

**July 20, 2015**

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

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Freddie Baker. Councilwoman Jennifer Davis was absent.

Councilman Pearman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilman Sims seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

#### **STATE SENATOR JIM ARNOLD PRESENTS STATE LEGISLATION REPORT TO BOARD**

State Senator, Jim Arnold, appeared before the Council to give a brief update on some of the issues addressed by the 2015 State General Assembly. Some of the topics he addressed were School Funding: Public Schools vs Charter Schools; the change to the Common Construction Wage; the Governor's creation of "Just In, Just Out" in regard to releasing news to the media; The Religious Freedom Act (RIFA); the Needle Exchange Program; the understaffing of the Child Services Department; additional legislation pertaining to Veterans; the creation of land based casinos; and a new ethics bills. He also noted they will be working on Summer Study Committees to prepare for next year's legislative session. He advised of the 1300 bills that were filed 257 bills were passed (253 bills passed by legislation, and 4 that Governor Pence signed into law). Senator Arnold advised he could return in November or December and give the Council another update.

#### **REQUEST TO INCREASE PAY FOR THE CLERK OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Building Commissioner Terry Stephenson and Planning Commission Clerk Pam Starkey appeared before the Board. Commissioner Stephenson advised he is requesting a pay raise for Clerk Starkey and wants to include the increase in their 2016 Budget. He advised the work load of the Planning Commission Clerk has increased greatly in the last few years and Clerk Starkey averages a work week of approximately an extra 10 hours per week. He noted she has to take work home on a regular basis in order to complete all the departmental paperwork. He stated they are asking for a pay increase that amounts to an average of \$38.00 a week. Commissioner Stephenson also noted Clerk Starkey is required to attend all the monthly night meetings of the Planning Commission, noting they meet once a month for approximately eleven times a year. Councilman Pearman inquired as to why they don't include a budget line item of extra pay for night meetings. Commissioner Stephenson advised the Planning Commission Board Members receive \$50.00 per meeting attendance. There was a brief discussion in regard to possibly making the position a 40 hour work week instead of a 35 hour work week (80 hours per pay period versus the current 70 hour pay period). It was pointed out that the Annex Building's hours are from 8AM-4PM. Clerk Starkey stated on a lot of days she works through her lunch hour. Commissioner Norem stated she is entitled to taking her lunch time and should be taking it not working through it. Commissioner Norem advised there is no such thing as "comp time". Other than suggesting Commissioner Stephenson should add the budget line item, compensation for night meetings, to his 2016 proposed budget no action was taken by the Board. Auditor Chaffins advised them it was not too late to submit an amended budget.

#### **REQUEST TO LOWER THE STARTING PAY OF THE COUNTY SANITARIAN POSITION**

Starke County Health Nurse & Head of the County's Health Department, Frank Lynch, appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility of lowering the starting pay of the County's Sanitarian Position. Nurse Lynch advised, due to the unexpected death of the County's Sanitarian, Chris Dalton, the position of County Sanitarian has been vacant. He advised he is currently reviewing applications for that position. He noted the current pay for the Sanitarian position is \$ 36,923.00 (\$ 20.28 hourly rate). He noted the pay for Sanitarian of surrounding counties was as follows: Pulaski County \$ 33,800.00; Fulton County \$ 38,000.00; and LaPorte County \$35,000.00. Nurse Lynch noted the position of County Health Nurse is currently earning \$ 20.58 an hour. He stated he is asking the Board to consider lowering the starting pay for the position of County Sanitarian to \$ 18.50 an hour with an increase of .50 after 90 days and a good employee evaluation, and an additional .50 after 120 days and a good performance evaluation, taking the total hourly wage to \$ 19.50 which would equal an annual pay of \$ 35,490.00. Councilman Pearman advised it was a good thing to create a pay scale for the position. Councilman Hazelton made a motion to approve the starting pay for the Sanitarian Position to be reduced to \$ 18.50/hour to be effective on this date. Councilwoman Stalbaum seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes. Councilman Sims made a motion to amend the 2015 Salary Ordinance to reflect the pay scale of \$ 18.50 - \$ 19.50 for the Sanitarian Position. Councilman Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed with all ayes.

**COUNTY AUDITOR BUSINESS**

Auditor Chaffins presented a summary report on the TIF Sysco, the only TIF District under the jurisdiction of the County. The report stated the history of the County’s Redevelopment Commission (RDC), the creation of the TIF District, and the revenue and expenditures of the TIF Sysco District. She noted the revenue has been receipted into the County’s General Fund. Attorney Marty Lucas advised the RDC needs to be repopulated from the initial board created in 2006. He recommended the County retain the TIF District even though the amount of revenue earned by the TIF, at this time, is minute, but it would be more difficult to propose the establishment of a new TIF District later on if this current TIF District is disbanded. Commissioner Norem advised they had the same discussion at their last Commissioner meeting and it is the recommendation of the Board of Commissioners to continue with the TIF Sysco District. Attorney Lucas advised the RDC is required to submit an annual report to both County Boards and the report by Auditor Chaffins will meet that requirement for this year. But, he did advise the RDC Board and the EDC Board both need to be re-populated as there is no record of Board members comprising the RDC Board since 2007 and the EDC Board since 2006. Commissioner Norem advised the Commissioners will be making their appointments to the RDC Board at their August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and asked the Council to submit their two RDC appointee names at their August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, which is prior to the Commissioners’ meeting, and also one suggestion for appointment to the EDC Board. Councilman Pearman inquired if both boards could be made up of different board members. Attorney Lucas advised both the RDC Board and the EDC Board are not currently considered lucrative offices and therefore Council and Commissioners could hold positions on those boards. Attorney Lucas also suggested the revision of the County Ordinance is regard to TIF Districts so it is in compliance with current State Statutes.

Auditor Chaffins advised in regard to the 2016 County Budgets’ schedule the Public Hearing will take place during the Council’s September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and the budget adoption at their October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. She advised the budget needs to be adopted and sent to the State (DLGF) by November 1<sup>st</sup>. She also noted the Council will be conducting their non-binding review of other County Taxing Units at their September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The public hearing of the NJSP School Corporation’s budget will take place during the Council’s August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the adoption of the NJSP budget at their September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. She advised the only other date that needs to be set is when the Council plans on holding their budget workshop to review the proposed departmental 2016 budgets. After a discussion the Council established the 2016 Council Budget Workshop for Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 9AM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

With there being no public comment and no further business, Councilwoman Stalbaum made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Cavinder. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:43PM.

**JULY 20, 2015**

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Freddie Baker, President

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Dave Pearman

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Bryan Cavender

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Pam Stalbaum

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Davis

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Robert Sims

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Hazelton

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