

JUNE 18, 2018

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a Regular Session at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Bryan Cavender, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Robert Sims, Dave Pearman, Nancy Dembowski and Pam Stalbaum present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Brad Hazelton at 5:30PM. Councilman Baker made a motion to approve the minute of the May 21st meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

PROSECUTOR REQUEST TO PURCHASE DEPARTMENTAL COMPUTERS

County Prosecutor Nick Bourff appeared before the Council and distributed copies of the price quotes he had received in regard to purchasing new computers for his department. He explained the price quotes and was then told by Commissioner Norem that since he had not appeared at a Commissioner meeting the Board of Commissioners has not approved the Prosecutor purchasing computer. She advised the Prosecutor would need to appear at their next meeting, on July 2nd. She stated this purchase was part of the Commissioners' Capital Asset Plan. Councilman Pearman made a motion to table the Prosecutor's request to purchase computers. Councilman Baker seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IT DIRECTOR'S REQUEST FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

The IT Director was asked if he had appeared before the Board of Commissioners prior to the Council meeting and he stated he had not. Councilman Baker made a motion to table his request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pearman and passed with all ayes. He advised he will submit his information to the Board of Commissioners at their meeting that evening.

Council President Brad Hazelton brought up the discussion on there being a County Fire Department meeting that week about the radio problems they are experiencing. He stated there is noise and chatter on a lot of the fire radios.

SHERIFF BILL DULIN'S REQUEST FOR JAILER SERGEANT POSITON

The Sheriff stated he had not spoken with the Board of Commissioners either and would not present his request now.

CLERK VICKI COOLEY'S ELECTION RESOLUTION

Clerk Cooley advised the Election Board had created a Resolution 2018-3 stating that civil penalties may be enforced if a Report of Receipts and Expenditures of Political Committees is turned in after the due date. A fine of \$50.00 a day could be charged. She noted the resolution is based upon IC 3-9-4-17, 3-9-4-17J, 3-9-4-17K, 3-9-4-18, 3-9-4-19, and 3-9-4-20. Clerk Cooley stated the civil penalty should be deposited into a separate account and does not revert into the County General Fund at the end of the County's fiscal year. She also noted if the Election Board would fine the penalty would be found to be unjust under circumstances the Board may waive the penalty or reduce the penalty to an amount specified by the Board. She advised the Council it was just for their information as it was created and approved by the Election Board.

REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Norem stated the Board of Commissioners would like to create a new position for an employee; a full time employee with benefits. She noted the employee would work as per the Commissioners as a Commissioner Clerk. They would receive the same amount as a regular Clerk, would receive their vacation time at the time they were terminated, and would receive their longevity if that applies. She stated the new position would last until a suitable position of employment was available but in the meantime it would be paid out of the Commissioner budget. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the creation of the new position as they would work like a floater for any available department. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

SCEDF MONTHLY REPORT; REQUEST FOR A LEASE

Starke County Economic Development Foundation Director Larry Wickert appeared before the Board to present the Foundation's monthly report. He spoke of the new addition of J.W. Hicks and their request for a tax abatement from the City of Knox. Councilman Pearman asked if there will be an increase of

the number of jobs for J.W. Hicks but Director Wickert advised it would be was not aware of the exact number.

Director Wickert then advised he had a company present at the meeting, EZ BlockChain who is requesting to lease a ½ acre next to the REMC Substation at the Hamlet East Industrial Park. He advised Dave Howell of REMC, and Sergi and Louis of EZ BlockChain were present for the meeting. He advised the Company is a pre-fabricated data center which is similar to artificial intelligence and it creates a lot of heat and power. REMC is expecting that company to be one of their largest electrical customers. Director Wickert stated the company will be paying personal property tax on a million dollars worth of computers. Louie of EZ BlockChain advised they will also be needing security for their site. He advised the company is a new application which will provide the “shuttle” on information. He stated it was a generalized technology site, a Data Mining operation and will have portable units. He stated they liked the location because it was close to Chicago and Indianapolis. They showed a brief video of how the property will be laid out. Councilman Pearman asked what is in it for the County and Director Wickert stated the property tax from the personal property.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

Councilwoman Stalbaum asked for a date of the Budget Workshop for the 2019 budgets. President Hazelton stated it would be within the first ten days of August. The exact date will be set at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stalbaum. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:39PM.

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Brad Hazelton, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Nancy Dembowski

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

Katherine Chaffins, Starke County Auditor
& Secretary to the County Council