

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL
November 3, 2011

The special meeting of the St. Joseph County Council was called to order at 5:05 p.m., on November 3, 2011, by the President, Rafael Morton, in the Council Chambers, fourth floor, County-City Building, South Bend, Indiana.

Members in attendance were:

Mr. Mark Catanzarite
Mr. Dale DeVon
Mr. Michael J. Hamann
Mr. Daniel G. Herbster - Absent
Mr. Michael J. Kruk
Mr. Robert J. McCahill
Mr. Rafael Morton
Mr. Corey D. Noland
Mr. Mark Root

Present from the Auditor's office was Mr. Peter H. Mullen, Auditor and Ms. Teresa Shuter, Chief Deputy Auditor. Council staff present were Mr. Michael A. Trippel, Attorney and Ms. Joan M. Pawlowski, Executive Secretary.

Resolutions:

Mr. Morton announced that there would be a combined public hearing on Bill No. 127-11 and 128-11 but would be voted on separately.

BILL NO. 127-11: A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARING A PORTION OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA, PURSUANT TO IC. 6-1.1-12.1-1, ET SEQ. (AM General LLC) DECLARATORY RESOLUTION

The Clerk read the amendment stating that the Statement of Benefits form that was submitted on November 1, 2011 has been replaced with the one filed on November 3, 2011. The graphics labeled Exhibit A and B, submitted on November 1, 2011, are to be removed.

Motion to amend was made by Mr. McCahill and seconded by Mr. DeVon.

Mr. Morton asked the petitioner if they agreed with the amendment. The response was yes.

BILL NO. 128-11: A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARING A PORTION OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA, PURSUANT TO IC. 6-1.1-12.1-1, ET SEQ. (Bright Automotive, Inc.) DECLARATORY RESOLUTION

Patrick McMahon, Project Future stated some history with the AM General Plant. Bright Automotive has chosen to match up with AM General for this new project. He stated that there would be an overview about the vehicle and what it will mean to the local area.

Mike Donoughe, Chief Operating Officer, Bright Automotive stated that this company was spun out of the Rocky Mountain Institute which is a think and do tank in Colorado. This is an idea to create a new vehicle, plug-in hybrid electric light commercial van. They are in the process of building up the employment base both in Indiana and Michigan with about 20-30 people in Anderson, IN and 150 in their Detroit area where the vehicle engineering center will be located. What they are trying to do along with AM General, launch the lowest "Total Cost of Ownership", highest reliability, most efficient light commercial vehicle in the 2013-2014 time frame. This is an aluminum-intensive body to minimize weight, lower dynamics to reduce the amount of energy that is needed to operate. They have partnered with GM to buy powertrain systems. The van/cab chassis will be able to be customized by the customer. They are hoping to appeal to small and large fleet operators.

This is about a \$20M investment for new equipment in the AM General Mishawaka plant. They plan to create about 300 new jobs.

Rick Smith, President of Commercial Business, AM General, stated how this is a very important project. They have been trying to find business for the Hummer H2 business that was lost a couple of years ago. They feel that the Bright project is the real deal. It is important to have a strong support from the local community.

Mr. Kruk, questioned the size of the van? Mr. Donoughe stated that it was about the size of a Chevy Astro. Mr. Kruk, questioned if a van conversion plant and asked to purchase a few hundred and sell them to the general public, is this something you would be open to? Mr. Donoughe stated that they would have to look at that to make sure it meets regulatory requirements. He expects that they would be open to that.

Mr. DeVon asked if this will take a certain AMP to be plugged into? Mr. Donoughe stated that the van will not need any special infrastructure to be plugged into. Mr. DeVon asked about the timing of the project. Mr. Donoughe stated that the plans call of late 2013 or early 2014 time frame, contingent upon receipt of funding.

Mr. Catanzarite asked about the Department of Energy. Mr. Donoughe stated that they are looking for private equity and a loan from the Department of Energy. They are engaged on a daily basis with the people at the DOE, going through their intense process. Mr. Catanzarite asked about demand. Mr. Donoughe stated that this van has potential appeal in Europe and Asia (more of a passenger type vehicle).

Mr. Kruk stated that they are looking at approximately \$22.6M investment by Bright and about \$4.3M by AM General. Do you anticipate in the future any Real Property improvements to the plant? Mr. Smith stated not at this time.

Mr. McMahon stated that the information in the amended SB1 was not eliminated it is actually in the petition and they did not want to repeat it.

The amendment to Bill No. 127-11 passed by a voice vote; 8-0. No negatives were heard.

Motion to pass Bill No. 127-11 was made by Mr. Hamann and seconded by Mr. Noland. Bill No. 127-11 passed as amended; 8-0.

Motion to pass Bill No. 128-11 was made by Mr. Catanzarite and seconded by Mr. McCahill. Bill No. 128-11 passed to-wit; 8-0.

Old Business

New Business

Privilege of the Floor

Motion to adjourn was heard at 5:27 p.m.

Auditor, St. Joseph County

President, St. Joseph County Council