason appropriation reduction to Memorial Opera House contractual.

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve.

Mr. Rivas, So there is a motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second to do a reduction in this line item.

Mr. Bozak, And where do we put that? So we are just talking about pulling the money back and holding on to it (inaudible)

Mr. Stone, Unallocated.

Mr. Bozak, There you go unallocated.

Mr. Rivas, It's just an unallocation of that \$5,000 dollars out of that budget Memorial Opera House contractual.

Mr. Bozak, So right now if the Commissioners wanted to spend it on the Memorial Opera House they could do it, once we've taken back they're not going to be able to.

Mr. Rivas, Correct. Yes, this...they won't have that \$5,000,000 dollars in that line item.

Mr. Bozak, And what's the plan going forward? Are we working with them to try to...

Ms. Graham, I hope so.

Mr. Bozak, to get this solved or...just asking.

Mr. Stone, I mean it looks to me like we're in a stalemate here. You have the Commissioners who want to do, you know heavy renovations and we have people who want to do the expansion. And to me it seems, you know they've only been in their job 24 days and I think it's unfair for them to pull the money back, at least give them a couple of months. I know Jim has met with Skillman, Barb went to the Memorial Opera House and spent hours detailing all the issues that it has, so it's not like they are not doing anything. At least give them a couple of months, I mean whether it's in...whether it's in their account or our account, it just seems like it's we're taking a shot and getting into politics. When it's at the end of the day, if they don't want to expand it and we want to expand it and now we're at a stalemate. And that really doesn't solve that, it doesn't solve anything for anybody, because if we...if it needs to be rehabbed then it should get rehabbed.

Ms. Graham, We agree, in fact my feelings on it is it's old business, it's already been voted on and back by the majority. I feel like personally I feel like this is the...I would like to have the money brought back so we know what it's going to be spent on. Because we want to know what their plan is before we have an opportunity to see what they want to do. In my opinion I feel like there's already been a plan that was approved and I would like to see that go forward.

Mr. Rivas, I agree with Sylvia with that and that's why...I mean to be fair Barb just got here, Commissioner Biggs has been here for six (6) years, this isn't a new plan. The Memorial Opera House I think goes back to even when we started doing the Facilities upgrade, it just didn't make the list because the price tag for that went up. But when we did that we also upgraded the Expo Center if I remember correctly, I don't know I could be wrong, was it \$5,000,000 dollars spent on the Expo Center, but this has been going on for a long time, so this isn't like giving them a chance.

Ms. Graham, Seems like the longer we wait, the more expensive it will get.

Mr. Stone, Right, but the thing about it is we did just have an Election, so we do have a new Commissioner that has to digest all of this. Like I said it just seems to me like 24 days doesn't seem like it's a long enough time for her you know to digest this. So it just seems like we're taking a shot, but again if we want to pull it back, again it's not going to get resolved. Because if those two just want to do a major rehab and say the majority here wants to do an expansion, who loses? The Memorial Opera House, because at least it could get renovated. That's the way I look at it.

Ms. Graham, But we would love to have it renovated and we've been...I believe that it's a wonderful project for the County. It's for the County Seat, it's something that's needed. They are cramped, it was built in 1894-95 I always get the dates mixed up, it was fabulous to build something like that. But now the building is not large enough for what it's drawing, and we have children that are wanting to get involved in

it and it just needs to be in my opinion expanded. And it was voted on and approved, and I just feel like we need to go forward.

Mr. Jessen, If I could add a little context to the discussion just to get everybody up to speed, including audience members who might not be, of course what we are talking about is the plan that has been discussed, debated, voted on multiple times in terms of what should be done with the Memorial Opera House.

So the plan that's on the table as it stands today, which if you look at the votes whether it be on the Council and or the Commissioner's Office, it's eight (8) or nine (9) out of ten (10) people. We are in agreement with the current plan on a consistent basis. And that plan basically stated and not suggesting that everyone's going to agree with it, but that plan stated that we were going to take \$5,000,000 dollars from the ARPA funds and allocate that towards the project. And then, also in cooperation with the Memorial Opera House Foundation, they were going to contribute \$2,500,000 dollars. So for a total of \$7,500,000 million dollar renovation to the Facility, so that is the plan that was finally presented, finally voted on and approved. And so that's where that \$5,000,000 million dollars sits today. It's currently in Memorial Opera House contractual agreement and I think the suggestion is to take that \$5,000,000 million dollars out until a new plan could perhaps be presented. And so if the Commissioner's office is working on a new plan, I think it'd be interesting to see what they come up with, but the majority of the Council anyway, has in the past has said that Plan A is what we want to move forward with. And I don't want to rehash the importance or the significance of the Memorial Opera House necessarily because we've covered that ad-nauseam for the last year we've talked about renovating the Memorial Opera House for years. There are plans in place, and have been in place for quite some time so it's not a new topic.

