

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the County Auditor, the public interests required that the Lake County Council, should be called to meet in special session at this time, for the purpose of considering First Reading for the 2024 Budgets. A written notice was sent to each member of the Council, and proper advertisement made, and all other acts performed in accordance with the laws governing such matters.

And now in obedience to such call, come Presiding Chair Christine Cid, David Hamm, Pete Lindemulder and Randy Niemeyer County Councilpersons, together with Tom O'Donnell and Ray Szarmach, County Council Attorneys. President Charlie Brown, Ted Bilski and Clorius Lay were absent.

Schmal – I distributed the sixteen-line statement and some proposed actions for today. These initial actions are just a few items that are “clean up items” that are needed and then the last action will rebalance with our insurance reserve which ultimately balances the budget so we'll be balanced for 2024's budget preparation upon conclusion of these actions unless there are others that are missing.

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve line items 62410 Other Supplies at \$25K, 63150 Consultant Fees at \$50K, 63310 Printing at 170K, 63210 Freight & Express at \$150K and 63995 Other Services and Charges at \$55K due to new equipment legislation in County General Fund 1001 for Combined Election and Registration Department 5001. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve two new positions: IT Director at \$68,000 and Administrative Director at \$68,000 in the County General Fund for Prosecutors Office 9001. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Niemeyer, to approve new position of Administrative Assistant at \$40,000 in the County General Fund for the Veteran Service Department 5003. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to place remaining balance into Insurance Reserve in the County General Fund 1001 for the Lake County Commissioners Department 6002. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

In the Matter of Ordinance Authorizing Tax Levies (OR-1)

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Niemeyer, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

In the Matter of Ordinance for Appropriations, Forms 4A and 4B (OR-2)

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

In the Matter of Salary Ordinance for 2024 (OR-3)

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve on First Reading.

Niemeyer – We had several items that were brought in front of us by several departments one of them being Homeland Security for somewhat of a reorg and some changes in salaries and they weren't the only ones. There were several (departments) that wanted to get creative in what they were doing and I just wanted to make sure we make record of that as we go along. The Coroner's Office is another example where he has people of certain skill levels that are required to provide the service to the public that might need to be addressed.

Cid – Scott, I thought we made a motion early on to approve reorganizations as long as those line items stay within four percent.

Schmal – An example of that is if a department had a vacate position that they decided that they wouldn't budget for next year and they spread those salaries, that essentially was approved but any one-off changes in terms of analysis performed by a department comparing their departments pay against other county's pay, those likely would have exceeded the four percent so those would not have been approved. So that would be a one-off approval that we would have to address for those.

Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

In the Matter of Longevity Ordinance for 2024 (OR-4)

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Niemeyer, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

In the Matter of Sheriff Clothing Allowance Ordinance (OR-5)

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on First Reading.

Niemeyer – This is still part of our negotiation if I’m not mistaken. I know its just the first reading so it doesn’t necessarily put it into law but I wanted to make sure that we keep this up front and center during the negotiation.

Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

In the Matter of Per Diem Expense Ordinance for 2024 (OR-6)

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Lindemulder, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

In the Matter of Binding Recommendations/Ordinances Lake Ridge Fire (OR-7)

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

In the Matter of Binding Recommendations/Ordinances Lake County Solid Waste (OR-8)

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown, Lay and Bilski were absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 4-yes, 3-absent.

Additional Comments:

Niemeyer – This being my first budget with the county council and observing, one of the things I like to do in budgeting is look at revenue streams. I think that its very difficult to understand and pass a budget without understanding where the money comes from that funds the different services and activities of county government. What I’ve noticed in our processes here is that there are multiple miscellaneous revenue streams that the council has really no oversight over yet some of the departments that are able to collect those revenue streams have pretty broad discretion as to how they are used and they are apart of our general fund tax levy as well. I think at times those miscellaneous streams could be used to offset some of the burden on the general fund and still be able to provide the service where it seems like some of those miscellaneous revenue streams and departments that get them just say “alright, we have lots of money, lets go do this” and other departments that are still vital and give essential services to the people are constrained by what we do here as well. I would love to see departments that do have those miscellaneous revenues that can be used for things that could help us offset the impact then they would do so. I think that is responsible government to do that. It would give a little bit more space in the levy for us to fund certain activities and services of government that are essential.

Cid – Some departments have done that. Last year the Clerk’s office moved positions out to decrease the general fund monies and I know the Recorder does that as well so there are a few but I agree that sometimes the argument is that it’s going to save the county money and we’re going to lower the general fund but sometimes that doesn’t happen. I agree that we need to look at all streams of revenue and how those other funds can reduce the general fund dollars.

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Niemeyer, to cancel the following workshop meetings:

- Thursday, September 21st
- Thursday October 5th
- Thursday October 12th
- Tuesday October 3rd
- Tuesday October 10th

The council will reconvene on Tuesday October 17, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. to consider the Second Reading of the 2024 Budgets.

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved and seconded that this Council does now adjourn, to meet again as required by law.

President, Lake County Council

ATTEST:

Peggy Holinga-Katona,
Lake County Auditor