

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, 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; 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, 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, thus providing the City of Bloomington the needed tax revenue 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, the Board of Commissioners introduced an ordinance on December 4, 2019, in an effort to move the expansion of the Convention Center forward, to create a Capital Improvement Board (CIB) to oversee the design, construction, and operation of an expanded Convention Center; and,

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Council has weighed the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative governance structures available for the jointly developed Convention Center Expansion, has carefully considered the concerns expressed by members of the City administration and the City Council, but finds the Capital Improvement Board (CIB), which is a statutory, public entity rather than a private

entity, the most flexible and legally-practical method of empowering citizen appointees to govern the Convention Center Expansion Project and manage the tens of millions of dollars of taxpayer money; and,

WHEREAS, multiple meetings of elected officials of the City and County, together and independently, have been held to review the pros and cons of the alternative governance bodies for the Convention Center Expansion; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the concerns expressed by the City administration, the Commissioners have offered on various occasion to let the CIB decide the location of the Expansion Project's Exhibit and Banquet Hall, and to let the City make the first pick of the requisite appointments; and,

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Council ("Council") has heard repeatedly from constituents and local businesses who express concern about the delay in developing the Expansion Project, weighed the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative governance structures available for the jointly developed Convention Center Expansion, and has carefully considered the issues expressed by members of the City administration and the City Council,

WHEREAS, The Monroe County Council wishes to move the direction of the Convention Center Expansion Project outside the political realm as soon as possible; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Monroe County Council commits its support for a CIB; and
2. The Monroe County Council urges all involved parties to join together in realizing the creation of the CIB; and
3. The Monroe County Council urges all involved parties to develop an Interlocal Agreement transferring ownership of the Convention Center, decision-making control over the design and site placement of the Convention Center, and control over the operations of the Convention Center to the CIB; and
4. The Monroe County Council agrees to fund reasonable, initial administrative costs agreed upon by the parties and necessary to create a CIB, in an initial amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000).

Adopted this 10th day of December, 2019, by the Monroe County Council, Monroe County, Indiana.

"AYES"

Eric Spoonmore, President

Kate Wiltz, President Pro Tempore

Trent Deckard, Member

Marty Hawk, Member

Geoff McKim, Member

Cheryl Munson, Member

Peter Iversen, Member

"NAYS"

Eric Spoonmore, President

Kate Wiltz, President Pro Tempore

Trent Deckard, Member

Marty Hawk, Member

Geoff McKim, Member

Cheryl Munson, Member

Peter Iversen, Member

Attest:

Catherine Smith, Auditor
Monroe County, Indiana