You know it's a historical structure that we have in downtown Valparaiso, that was built in 1893 and it's adjacent to a Sheriff's residence building that was built in 1860, that also is in need of desperate repair and renovation as well. So, I think part of what I'd like to see, if there is a new plan out there, I'd like to see what that plan looks like for the Memorial Opera House. I'd like to see what effect that would have, if any on the Sheriff's residence. Because that's another component of what needs to be cared for, and so as we look at the \$5,000,000 dollars from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) specifically, that has been discussed ad-nauseam in the past, in terms of whether or not it's an appropriate use of the ARPA Funds. Many, many people would say that it is, in fact they would say that it's a perfect use of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) based on the services that it provides and also it being located in a census track and for all those reasons, it makes perfect sense.

I applaud the City of LaPorte, for what they just recently announced in their Civic... LaPorte Civic Center which they have just signed on for a \$6,000,000 dollar renovation to their facility, and it's a city-owned facility similar to the Memorial Opera House and Sheriff's residence, where it's a county owned facility. And they're taking their \$6,000,000 dollars for their renovation, and this is in fact coming out of the \$11,000,000 dollars that they received in COVID ARPA(American Rescue Plan Act) funds. So, they are for all the same reasons that have been mentioned in the past for taking care of the Memorial Opera House in a proper fashion, the City of LaPorte found themselves and their facility was built 1929, of course it's a beautiful facility that also should be cared for and also be utilized to its fullest extent. We feel...many of us feel the same way about the Memorial Opera House. So I think until there's another plan put forward, it would be prudent to wait and see what that plan looks like before we commit to any particular...any particular funding.

Mr. Brickner, I guess my question is that we need to try to get some information. I kind of thought this ship sailed? And I guess my question would be why is there a new plan that's being discussed, there was a plan that was approved by the Commissioners I believe, and it was presented to the Council. So if we waited...if we didn't act every time there was a new...there was a new Commissioner or Council Member and we had to wait, then I don't know what would ever get done. I understand that there is a new Commissioner, but I thought...look we had a plan presented to the Council from the Commissioners, we voted on it, we agreed to pay for the plan that was presented, why are we, why is there a new plan? Can anybody answer that?

Mr. Simms, Well the last Commissioners meeting, not the one yesterday, but a couple of weeks ago Commissioner Blaney did make a motion to initiate the contract phase of it and it was not seconded by one of the other two. So it just kind of stayed in limbo...

Mr. Brickner, (Inaudible)

Mr. Simms, Yes, it didn't die it's just floating in limbo. Unless...did they do anything last night? I did not see the meeting last night.

Mr. Jessen, Nothing in reference to that.

Mr. Simms, No okay.

Mr. Brickner, So there's a new plan that's being discussed then as far as we know?

Ms. Graham, I have no idea.

Mr. Rivas, I don't know, I think Council person Stone indicated that Commissioner Regnitz had gone down there and looked through it and I don't know if Commissioner Biggs was talking to Skillman Corporation, but...

Mr. Stone, I'm just saying there's...there was a lot of things that they did, one of the first things they did. This is because I picked up the phone, I called people, just like I've called most of you and had meetings with you and talked. I believe you have to talk to people to understand what people want to do. And Mr. Biggs...Commissioner Biggs had Skillman there doing the assessment, Barb went I believe for a couple of hours and took notes and said yeah, we need to do something with this. It's a nice building, we need to keep it going, and so I'm not speaking for the Commissioners, that's what they told me and as far as the plan, if we put forward \$5,000,000 dollars and the Foundation is putting in the other \$2,500,000 dollars. When is the Foundation going to get to \$2,500,000 million dollars, we are going to have to borrow the \$2,500,000 million dollars until the Foundation pays us back...correct? So the plan if you really wanted to fund it, you should put \$7,500,000 million dollars in it, fully fund it and then the Foundation could have paid us back, but really the plan isn't fully funded, it's only funded up to \$5,000,000 million dollars. So we're going to have to borrow money, the other \$2,500,000 million dollars till the, you know...

