

MINUTES OF A
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 27, 2018

The special meeting of the St. Joseph County Council was called to order at 6:50 p.m., on February 27, 2018 by the President, Rafael Morton, in the Council Meeting Room, fourth floor, County-City Building, South Bend, Indiana.

Members in attendance were:

Mr. Robert L. Kruszynski
Mr. Corey Noland
Mr. O'Brien
Ms. Diana Hess
Mr. Rafael Morton
Mr. Mark P. Telloyan
Mr. Mark A. Catanzarite
Mr. Robert McCahill
Mr. Mark Root

Present from the Auditor's office was Mr. Michael J. Hamann, Auditor and Mr. John Murphy, Chief Deputy Auditor.

Council staff present was Mr. Michael Trippel, Council Attorney and Ms. Jennifer M. Prawat, Executive Secretary.

BILL NO. 13-18: A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE MASTER ENERGY PLAN AND PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE UNDER THE GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS CONTRACT

Mr. Morton: At this point, we will continue the public hearing on this bill.

Mr. O'Brien: I didn't really understand the background of how everything went down two weeks ago, I was curious if anyone on the council had heard from, I am going to call them remonstrators ahead of time? They kind of showed up out of the blue, had they reached out to any councilmembers ahead of time?

Mr. Noland: Prior to two weeks ago?

Mr. O'Brien: Yes, prior to two weeks ago.

Mr. Morton: You are saying prior to...

Mr. O'Brien: Yes, it just seems so odd they just showed up, I would think they would have reached out to someone ahead of time.

Mr. Morton: They did, they reached out to me at the twenty fifth hour and as far as I was concerned, when they approached me the first thing they said, they were not against the project but felt like they had some expertise that they could lend to us and they were hoping we would at least listen to them and listen to their questions and have conversation. When a constituent reaches out like that, I felt compelled to at least put it on the floor in a form of a motion and see what the reaction of this council would be if we wanted to hear them or not so that is exactly why I put the motion on the floor not knowing what type of response it would get, it got a second so that is exactly what happened.

Mr. O'Brien: Thanks.

Mr. Catanzarite: I certainly do appreciate the energy committee for their diligence and all the effort they put into investigating and given the circuit breaker situation, I don't see any other way fiscally, as a county that we could have maybe met some of these deferred maintenance issues with these buildings that we've got, they are aging, I am very pleased that we are achieving two things, we're achieving energy savings, I appreciate the efforts of everybody in the energy committee that put their time and energy into this and I look forward to seeing things improved in the county in the years to come.

Mr. Kruszynski: We have seen the contractors that are planning on bidding on it or giving quotes but we have not

Mr. Morton: Mr. O'Brien I would like to also add in reference to your question, I made it extremely clear that I was very unhappy about them coming, we have been working on this for almost two years. I just want you to know that too but at the same time when they approached me and said we've got expertise, we are not against it, that's simply why I, from my perspective, I followed protocol and it was not my decision, it was the decision of this council, we voted on it, that's exactly what happened.

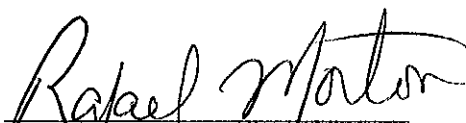
Mr. O'Brien: Understand.

Mr. Morton: Thank you.

Motion to pass Bill No. 13-18 was made by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. McCahill. Bill No. 9-18 was passed to-wit; 9-0

Motion to adjourn was heard at 6:57 p.m.


Auditor, St. Joseph County


President, St. Joseph County Council