

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
MARCH 16, 2010

Council President Ralph Duckwall called the meeting to order and led those in attendance in prayer and the reciting of the pledge to the flag.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

Councilman Hunt moved to approve the February minutes. The motion was 2nd by Councilman McAuliffe and passed 7-0.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEXICO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Shirley Leazenby came before the Council for an answer to the request to forgive the loan for the Mexico Sewer District. The actual loan occurred over 10 years ago which has caused some confusion. The County Attorney suggested forgiving what was done 10 years ago but not give any additional funding. No action was taken at this time.

MCEDA/AIRPORT

The Peru Municipal Airport requested \$35,000 in C.E.D.I.T. to help with a match for a Federal Grant. James Walker, Mayor of Peru said the City would put in half of the money, which reduced the request to \$17,500. Councilman Wiles made a motion to support an amount not to exceed \$17,500 out of the C.E.D.I.T. Fund. Councilwoman Mull 2nd the motion and the motion passed 6-1 (Donaldson)

SOLID WASTE

Samantha Ward, Solid Waste Director, came before the Council to inform them that she was told by the Department of Local Government Finance that her budget had not been approved and she was required to ask for an additional appropriation for her entire budget. Mrs. Ward met with her Board and did the necessary steps but because the Miami County Council is to review all budgets and give a non-binding review, she was required to go through the same steps before the Council. After reviewing the budget, Councilwoman Mull made a motion to allow the additional appropriation for \$376,200 out of Solid Waste fees. Councilman McAuliffe 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Susan Rice, Chief Probation Officer, came before the Council to request a loan from one of her funds to another to be paid back by December 31, 2010. Ms. Rice explained that due to economic times, fees that support the Drug and Alcohol fund has run in the red. She has met with the Judges and has raised the fee amount and stepped up collection efforts but needs the loan to keep things in the black.

The County Attorney prepared an Ordinance to allow the loan. Councilman Wiles made a motion requesting a unanimous approval of the ordinance on the same night as it was introduced. The motion was 2nd by Councilwoman Mull and passed 7-0. Councilwoman Mull made a motion to approve the ordinance and Councilman Hunt 2nd the motion. Motion was approved 7-0.

HIRING FREEZE

During the February meeting, the Council adopted a hiring freeze. Since that time 6 departments have had or will have vacated appropriated positions. Councilman Kendall asked if the position and the money for that position have been appropriated why the Department head and/or the

Elected Official has to come before the Council to request filling it. Councilman Wiles said he felt it was a way for the Council to be kept informed of what was going on.

The Circuit Court had an employee leave and would like to offer the position to an employee of the Clerk's Office since she is familiar with their needs. Councilman Kendall made a motion to allow and Councilwoman Mull 2nd the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

The Clerk will be replacing that position with an employee who is currently part-time and asked the Council to grant permission to hire another part-time employee. Councilwoman Mull made a motion to allow. Councilman Kendal 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

The Judges and Chief Probation Officer had to terminate one of the Probation Officers and is requesting to refill that position due to the heavy caseloads. Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to allow. Councilman Kendall 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

9-1-1 Director, Carol Harbison, informed the Council that she also had a full time dispatcher leave and 2 part time employees that has had to cut their hours of availability down. Mrs. Harbison requested that she be allowed to replace all 3 of those positions. There will be no additional cost to the County. Councilman Kendall made a motion to allow and Councilwoman Mull 2nd the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

The Auditor informed the Council that she would be losing a staff person sometime in May due to the employee moving out of State. She is requesting permission to replace fill the position. Mrs. Lilley is also requesting to hire a part time person out of the Plat Book Fund to get them trained to step into that position when the time comes. The County is at this time still in a position to have on time tax billing and the Auditor wants to ensure that we stay on track. Councilman Wiles made a motion to allow and Councilwoman Mull 2nd the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

The Recorder informed the Council that her part time staff has also faced some changes and she needs to add a person to work the hours and complete the work. It would only be 4 or 5 hours a week and would be paid out of the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund. Councilman Kendall made a motion to allow. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Christy Householder, Economic Development, brought a Decelatory Resolution designating a certain area within the County as an Economic Revitalization Area. The area, consisting of 18 acres, is located at 11502 South US 31 (where the old drive-in was located). Councilwoman made a motion to pass the Decelatory Resolution. Councilman Kendall 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

There will be a meeting on April 20th prior to the Council meeting at 6:45 to pass the Confirmatory Resolution.

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

The Miami County Sheriff came before the Council requesting more staff for the new jail. There are currently 15 jail deputies (which include the 6 that we received last year) to man 3 shifts 7 days a week. The old jail was much smaller and was not appropriately staffed therefore there are considerable complications with a move to a much larger facility. There are 3 stations that have to have someone there at all times. There is also a very serious safety issue whereas you may have to send one jailer into a cell with 30-32 inmates to break up a fight. The Sheriff realizes that these are hard economic times but has a situation that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. He is requesting 7 employees.

Sergeant Tim Hunter told the Council they knew immediately they were in trouble. They have looked at many different options including 10-hour days, 12-hour days, 4 days on 2 days off and every possible variation without any good solution.

Councilman Wiles, McAuliffe and Councilwoman Mull will meet with the Sheriff on Monday, March 22nd at 4:00 p.m. at the new jail to go over problems and possible solutions and they will report back to the full Board on March 30th at 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Mull. The motion was 2nd by Councilman McAuliffe and passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Lilley
Miami County Auditor