

MARCH 21, 2016

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 Dave Pearman, Bryan Cavender, Robert Sims, Freddie Baker, Brad Hazelton, Pam Stalbaum and Jennifer Davis present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker.

NJSP ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION

Guy Ritchie, of the North Judson-San Pierre Schools, appeared before the Board asking for approval of the Additional Appropriation to the Rainy Day Fund in the amount of \$595,480.00. He advised the annual budget has appropriated this much more in funding and needs to be entered into the Rainy Day Fund. Mr. Ritchie spoke briefly of the NJSP School status noting they have lost almost 1/3 of students in the last ten years; and in the last two years they have cut twenty four employees. Councilman Pearman noted they not just need to look at their budget but also at their quality of education, and may need to look at consolidation in the future. Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to approve the Rainy Day appropriation of \$595,480.00. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

MINUTES

Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Councilman Cavender seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

IU HEALTH-STARKE 4th QUARTER CAPITAL ASSET REPORT

Craig Felty, CEO of IU Health-Starke, appeared before the Board with a presentation of the Capital Asset Reporting for the 4th quarter of 2015. He advised during that quarter the hospital had purchased \$1,659,358.00 in capital assets. Councilman Pearman asked if the new CT with a purchase prize of \$855,939.00 was something the County had talked about. He inquired if there was anything in the current contract that says we will have to discuss it if they were to spend a certain amount of money.

Craig Felty advised there was not. County Attorney Marty Lucas advised in the 2009 Contract it states that the County must approve capital asset purchases. Councilman Pearman inquired as to how much to carry the CT Scan to the new facility. Attorney Lucas stated the contract clearly states they must have prior approval before making the purchase. Councilman Pearman made a motion to table the approval of the purchases. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

Councilman President Freddie Baker advised the County has been asked to extend the hospital lease by 90 days pending public meetings so that the public can weigh a very serious situation. He advised there have been things being stated that are not true. He advised, at no time have they ever said they are not in favor of a new hospital. He stated the hospital had saved his life. He advised the public meetings will be posted and they will meet with the hospital with three Council members and one Commissioner to get the feel of what really needs to be done. Councilman Pearman stated they should have a complete story in the media that is accurate. President Baker advised he isn't going to be selling the ground that the hospital sits on. He wants the lease but wants the best deal possible for the taxpayers and the Community to get. Councilman Pearman resolved for the Council to extend the deadline of the lease, to extend it by 90 days, and recommends having the public meetings and additional negotiations with the hospital. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

With there being no public comments and no further business, Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:08PM.

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Freddie Baker, President

Dave Pearman, Vice-President

Bryan Cavender

Pam Stalbaum

Jennifer Davis

Robert Sims

Brad Hazelton

CarLa Thomas, Deputy Auditor

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