

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

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 Freddie Baker, Dave Pearman, Bryan Cavender, Brad Hazelton, Pam Stalbaum and Nancy Dembowski present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker. Absent from the meeting was Councilman Robert Sims. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21st, 2017 meeting and the September 5th, 2017 Special Session. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE 2018 BUDGET ADOPTION; RAINY DAY APPROPRIATION REDUCTION

North Judson-San Pierre Schools Superintendent Annette Zupin and Treasurer Guy Richie appeared before the Board. They advised their first item was for the adoption of their 2018 Budget. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve their 2018 Budget adoption. Councilwoman Dembowski seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Council signed the Gateway Form 4, Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates.

Treasurer Richie advised their next item was a Reduction of the Appropriation of their Rainy Day Fund. He advised since they don't have a need for the fund he was recommending reducing the appropriation of the Rainy Day Fund to \$415,329.00. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to accept the Reduction in Appropriation of the Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

NJSP BUILDING CORPORATION LEASE

NJSP School Attorney Thomas Peterson appeared before the Board to request approval of a Resolution he had prepared in regard to a project of the North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation's Building Corporation, NJSP Multi-School Building Corp. He advised the Resolution states that no taxpayer in Starke County has filed an objection to this project. County Attorney Marty Lucas inquired as to where any corresponding paperwork was since the only paper the County received was the Resolution. Attorney Peterson stated he had filed the paperwork with the County Clerk's Office. Attorney Lucas stated the Board could approve this Resolution with Attorney Lucas' contingency. Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the Resolution with Attorney Lucas' contingency. Attorney Lucas will obtain the paperwork in regard to this Resolution and file it in the Auditor's Office. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it was approved with all ayes. (The set of paperwork was received and is on file in the Auditor's Office. Also on file are the proposed project and its costs.)

STARKE COUNTY AIRPORT 2018 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

President Baker opened the Public Hearing of the Starke County Airport 2018 Budget at 5:58PM. There were no comments from the Public. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. The Public Hearing was closed at 5:59PM.

STARKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION'S MONTHLY REPORT

SCEDF Director Charlie Weaver appeared before the Board to submit his monthly departmental report. He advised the Sysco Land has been listed for sale. There was a discussion in regard to the price that was being asked for the property. Director Weaver advised there will be a Manufacturing Day on October 12th. He also advised in regard to Gary Popkins they had gotten the sprinkler system repaired at the old Stelerema Building and he believed Gary Popkins could be in business by the end of this year.

STARKE COUNTY'S 2018 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

County Attorney Chaffins stated since there was a mistake in the amount of tax levy in the County's Gateway Form 3 information, she had spoken with the DLGF who recommended we refile Form 3 and reschedule the Public Hearing and Budget Adoption of the County's 2018 budgets. She stated the Public Hearing will be held at a Special Meeting on October 2nd, and the adoption of the budget at their Regular Meeting on October 16th. Those dates were approved by the Council. She then verified that the Council still wants to go ahead with the 3% pay raise for all employees other than the Sheriff's Department's patrolmen.

TRANSFER REQUESTS AND OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

The County Coroner had requested from the Board of Commissioners a raise of his 2018 pay and then he was to appear before the Council to add it to his next year's budget. The Board of Commissioners had agreed to recommend his pay to be increased to \$9,000.00. He wanted a budget increase for his Deputies also. However, Coroner Hoffer did not appear at this meeting. Councilman Hazelton stated after reading the reports from the yearly Factbook from the Association of Indiana Counties which lists each County's pay per position the Starke County Coroner is not the lowest paid in the State as the Coroner has reported to both boards, the Commissioners and the Council. Councilman Pearman made a motion to table this issue for now. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IT Director Mark Gourley appeared before the Board to request a pay raise for his Assistant Director, Richard Franks. He advised when Richard was hired he was advised by the former Director, Brian Pinson, that after so many days he would be evaluated and would receive a pay raise. He is suggesting his pay be increased to \$35,000.00 from the \$33,911.00 that was approved in the 2017 Budget. Director Gourley stated he felt Richard was doing a fine job and would be eligible for the pay raise. He was requesting \$300.00 be transferred from the Auditor's Deputy Budget, 1000.10200.000.0002 and placed in the IT Department's Assistant's pay, 1000.10217.000.0035 to finish out 2017. Councilman Pearman stated he did not feel that Department Directors have the ability to increase their workers' pay. He also stated he did not feel this was a binding agreement since there was no proof from the former Director that he had made that statement. Councilman Hazelton told the Board that the current pay for the IT Department was low. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to increase the pay of the Assistant Director to \$35,000.00, and approve the transfer request. Councilwoman Dembowski seconded the motion for both the pay increase and the transfer request, and it passed with all ayes.