Mr. Brickner, What I am saying is this was voted on unanimously last year. It's already done, that's why I'm wondering why is this now...why are we starting over?

Mr. Bozak, Well we knew if the race went the way it did, this is where we were going to be, this is where we ended up.

Mr. Brickner, So it's politics, that's what we are talking about?

Mr. Bozak, It's been politics all along, yeah.

Ms. Graham, That's right, the longer we wait...it's like everything the more expensive it is.

Mr. Brickner, So it's not what's best for the county, or what's best for the majority for the Memorial Opera House itself, it's politics. That's what we are saying...

Mr. Bozak, It's the lack of communication...that's what it comes down to, it's the lack of communication.

Mr. Brickner, That is what it is turning into.

Mr. Bozak, That's what it is.

Mr. Brickner, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, Nobody's picked up the phone and to the Commissioners or brought them in and sat down and tried to work through it.

Mr. Rivas, This is a public meeting...

Ms. Graham, I talked to...

Mr. Rivas, I only see one Commissioner that voted for it, I mean this is a public meeting too, they could be right here.

Ms. Graham, I talked to a short while tonight with Commissioner Regnitz and I asked her to please...let's talk about this and come together so that we can go on with business. Because there is so much that we have in front of us that we can accomplish.

Mr. Stone, Yes you are right.

Mr. Rivas, So I'm just wondering...

Ms. Graham, And we have the money.

Mr. Rivas, Yes, and I'm just one vote and I won't vote unless we are addressing all the needs. And one of the big needs is a couple hundred people jammed into the entrance to that place, whether you want to get a drink, buy a t-shirt, or want to go to the bathroom, it just needs the space there to move around. Those bathrooms need to be moved, so if we're just going to do what we did ten years ago, tuck point a little bit, fix a few windows and put some caulk in it we'll be right back here in ten years, and that's not even addressing the full needs. If we are going to do this, we need to address the full needs for the next twenty-five (25) to fifty (50) years.

Mr. Stone, And I agree...

Mr. Rivas, And that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Stone, I agree with you 100% percent, the only thing that I said was in my opinion, this is just my opinion. Twenty-four (24) days...they've been in office. Let them work through it and I just think it's a shot to pull the money back, right, wrong or otherwise, that's just my opinion, we can vote on it, if you want to pull the money back we can pull the money back. And then they can sit here and present a plan and tell us what they are going to do and if they want to spend \$3,500,000 or whatever they want to do then we can all vote on it. That's all.

Mr. Rivas, I think that's...

Mr. Stone, I just think it would have been better to do this, I think have some communication, and have some you know...understanding, because if they don't want to do it and say we want to do it, we're stalemated. So in my opinion people that lose out is Porter County is a building not getting renovated.

Ms. Graham, That's my thought as well.

Mr. Simms, But if we leave the \$5,000,000 million dollars there, they can come out with some kind of plan, two of them will vote it in, and we have no say in it.

Ms. Graham, Well we vote whether or not we are going to fund it.

Mr. Simms, I'd rather pull it back.

Mr. Rivas, This gives us time.

Mr. Stone, I think it's a bad timing to do this. If you want to hold it back I have no problem, but I think we should have given them a little bit more time. I mean there is a lot of stuff...I mean I've been here on the job twenty-four (24) days, went through the 2022 Budget and 2023 Budget. I went through Baker Tilly's financial analysis, we

have a lot of problems coming up a lot of issues we have to solve, as far as financially in my opinion from what I see.

Ms. Graham, And we will solve them, that's our job.

Mr. Rivas, All right any further discussion? Seeing none can we get a roll call on the ~~-\$5,000,000~~ million dollar reduction to Memorial Opera House contractual services out of the COVID Fiscal Recovery fund?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried to table on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Stone	-	No
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	No
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Mr. Rivas, All right, this passes 5 to 2.

Second Reading

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a second reading?

