

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in a special session at 5:30PM in the Annex meeting room, Knox Indiana and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by Council President Dave Pearman.

Absent from the meeting were Councilwoman Judy Benninghoff, and Councilman Mark Smith. Present to witness the meeting were newly elected Councilmen Bryan Cavender and Freddie Baker.

MINUTES

President Pearman announced, due to the fact there was not a quorum of the Council present at the December 17th meeting they had some unfinished business to attend to. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19th meeting, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes. Councilman Semans made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3rd special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz, and passed with all ayes. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17th meeting, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

TRANSFERS

President Pearman advised the other issue of unfinished business was the requests for transfers. Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the transfer of \$4,500.00 from the utilities line item of the Courthouse/Annex Building, 30609, of the County General Fund, to the janitor supplies line item, 20303, within the same budget, in order to purchase shelving for the County's warehouse to allow for vertical storage of records. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

Councilman Sims made a motion to approve the request by the Auditor's department of the County General Fund to transfer \$2,000.00 from the deputy auditor line item, 10200, to the computers line item, 40100, in order to update two computers in the Auditor's Office. The motion was seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz and passed with all ayes.

Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the transfer within the Extension Office of the County General Fund, in the amount of \$ 170.00 from the Assistant Clerk line item, 10204, and transfer \$70.00 to office supplies, 20100, and \$100.00 to the travel line item, 30204. Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Semans. The motion passed with all ayes.

PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE COUNCILWOMAN JUDY BENNINGHOFF AND COUNCILMAN MARK SMITH

Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to recognize and thank Councilwoman Judy Benninghoff and Councilman Mark Smith for their many years of service to the County while serving on the County Council. (Both have terms that expire 12/31/12.) Councilman Semans seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes.

TRANSFER TO RAINY DAY FUND

President Pearman advised he has spoken to various department heads in regard to the unexpended portion of their 2012 County General budget. He noted none of the departments will be penalized in their budgets for the next year. He advised he had composed a spreadsheet of what was unexpended per department, and then reviewed the totals for each department. He noted the total of the unexpended portion of the County General Fund budget, as of 12/27/12, was \$539,357.78, but there was still a payroll to be posted on 12/28/12, and encumbered expenses to be considered. Since they are allowed to transfer the unexpended portion of the fund, up to 10% of the state approved budget, Councilman Semans made a motion to transfer \$192,700.00 to the Rainy Day Fund, from the County General Fund. Councilman Radkiewicz seconded the motion, and it passed with all ayes. President Pearman advised he would like to see the transferred money be earmarked for the purchase of an additional ambulance to cover the west side of the county.

Following a discussion in regard to changing the day and time of the 2013 Council meetings, President Pearman announced the next meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 7th, at 5:30PM, to reorganize the Board, to make appointments to the various County boards, and to set the meeting schedule for 2013.

Councilman Sims brought up the topic of the Sheriff's percentage/compensation in regard to the collection of tax warrants. Councilman McLaughlin provided a copy of a newspaper in which the Sheriff had placed an advertisement for the police department, stating his personal name, and advised the Sheriff had paid for that ad using the Commissary Fund. Councilman McLaughlin advised when the Sheriff states his own name in an ad it becomes a political advertisement. County Attorney, Marty Lucas, advised it was in a grey area, and he has not had the opportunity to research it. He also noted the best time to create policy, in regard to the compensation that is paid to the Sheriff, is during an off election year. The idea of making a motion to no longer allow any Commissary Funds to pay for advertisement was discussed. It was decided they would like to have Sheriff Oscar Cowen appear before the Council at their Jan. 7th meeting.

With there being no further business, Councilman Semans made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.

DECEMBER 27, 2012

Dave Pearman, President

Mitch Semans, Vice President

ABSENT _____
Judy Benninghoff

Marvin McLaughlin

ABSENT _____
Mark Smith

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Katherine Chaffins,
Starke Co. Auditor & Council Secretary