

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

Date September 12, 2023 (Budget Meeting)

I, Christina Sriver, duly qualified and acting County Auditor for the County of Fulton, Indiana, do hereby certify with regard to all proceedings of the date above; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the County Auditor; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that the minutes of the meeting were in written form and available for public inspection immediately following approval of the body which held the meeting; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided with advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Christina Sriver, Fulton County Auditor



**FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2023 (Budget Meeting)**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 1:00 p.m. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Phyl Olinger, Ron Dittman, Steve Fishburn, Lorie Hurst, Chayse Thomsson, Randy Gundrum, Pete Karas and Auditor Christina Sriver.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION** – The Auditor had been asked to review raises to see if funding was available for raises for part-time and full-time at \$1 per hour and \$2 per hour and annual pay increases for elected officials and salaried employees at \$2,000 and \$4,000 per year. The Auditor was able to figure the raises and sent a spreadsheet to Council members to review. It will take more time to fit the raises into each fund to figure the full cost to each. So far the jail budget is causing the LIT Correctional Facility fund to be approximately \$300,000 in the negative. Last year the “Building & Other Insurance” (Commissioner’s budget) and some of the IT expenses were shifted to the host fee fund and remains there for 2024. The Sheriff’s budget requests had some duplicates from one fund to another to try to use the user fee funds for allowable expenses. Some of the duplicates were removed from the user fee funds because it couldn’t be supported there and shifted to the main budget. The Sheriff’s budget is split between county general and public safety; the wages are in county general all other items are budgeted from public safety. Some of the jail budget may still be able to be shifted to county general or the sheriff’s budget for things like utilities. More time is needed to balance the budgets. The airport and solid waste budgets can be presented for public hearing on September 19<sup>th</sup> but the Auditor would like to push the county budget public hearing to a later date because county general will be higher than what would have to be advertised as the budgets are currently entered. Once advertised the budget cannot increase. The Auditor needs more time to review and balance the budgets. The jail maintenance budget was not put in the correctional facility fund because it cannot be supported. The Sheriff and Jail budgets are shifted from county general and an income tax fund from year to year to allow money to rebuild in the income tax funds for the next year.

The Council budget does not reflect the \$2,500 for veteran’s flags; the auditor will add it to the budget.

The City is expected to contribute \$110,000 for the FEDCO budget. If that is the case then that leaves \$149,460 for the county to pay. It was requested by FEDCO to have \$15,000 added for The Rochester Downtown Partnership for the purpose of hiring an event planner but it was not included on the submitted FEDCO budget. The budget to support FEDCO as it is currently entered for 2024 is \$130,000. The auditor used that number as the assumption it would continue to be split equally between the county and city and \$260,000 was the full requested 2024 FEDCO budget request. The auditor will reach out to Michael Ladd to see if the \$15,000 request is within the \$260,000 FEDCO budget.

The Coroner had requested an increase of \$1,000 for each of the three deputy coroners. This increase is from \$6,000 to \$7,000. Ron motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries 6-0 (Pete abstained).

Gail requested 1 of 2 things for the deputy director of EMA. Right now, he is part-time at 24 hours per week, Gail is requesting he either be made full-time at 32 hours/week and increase the pay to \$23/hour which equates to \$41,000/year for the pay but then he would receive benefits which would put him at \$60,595/year. The second request was to keep the position at part time with 24 hours per week and increase the pay to \$23/hour and give him call-out pay at time and a half. The auditor mentioned the personnel policy would have to be modified to allow for that. Phyl stated that the previous director had made a request for a secretary and it was determined there wasn't enough work for two positions. She called other counties to gather information on the call-out pay and who and how it is monitored. Of the counties she called they do not do that (call-out pay). Lorie wonders if the pay is increase is granted, is it also necessary to allow for call-out pay and increase the position to full-time just because some weeks he works more hours. She is good with increasing the pay if needed and not granting call-out pay. Randy wonders if the job responsibilities have been increased. Phyl said there has been a lot of clean-up and organizing contributing to the additional hours and is not expected to be maintained. Council is not in favor of the position going full-time or call-out pay; Council agrees he will get the same raise other employees get.

Ron Dittman stated that he disagrees that the Council should receive a \$4,000 raise. He also feels the per diem needs to be looked into. Pete feels the per diem should only be granted for an overnight stay. These issues will need to be discussed at the next Personnel Policy meeting.

The highway department has its own funding (outside of property taxes), and he is requesting 5% raises for his department. If Council decides to grant the \$2/hour raise John would like to adjust his budget request.

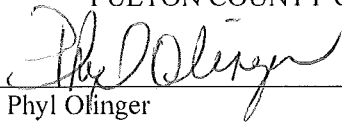
Some employees receive a supplemental pay for certifications or training over and above what their job describes. Pete disagrees with supplemental pay for something that is within the normal job description and suggests some of them be fixed. Steve mentioned that someone at the highway department with a Class A CDL should make more than someone with a Class B because it is more difficult to get and you can do more with it. Pete does not think that supplementals or extra pay should be given for required job duties.

Phyl stated that in the past Council has asked the department head to make the cuts, other Council members agree. Pete feels the department head should have the first opportunity.

Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. will be the next budget meeting.


RECESS – Pete motioned to recess at 2:20 p.m., seconded by Lorie; carries.


FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL

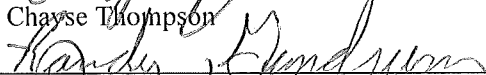
  
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Phyl Olinger

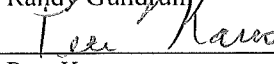
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Ron Dittman

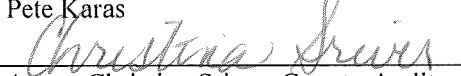
  
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Steve Fishburn

  
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Lorie Hurst

  
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Chayse Thompson

  
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Randy Gundrum

  
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Pete Karas

  
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Attest: Christina Sriver, County Auditor

I affirm under penalties of perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each social security number in this document, unless required by law: Christina Sriver

Prepared by: Christina Sriver