

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL
March 1, 2011

The special meeting of the St. Joseph County Council was called to order at 5:31 p.m., on March 1, 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 - Absent
Mr. Michael J. Hamann
Mr. Daniel G. Herbster
Mr. Michael J. Kruk - Absent
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. Cindy Bodle, Chief Deputy Auditor.

Council staff present was Ms. Joan M. Pawlowski, Executive Secretary.

First Readings:

BILL NO. 20-11: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 103-10, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES AND FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO MEET THE NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011 FOR THE COUNTY OF ST. JOSEPH, INDIANA

Peter Mullen, Auditor, this bill has attached significant dates and deadlines and this needed to be heard this evening. This will keep them on schedule for on time tax billing. 2010 was the first time in six (6) years that this has happened. This is a housekeeping bill that you will act on tonight and more throughout the year.

Motion to Waive Rules for First Reading and Public Hearing this evening was made by Mr. Hamann and seconded by Mr. Noland. The motion passed by a voice vote; 7-0. No negatives were heard.

Motion to pass Bill No. 20-11 was made by Mr. Hamann and seconded by Mr. Noland. Bill No. 20-11 passed to-wit; 7-0.

Any other business:

Peter Mullen, Auditor, stated that he wanted to inform the Council of things that will be coming up within the next 30-60 days. The Department of Local Government and Finance has approved, with exception, the 2011 Budget (part of which was just addressed). There are five (5) major exceptions where they have had to cut budgets. These bills will be before you at some point. They have had to cut the Cumulative Bridge Fund by \$700,000.00, Major Bridge Fund was cut by \$700,000.00, County Highway Fund was cut by \$257,000.00, Parks and Recreation was cut by \$300,000.00 and Reassessment of 2006 Fund was cut by \$282,000.00. All revenues in the General Fund that were from C.E.D.I.T., Public Safety L.O.I.T. and Adult Probation User Fees must be removed. These funds will be re-appropriated from their individual funds to items within each account that is so designated. They have met with the respective departments and are working with them on the reductions. Reassessment will take a significant challenge. Reassessment 2006 Fund will essentially be eliminated and Reassessment 2015 Fund will be created and money from the Rainy Day Fund will be requested to fulfill the statutory requirement of Reassessment 2015.

Mr. Mullen stated that in the year 2010 they have refunded \$9 million in back taxes. These come from the results of appeals. Some go back to 2003-2004. In the last three (3) years he stated that they have refunded \$17 million plus. \$632,000.00 of that was interest and there are still plenty of them on the desk to be processed. There will be a significant amount of refunds in 2011.

He stated that they have been notified by the State that the State of Indiana has overpaid every county in the State to the tune of \$609 million. There is a bill in the House Ways and Means Committee now to take \$408 million of the \$609 million and not pay each of the counties an allocated amount in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Motion to adjourn was heard at 5:38 p.m.

Auditor, St. Joseph County

President, St. Joseph County Council