

The City of Connersville held a joint special meeting with the Redevelopment Commission, Board of Public Works and Safety, City Council, County Council, County Commissioners on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chad Frank. Redevelopment Board Members James Spence, Garrett Silcott, Jeremy Williams, and Victor Riedman were present. Board of Works Members Brian Doub, Jim Barrett, Diana Phillips, and Becky Gibson were present. City Council Members Sharon McQueen, Jenny Barrett, Diana Phillips, Brian Robb, Bill Gray, and Jabin Collins were present. County Council Members Jim Wulff, Kay Peyton, Mike Wenta, Scott Bevington, Sharon Cranfill, and Bob Stewart were present. County Commissioners Dales Strong, Dale Munson, and Tracie Bever were present. Also present were Rosemary Brown, Jane Downard, and Geoff Wesling.

John Pause with TV3 presented some of the impacts of HB1167. HB1167 requires all public meetings to be live streamed and accessible along with the agendas and minutes of each meeting. The increased number of meetings that need to be live streamed will stretch TV3s resources. They do work with local colleges and high school kids. The current County equipment is ageing and no longer supported. The City's equipment was updated with ARP funds before we knew about the bill. The revenue is on the decline due to cable franchise fees declining because of internet streaming. Their budget is increasing with the cost of living. TV3 is starting to use their reserves. The Legislature does not plan to help finance the bill. The group brainstormed ideas on how to counter the loss of revenue with sponsorships, Reid, and Share-a-thons.

Adam Stone with Stone Municipal explained that we have been looking at different revenue bases. One of them being the Public Safety Tax that is a part of the Local Income Tax. This would require City Council to pass a resolution and then County Council hold a public hearing and pass a resolution. The application would be due to DLGF by October 31st to be in effect by January 1, 2025. This would bring in another \$1.1 to \$1.2 million to be split between the City and the County 57%/43%. The definition of first responders would need to be defined in the resolution.

Questions from the floor:

Would this be just for pay raises for the first responders or expanding the employee count? Are we going to do anything for the volunteer fire departments? The mayor would like to see this money go toward pay raises for current employees, and some go to a vehicle/equipment budget. This will be defined in the resolution when passed.

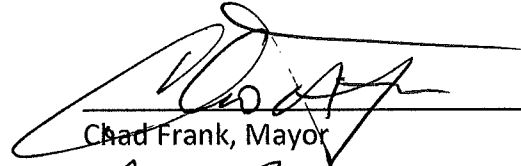
The Public Safety Tax is estimated to cost \$125.00 a year based on a \$50,000.00 annual salary.

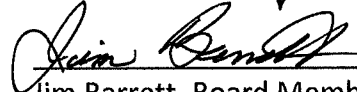
Scott Bevington thinks that we need to review all interlocal agreements to find all the inequalities, hopefully finding additional funds.

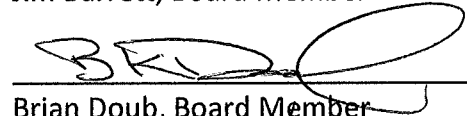
Jane Downard referred to Indiana Code that the adopting body can choose to allocate some of this tax to the Volunteer Departments, it would be up front before the 57%/43% split.

City Council Members Sharon McQueen, Jenny Barrett, Diana Phillips, Brian Robb, Bill Gray, Jabin Collins, County Council Members Kay Peyton, Mike Wenta, and Sharon Cranfill are in favor of this tax. County Council Members Jim Wulff, and Scott Bevington would like additional joint meetings to discuss.

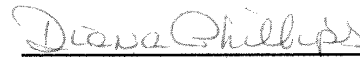
Mayor Frank adjourned the meeting.

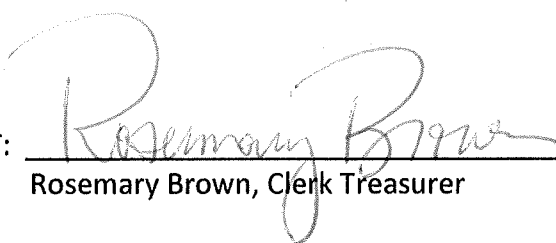

Chad Frank, Mayor


Jim Barrett, Board Member


Brian Doub, Board Member


Becky Gibson, Board Member


Diana Phillips, Board Member

ATTEST: 
Rosemary Brown, Clerk Treasurer