

**MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

Council President Click was absent due to illness. Vice-President Shirley Mull led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Wiles recited a prayer.

COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

Councilman Wiles moved to approve the minutes. The motion was 2nd by Councilman Hunt and passed 6-0.

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

There are no emergency appropriations requested this month.

COUNCIL ACTION

Susan Rice came before the Council to request approval of the Juvenile Probation budget that was missed during the budget hearings.

Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to approve. Councilman Kendall 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Angie Bever-Bonham came before the Council regarding a raise in her pay that was approved by the Community Corrections Board and requested by Judge Banina for the Council to approve last month. Judge Banina could not be in attendance due to illness. Angie has completed her Masters degree and is asking that the pay raise be approved by Council to bring her pay status in line with the position and education.

MILEAGE ISSUE

Carol Biddle from the Health Department and John Walker from CASA was present to ask if the Council would adjust the mileage rate to match the federal rate of 48 cents per mile. Councilman Click said the mileage was raised for the 2007 budget from 34 cents in 2006 to 37 cents this year. Both Mrs. Biddle and Mr. Walker drive their own cars and Councilman Wiles asked what the liability of the County is if they have an accident while doing County business.

After some discussion the Council agreed to take Mrs. Biddle's information and request under advisement until next month. It is noted that the County does not have this year's budget approved by the State.

SHERIFF

Ken Roland addressed the Council by introducing a new Deputy. Eric Meecham was hired to replace Terry Merrix who retired last month. He also said he promoted Tim Hunter to Sergeant over Day Personnel.

ABATEMENT ISSUES

Councilman Click stated that the abatement committee met in February with the businesses and they were under the impression that all businesses knew what was expected and how to properly fill out and file the CF1 statement of benefits. Only one of the businesses filled out the paper work properly and filed it within the legal time frame.

The Council discussed what to do with those who did not file the paper work at all. Council Attorney, David Grund recommends a letter be sent by MCEDA to the businesses.

A motion was made by Councilman Wiles to allow the extension date of filing to July 15, 2007. Mr. Tidd also told the Board that even if they just turned down the abatement the businesses are entitled by law to a public hearing to present their case as to why they failed to comply.

The motion was 2nd by Councilperson Mull with the addition that the letter should be sent by MCEDA by certified mail. The motion was passed 7-0.

BUDGET AND WAGE COMMITTEE

Councilmen Wiles and Duckwall were given the 144 salary request form and the budget request form to review and fill out for the Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Click reported that the Health Care Foundation has almost completed the sale of Blair Ridge. The first part of July the County should be out of that issue. Investments are doing well and he feels good things could come out of it. They plan to purchase some equipment for the hospital. Councilperson Mull asked how much was in the Foundation. Councilman Click said it was approaching \$7,000,000. Councilperson Mull said she felt the public should know this amount.

EMS AMBULANCE BOARD

Councilman Wiles said he has not heard from the Board.

JAIL COMMITTEE

Councilperson Mull said they meet every two weeks but there is nothing new at this time.

She said the paper is doing a good job of reporting on those meetings.

FOUR COUNTY

Councilperson Mull said they are doing pretty well. She said the County raised their share and others did to help.

SOLID WASTE

Councilperson Mull said Solid Waste is doing fine.

LLC

Councilman Hunt said he is on the mailing list but has no further information.

EXTENSION BOARD

Councilman Hunt said he has never been contacted by them.

Councilperson Mull told the other members that she attended two meetings on June 9, 2007 for County Council members. One was a State called meeting and concerned Legal Issues and Conflict of Interest. The other was a Diploma Program.

Commissioner Hawley noticed a couple of weeks ago that the criteria for the open door law was changed and they asked Councilperson Mull if they gave her information on that subject. She had a bullet point presentation she let the members look at from her meetings.

Councilman Duckwall reminded the Council and those in attendance that Senator Weatherwax will be here Saturday morning to discuss issues. One of the issues will be a Local Option Income Tax and the other will be Trending.

MINUTES

Councilman Hunt moved to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2007 meeting. The motion was 2nd by Councilperson Mull and passed 7-0.

MCEDA

Jim Tidd told the Council that he is working on setting up a meeting with everyone that is involved in the abatement process including the businesses and their accountants to educate all on the process in the hope to improve the process. He said they are working on either a January or February meeting to do this.

JULY MEETING

Commissioner Hawley mentioned that the Highway Supervisor could not be there and that they would be coming before the Council next month to have the additional \$110,000 out of CEDIT appropriated for the Business 31 project.

Councilman Click asked if there was any further business to come before this Council. No further business was requested and he said he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Duckwall moved to adjourn. The motion was 2nd by Councilman McAuliffe. The motion passed 7-0

Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Weaver, Auditor