

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The LaGrange County Council met in Regular Session on Monday, September 9, 2024, at their meeting room, County Office Building, 114 W. Michigan Street, LaGrange, Indiana 46761, at 8:30 a.m., with the following present: Council Members, Jeffrey L. Brill, Jeffrey A. Campos, Harold D. Gingerich, Steven E. McKowen, Ryan J. Riegsecker, Michael G. Strawser, and James R. Young; and LaGrange County Auditor, Kathryn Hopper. President, Mr. Mike Strawser brought the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ORDINANCE APPROVING EXPENSES OUT OF RECORDER'S RECORDS PERPETUATION FUND**

Mrs. Sheila Getz, County Recorder, presented the following Ordinance for the Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE  
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-09-09

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COUNTY RECORDER'S REQUEST TO PARTIALLY FUND THE RECORDER'S OFFICE EXPENSES OUT OF THE RECORDER'S RECORDS PERPETUATION FUND

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code ("IC") 36-2-7-10(f), LaGrange County, Indiana ("County") has established a Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund ("Fund");

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-2-7-10(f), the county recorder ("Recorder") may use any money in the Fund without appropriation for: (i) the preservation of records; and (ii) the improvement of record keeping systems and equipment; within the control of the Recorder;

WHEREAS, the Recorder desires to spend a portion of the money in the Fund for the Recorder's office expenses for the following calendar year;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-2-7-10.2(b), the Recorder may pay all or a portion of the expenses of the Recorder's Office for the following calendar year from the Fund only if: (i) the Recorder submits to the county fiscal body a sworn statement as provided in the statute; and (ii) the county fiscal body adopts an ordinance approving the Recorder's request;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-2-3-2, the LaGrange County Council ("Council") is the fiscal body of the County;

WHEREAS, the Recorder has submitted to the Council a sworn statement entitled "Recorder's Sworn Statement and Funding Request" ("Statement"), which is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, the Statement requests that a portion of the expenses of the Recorder's Office for the following calendar year be paid from the Fund; *and*

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-2-7-10.2(c), upon receiving the Statement, the Council may adopt an ordinance approving the Recorder's request up to the amount requested.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LAGRANGE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

**SECTION I – NAME**

The name of this ordinance is the "Recorder's Office Expenses Annual Approval Ordinance."

**SECTION II – RECITALS**

The Council hereby incorporates the foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, into this ordinance and finds them to be true, accurate, and correct and conforming to applicable law.

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SECTION III – APPROVAL

The Council hereby approves the Statement, including the amount specifically requested by the Recorder to be paid out of the Fund for the office expenses of the Recorder’s Office for the following calendar year.

SECTION IV – MISCELLANEOUS

A. References.

1. Except where a specific version or edition is given, reference to another section of this ordinance or to another law, document, fund, department, board, program, public servant, or public office, shall extend and apply to the same, as may be subsequently amended, revised, recodified, renamed, reappointed, or renumbered from time to time.
2. Reference in this ordinance to a law, document, fund, department, board, program, public servant, or public office, either generally or by title, without reference to another jurisdiction, shall be construed as though it were preceded or followed, as appropriate, by the words “(of) LaGrange County (Indiana).”

B. Conflicts. No part of this ordinance shall be interpreted to conflict with any local, state, or federal laws, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same.

C. Severability. Should any section or part thereof of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, nor any other portion thereof, and for this purpose the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

D. Exhibits. All exhibits attached hereto are incorporated herein by reference.

E. Incorporated Materials. Two (2) copies of all materials incorporated by reference herein shall be on file in the Office of the Auditor for public inspection.

F. Promulgation. The Recorder and Auditor are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this ordinance effective.

G. Codification. As this ordinance concerns a one-time funding approval, the codifier of ordinances shall omit codification of this ordinance.

H. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. Jim Young made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Steven McKowen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE

The following Amendments to the Salary Ordinance were presented:

8118 IMMUNIZATION & VACCINES FOR CHILDREN

	<u>REQUESTED</u>
8118-000-01-1001 Nurses	Up to \$30.00/ hour
8118-000-01-1002 Registrars/ Admin.	Up to \$22.00/ hour
8118-000-01-1003 School Liaison	Up to \$29.75/ hour
8118-000-01-1004 Lead Assessment Admin.	Up to \$17.46/ hour
8118-000-01-1005 Immunization Community Outreach Advocate	Up to \$22.00/ hour

- Subject to grant funding and approval
- No new money, only changing funds to be paid from
- Effective 07/01/2024

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Mr. Steven McKowen made a motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Jeff Brill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

	<u>REQUESTED</u>
1161-000-01-1004 Public Health Educator	Up to \$28.00/ hour Up to 11 hours/ week
8102-000-01-1004 Nutritionist / Breastfeeding Expert	Up to \$28.00/ hour Up to 24 hours/ week

- Subject to WIC grant funding and approval
- Effective 09/09/2024

Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve the amendments. Mr. Jim Young seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**TAX COMMISSION**

Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to pursue having the Convention, Recreation, and Visitor Industry Commission of the County of LaGrange withdrawing from the unified tax law and establish their own unique legislation that will allow LaGrange County to increase the rate of Innkeepers tax charged. Mr. Steven McKowen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS**

Mr. Mike Strawser read the following Resolution to Transfer Funds:

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the following increases and decreases be made in order to meet the expenses of the units of government for the year 2024.

