

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2009

The LaPorte County Council met in regular session on October 26, 2009 in the assembly room of the LaPorte County Council Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

Meeting was called to order by Council President, Mark Yagelski at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Auditor Craig Hinchman had roll call and the following Council Members were present; Mr. Bernacchi, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Ford, Mr. Garner, Mr. Mrozinski, Mrs. Sosinski and Mr. Yagelski. Also present were Council Attorney Don Baugher, Auditor Craig Hinchman and Chief Deputy Auditor, Mary Ray. Auditor Hinchman declared a quorum.

The Agenda was approved (with change) by all Council Members.

The minutes from the September 21, 2009 meeting were approved by all Council Members.

The Budget hearing minutes were approved by all Council Members.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mrs. Sosinski reported she met with Human Resources but all was discussed in the final budget hearing.

Mr. Ford had no report.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that there will be a program to honor Veterans on November 11, 2009 at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium.

Mr. Garner had no report

Mr. Bernacchi stated that there will be two items on the agenda that he is involved with. Transfer of funds in GIS due to an illness and in the Assessors office due to an error in having funds in the wrong account.

Mr. Cunningham had no report.

Mr. Yagelski had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Maynard R. Searing Sr. spoke about the long term continuing flooding problems occurring on Karen Court in the Tiffany Woods area. He asked for the Council's help to correct this problem.

Mr. Bill Hanna from LaPorte County United Way asked the support of the Council for fund raising. Asked the Council for permission to contact County employees for their support and allow payroll deductions. Mayor Kathy Chroback also spoke regarding the same issues. Mr. Cunningham started the donations off with his pledge.

Mr. Dennis Metheny stated his opinion opposing spending any tax payers money regarding payment to workers at the RPM fest. He also commented that tax abatement should be given for a shorter time, like only five years instead of ten. He complimented City of LaPorte for only granting five year abatement to Alpha Baking.

Mike Kobos inquired if the 2010 budget was approved. He also commented about Alco Television not covering all the Council meetings live.

Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer announced that his department was hosting a Halloween Fun Night on October 31, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Park area in the County parking lot in front of the depot. He stressed safety for the children and will be giving safety gifts to those attending. He also announced a joint town hall meeting with the Westville Town Marshall on November 14, 2009 at the American Legion on highway 421 in Westville at 6:0 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Councilman Scott Ford welcomed the LaPorte High School students in the audience and complimented them for their interest in government.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt Reardon, Bill Kouts and other persons involved with the tax abatement evaluation of Indiana Melting & Manufacturing, now known as Steel Dynamic , outlined their projection for the operation to be up and running by mid November. New management has been hired and the projected work force is expected to be an addition of thirty five by January, 2010.

Motion was made to amend the ten year tax abatement to have a new starting date of January 1, 2009 with a yearly review to make sure compliance of requirements are met.

Voice vote taken

All members present voted in favor (Mr. Garner was not present for the vote due to illness))

Motion approved.

APPROPRIATIONS OR TRANSFERS OR REQUESTS

LAPORTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Requested additional appropriation into

#100-30085-000-145

Medical care for inmates

\$100,000.00

Motion to approve funds from Riverboat Admissions Tax

Voice vote taken

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested additional appropriation into

#100-10140-000-105

Overtime-Sheriff Department

\$40,000.00

Motion to approve

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr.Mrozinski, Mr. Cunningham voted in favor

Mr. Yagelski and Mr. Bernacchi voted against

Motion approved

Requested payment of sick time for retired jail

Deputy Roger Speakman

#100-10165-000-145

\$2,550.00

Motion to approve

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested approval of the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department
Personnel Retirement Plan.

Motion to approve

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

Requested approval of LaPorte County Sheriff Salary Contract for 2010

To be the same as 2009

\$125,647.00

Motion to approve

Voice vote taken

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

GIS

Requested transfer of funds from Continuing Education (100-30137-000-175)

TO

Extra hire/part time (100-101130-000-175)

\$1,200.00

Motion to approve

Voice vote taken

All members voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Requesting approval of Phase 3 of the H1N1 Grant from

The ISDH

\$238,279.00

Motion to approve

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

LAPORTE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Requested transfer of funds from Land Value Appraisals (#247-32036-000-247)

TO

Extra Hire (#247-10130-000-247)

\$8,000.00

Motion to approve

Mrs. Sosinski, Mr. Ford, Mr. Mrozinski, Mr. Yagelski Mr. Bernacchi voted in favor

Mr. Cunningham voted against

Motion approved

OLD BUSINESS

None

REVIEW OF UNIT BUDGETS

All budgets with a growth factor of 3.8% or less were approved.

Any budgets over that amount were rejected.

Motion was made to approve

All members present voted in favor

Motion approved

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Yagelski reported the next County Council meeting will be November 23, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. with a joint workshop with the LaPorte County Commissioners at 5:30 p.m. to discuss Economic Development. He also stated that probably no December Council meeting will be held.

Mrs. Sosinski will work with the Human Resources department to draw up a document regarding voluntary furlough days off.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at approximately 8:00 p.m.