Highway Department Superintendent Rik Ritzler appeared before the Board to submit a transfer request to move \$77,035.24 from 1176.2100.000.0533, Gas, Oil & Lube to: 1176.30400.000.0530, Maintenance & Repair in the amount of \$14,270.59; 1176.21201.000.0531, Calcium Chloride, \$12,645.00; 1176.21400.000.0531, Stone Gravel Aggregates, \$14,803.63; 1176.21600.000.0531, Bituminous, \$4,624.23; 1176.21800.000.0531, Road Signs, \$15,691.79; 1176.31305.000.0533, Repair Trucks & Tractors, \$10,000.00; and 1176.31406.000.0533, Repair Road Equipment, \$5,000.00; for a total amount of appropriations of \$77,035.24. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the transfer requests. Councilman Pearman seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. He advised due to the unproductivity of fuel prices they had an amount in excess of what he will need to finish the year. Superintendent Ritzler advised if the additional funding from the fuel tax begins to come into the Highway Department in the month of October he will probably have the need to increase his 2017 budget. He would send that request for additional appropriations to the State for their approval.

DRUG & TOBACCO FREE STARKE COUNTY GRANT APPROPRIATIONS

Linda Molinda and Wendy Elam, of Drug & Tobacco Free Starke County appeared before the Board and advised they have received notice of their grant approval from the State. She stated now they must ask for the County Council to approve the appropriations so those entities could be paid. They included: Starke County Youth Club, \$1,861.17; Drug and Tobacco Free Starke County, \$3,000.00; Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, \$1,800.00; Starke County Community Corrections, \$2,045.00; Leo Smith, \$1,100.00; Porter-Starke Services, \$1,750.00; and Starke County Sheriff's Department, \$4,924.11, for a total grant amount of \$16,480.28.

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the appropriation requests. Councilwoman Dembowski seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

CVC BUDGET APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Carolla Heilstedt, of the CVC Board, appeared before the Board to get their 2017 Budget approved. She advised she had paid out \$7,500.00 this year to the Starke County Chamber of Commerce due to their contract with the CVC but she still owes a balance of \$12,500.00 for this year's costs. The Board advised her that the problem is that the CVC Board does not collect that much money in a year's time and they did not feel approving that much of a budget made any sense. There was a lot of discussion in regard to the actual contract agreement with the Chamber and stated that maybe the CVC Board should just pay for actual Tourism functions that have been completed instead of paying the Chamber for office costs. The Board looked at the current balance of the Innkeeper's Tax Fund which was \$9,320.64 and decided to allow her to appropriate \$5,000.00. Councilman Pearman made a motion to appropriate \$5,000.00 in order to pay the Chamber towards their contract. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilman Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Nancy Dembowski

ABSENT
Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a Special Session at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Bryan Cavender, Brad Hazelton, Nancy Dembowski, and Dave Pearman via telephone, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Councilman, Brad Hazelton. Absent from the meeting were Councilman Robert Sims, Councilman Freddie Baker and Councilwoman Pam Stalbaum.

The purpose of this meeting was to hold a Public Hearing for the 2018 County Budgets. As there were not enough Councilmen present to hold a Quorum, this was not a valid meeting. The 2018 Public Hearing and Adoption will need to be rescheduled. (The Public Hearing has been rescheduled to take place on Monday, October 16th, and the Budget Adoption to take place on Thursday, October 26, 2017.)

Katherine Chaffins,
Auditor of Starke County,
Secretary of County Council