Auditor Chief Deputy Ryan Kubal,

Whereas it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than what was appropriated in the annual budget. Therefore be it resolved by the Porter County Council of Porter County Indiana that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified subject to the laws governing the same

General Fund - Withdrawn

Sheriff General Fund	1000-11100-000-0005	Salaries	\$	3,187.00
Jail General Fund	1000-11100-000-0380	Salaries	\$	6,214.00

Accident Report Fund

Accident Report Fund	1101-12400-000-0005	Per Diem	\$	13,071.00
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Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund

CCD Fund	1138-44200-000-0068	Motor Vehicles	\$	49,000.00
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Emergency Medical Services Fund

Emergency Med. Services	1151-36100-000-0068	Maintenance Agreements	\$	29,944.40
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Development & Storm Water Fund

Dev. & Storm Water Fund	1182-11100-000-0079	Salaries	\$	3,630.00
Dev. & Storm Water Fund	1159-12100-000-0079	FICA	\$	278.00
Dev. & Storm Water Fund	1159-12300-000-0079	PERF	\$	407.00
			\$	4,315.00

Assessor Reassessment Fund - Tabled

Assessor Reassessment Fund	1188-39300-000-0013	Dues and Subscriptions	\$	5,952.00
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School Resource Officer Fund

School Resource Officer Fund 4923-12300-000-0005 PERF \$ 1,845.00

Coroner Fatality Review Fund

Coroner Fatality Review Fund 4930-36300-000-0007 Equipment Other than Vehicles \$ 1,100.00

97.067 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Grant Fund

Dept. of Homeland Security 8157-45400-000-0005 Other Equipment \$ 112,186.67

21.027 ARP COVID Fiscal Recovery Fund

ARP COVID Fiscal Recovery 8908-39501-000-0000 MOH Contractual Services -\$ 5,000,000.00

And this concludes second reading.

Mr. Rivas, Yes, thank you. There you have it for second reading?

Mr. Bozak, Motion to approve.

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second, discussion? Can we get a Roll Call approving second reading?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Stone	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Mr. Rivas, Passes 7 – 0 thank you.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Attorney's report?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Quiet week, quiet month here.

Mr. Rivas, For who?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Well that true. No legal storm clouds on the horizon, so that good.

Mr. Rivas, For who?

(Laughter)

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Knock on wood.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, Sorry Harold.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, It's okay.

Mr. Rivas, Everything good?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you Harold.

Any other matter that may properly come before the Council

Mr. Rivas, Any other matter that may properly come before the Council? At this time I'll open the floor to the general public, if anybody wants to speak on any agenda item, I would say state your name, keep it brief and speak to an agenda item. The rules remain the same as what they have been.

Audience Member Dawn Miller, Okay my name is Dawn Miller I live in Valparaiso. First question, how can you take back the money that's already been allocated? And have, just have an issue with this since you fought so hard for this money, why are you giving it back. Now what are your plans, I mean I'm just...something that just don't sit right. I mean obviously you've got all statements saying this is the right time, it's been in talks for years to do this stuff to this building. But it only recently became available...what \$33,000,000 million dollars from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) so we know it's a good money grab for this building. I'm not opposed to keeping rehabbed, and rehabbed and expansion are two completely different things. Keeping it in good standing, we're in support of that, but all the extras that you planned and want to do to it, it's not necessary and that's a lot of money. And you know if there's so many people that are so gun hoe for the Memorial Opera House, why has there not been any...oh I don't know any fundraisers. Have yourself some Balls, you know these ritzy people that want these...this operation done, raise the money. Why should it come out of \$5,000,000 million dollars from ARPA money that us people, we people had to suffer to get this money, to go through what...the muzzles? I mean you had to put on a facial mask to go anywhere, they expected you to get a shot. I mean these are all things that we were personally affected by, so to put this kind of money into a building that's not what this money was for. This money was for the people that endured what we endured over the last three years with the Corona stuff. And giving it to one building and that's my opposition, it will always be my opposition. So thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you. Anybody else? All right, anything else that may properly come before the Council? So we're good? Almost set a half hour, it's thirty-eight minutes, not bad.

Mr. Simms, We beat the Commissions meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Rivas, So is there a motion on the floor?

Ms. Graham, Motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second, all in favor of adjourning signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Jeremy Rivas

Mike Jessen

Sylvia Graham

Ronald Stone

Greg Simms

Andy Bozak

Mike Brickner

Attest: _____
Karen Martin, Auditor