

## Resolution 2019-35

### A Resolution to Support the Creation of a Capital Improvement Board to finance, construct, equip, operate, and maintain the Expanded Convention Center in Monroe County

**WHEREAS**, on October 18, 2017, the Bloomington Common Council passed Resolution 17-38, "Supporting Passage of a Food and Beverage Tax to Fund Expansion of the Monroe County Convention Center", which urged the County to pass such a tax and pledged its cooperation, as needed, in the administration and use of the tax to fund the expansion of the Monroe County Convention Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, on October 19, 2017, City of Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) agreeing to collaborate with the County to "... *to expand the Convention Center for the benefit of the County, the City, their collective residents and the surrounding region.*" The LOI pledged the potential revenue allocated to the City under a Food and Beverage Tax, if passed, to the construction, renovation, financing, operation and maintenance of the Convention Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, on December 12, 2017, the Monroe County Council, in a 4-3 vote, passed a Food and Beverage Tax in Monroe County authorizing a One Percent (1%) Food and Beverage Tax, authorizing the City of Bloomington funds to be used "... *only to finance, refinance, construct, operate, or maintain a convention center, a conference center, or related tourism or economic development projects*"; and,

**WHEREAS**, in July and October 2019, after months of failed negotiations regarding an amendment to a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Mayor and the Monroe County Board of Commissioners and recorded November 2, 2018, and in an effort to move the expansion of the Convention Center forward, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners ("Commissioners") publicly indicated their support for the creation of a Capital Improvement Board (CIB) to oversee the design, construction, and operation of an expanded Convention Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor accepted the Commissioners' invitation to publicly meet on November 6, 2019 to discuss the creation of a CIB; however, no consensus or agreement resulted from that meeting.

#### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Monroe County Council ("Council") relied upon the Mayor and City Council's pledge of the use of Food and Beverage revenue and their cooperation and collaboration, as needed, when passing the Monroe County Food and Beverage Tax ("Tax") nearly two (2) years ago. The Council's passage of the Tax was, largely, made for the purpose of seeing the expansion of the Monroe County Convention Center realized.
2. Multiple meetings have been held regarding the financial resources necessary for the construction and expansion of the Convention Center, which would include a 30,000 square-foot, multi-use building, an adjacent 550-space Parking Garage, remodeling of the existing Convention Center building, and elevated pedestrian walkways connecting the components of the new Center. Because of the Council's passage of the Tax, the financial resources exist to carry out the expansion.
3. The Council strongly supports the creation of a Capital Improvement Board (CIB) to design, construct, finance, operate and maintain an expanded Monroe County Convention Center. Given the County's longstanding history of Council and Monroe County Board of Commissioners ("Commissioners") successfully working together on Convention Center operations and management, and with full

knowledge and understanding that the Convention Center is, always has been, and always will be a county-wide economic development tool which serves all units of government and all citizens within Monroe County, the Council respectfully requests that the Commissioners use their statutory authority under Indiana Code 36-10-8-4 to create a CIB.

4. By way of suggestion, the CIB could consist of three (3) members appointed by the County’s legislative body and three (3) members appointed by the City’s legislative body, to make the County and City equal in appointments. The seventh member could be nominated by the six (6) members of the CIB at their first organizational meeting, and approved and appointed by both the City and County legislative bodies. The legislative bodies of the City and County will receive funding requests from the CIB and continue to be responsible for requesting funding for the Convention Center’s construction and operations, as may be required by law.
5. The Council requests that the Commissioners create a CIB as soon as possible and urges the Commissioners to work with their City colleagues, as may be legally necessary, to move the expansion of the Monroe County Convention Center forward.
6. The Council agrees to fund reasonable, initial administrative costs necessary to create a CIB, if requested by the Commissioners, in an initial amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

**Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November 2019, by the Monroe County Council, Monroe County, Indiana.**

**“AYES”**

**“NAYS”**

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Eric Spoonmore, President Pro Tempore

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Trent Deckard, Member

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Trent Deckard, Member

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Marty Hawk, Member

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Geoff McKim, Member

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Cheryl Munson, Member

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Cheryl Munson, Member

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Kate Wiltz, Member

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Kate Wiltz, Member

ONE VACANT MEMBER

**Attest:**

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Catherine Smith, Auditor – Monroe County, Indiana