	<u>DECREASE</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
<u>HEALTH FIRST INDIANA (HFI)</u>		
1161-000-01-1003 Public Health Specialist	20,000.00	
1161-000-01-1005 Registrar/ Office Manager		3,300.00
1161-000-01-1010 Food Sanitarian		3,850.00
1161-000-01-1020 Health Nurse Supplemental		3,300.00
1161-000-01-1021 Assistant Nurse Supplemental MT		3,325.00

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1161-000-01-1022 Assistant Nurse Supplemental MW	3,325.00
1161-000-01-1025 Immunization Coordinator	2,900.00

Mr. Steven McKowen made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and upon roll call vote it carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Mr. Mike Strawser presented the following Ordinance of Additional Appropriations:

**ORDINANCE OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget, now THEREFORE:

Sec 1: Be it ordained by the LaGrange County Council, LaGrange, Indiana, that for the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

	<u>REQUESTED AMOUNT</u>
<u>MAJOR MOVES CONSTRUCTION</u>	
1172-000-04-4023 Town of Topeka Ball Fields – Turf	\$264,476.00
1172-000-04-4024 warrior Youth Baseball – Lights	300,000.00
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY</u>	
1176-003-03-3051 Paint Striping	31,000.00
<u>OMITTED PROPERTY AUDITS</u>	
1177-000-05-5001 Business Per Prop distribution	1,712.27
<u>PARK NON-REVERTING</u>	
1179-000-04-4055 Well System	9,000.00
<u>PARK AND RECREATION</u>	
1219-000-01-1041 Administrative Assistant/ Communications	5,524.00
1219-000-01-1020 Part Time Ranger/ Maint	1,500.00
1219-000-01-1021 Assistant Park Ranger	500.00
<u>PARK GIFT FUND</u>	
4908-000-02-2002 Events	216.00
4908-000-03-3001 Memorial Plaques	45.00
4908-000-04-4001 Memorial Benches	402.00

Mr. Jim Young made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**LEGAL CLAIMS**

Legal claims in the amount of \$36,395.08 for July 2024 from Beers Mallers. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve. Mr. Jim Young seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**MINUTES**

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Mr. Jim Young made a motion to approve the August 12, 2024, regular session minutes and the August 26, 2024 joint session meeting and executive session. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**2025 BUDGET**

At 8:55 a.m. Mr. Mike Strawser opened the public hearing on the 2025 budget.

Mr. Jim Young reported that the wage committee met recently and made the following recommendations:

- A 5% pay increase across the board, with the exception of school resource officers – no increase
- Increase the salary of the Emergency Management Agency Director to \$64,000 annually
- Increase the salary of the Building Commissioner to \$68,000 annually
- Increase the salary of the County Surveyor to \$61,000 annually
- The 5% increase is on the Plan Administrator and not the Flood Plan Administrator wage
- Increase the Election Board pay to \$1,000 per year, \$2,000 in years with a general election
- Increase the Election Inspectors for of a single poling place to \$200 per day
- Increase the Election Inspectors for of a combined poling places to \$250 per day
- Increase the Election Judges and Clerks to \$175 per day
- Increase the Election Judges and Clerks to \$175 per day
- Increase the Election Officer per diem to \$10.00 per day
- Set the wage for the Public Defender Administrator to \$183,513 annually

Mr. Steven McKowen made a motion to approve the wage for the Public Defender Administrator. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to approve the pay increases for the Emergency Management Agency Director, the Building Commissioner, and the County Surveyor. Mr. Jeff Brill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

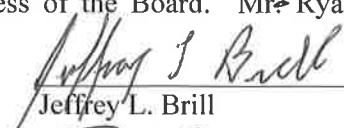
Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve a 5% pay increase across the board, with the exception of school resource officers, and to include boards. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried with Mick Strawser voting no.

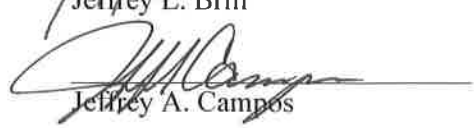
Mr. Steven McKowen made a motion to approve the rest of the recommendations. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Jim Young made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Jeff Campos made a motion to adjourn and meet on any subsequent day necessary to carry on the business of the Board. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

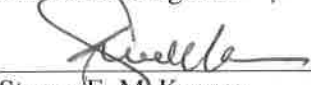
  
Jeffrey L. Brill

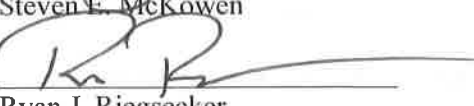
  
Jeffrey A. Campos

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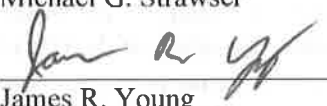
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Harold D. Gingerich

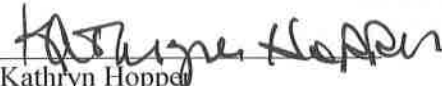
  
Steven E. McKowen

  
Ryan J. Riegsecker

  
Michael G. Strawser

  
James R. Young

ATTEST:

  
Kathryn Hopper  
LaGrange County Auditor