

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JULY 28, 2015

The Howard County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., in Hearing Room 338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President Jim Papacek, and members Leslie Ellison, Stan Ortman, Jeff Stout, John Roberts, and Dwight Singer. Also present were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Martha Lake.

Sheriff Steve Rogers called the meeting to order and it was conducted by President Richard Miller. Councilman Dwight Singer led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman John Roberts offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 23, 2015, Regular Council Meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Singer and seconded by Mr. Ellison.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Mr. Miller opened the floor for Council Comment as follows:

Councilman Papacek recognized the achievement of Captain Harold Vincent and his staff, due to the State’s recognition of the Howard County’s Criminal Justice Center and award given for how well the jail is run.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-20 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Auditor Martha Lake read Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-20 – Additional Appropriations through one time, and it was acted upon as follows:

| | | AMOUNT | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>1222</u> | <u>Howard County 911 Fund</u> | <u>REQUESTED:</u> | <u>APPROVED:</u> |
| 03000.00 | Other Services and Charges | \$ 320,132.00 | \$ 320,132.00 |

Auditor Lake explained that this is a housekeeping matter to transfer 2013 911 funds for FICA, PERF and Insurance into County General Funds, where the 911 salaries are paid from. In the transition of 911 Coordinators in 2013, this transfer of funds was overlooked. Appropriation of this money will allow for a check to be written in order to transfer the money into the County General Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the appropriation of \$320,132.00 to line item 03000.00, Other Services and Charges. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2015-HCCR-15 – TRANSFERS:

Auditor Martha Lake read Resolution No. 2015-HCCR-15 – Transfers through one time and it was acted upon as follows:

| <u>1000</u> | <u>TRANSFER FROM:</u> | <u>TO:</u> | <u>AMOUNT:</u> | <u>APPROVED:</u> |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>005</u> | <u>Howard County General Fund</u> | | | |
| | <u>Howard County Sheriff Department</u> | | | |
| 01123.00 | Dispatchers | 01123.05 Dispatcher Overtime | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| 01123.04 | Part Time Dispatcher | 01123.05 Dispatcher Overtime | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |

911 Dispatch Coordinator Gary Bates requested the transfer of \$20,000.00 each to be transferred into the Dispatch Overtime line items to cover four FMLA employees so far this year. He is able to transfer from the Dispatch line item because of one of his full-time dispatchers being on extended FMLA. Two new Dispatch positions were granted by the Council, earlier in the year and it takes about four (4) months to hire and train a new position, so overtime was needed until those new positions were ready. Mr. Bates is happy to report that for next month he has not scheduled any overtime.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>4903</u> | <u>Howard County Work Program</u> | | | |
| 04721.00 | Equipment | 03252.00 Repair & Maintenance | \$ 641.00 | \$ 641.00 |

Sheriff Steve Rogers requests this transfer in order to repair an older ZTR mower used by the Inmate Work Crew.

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, in the County General Fund, to approve the transfer request of \$20,000.00 from line item 01123.00, Dispatchers, to line item 01123.05, Dispatcher Overtime, and \$20,000.00 from line item 01123.04, Part Time Dispatcher, to line item 01123.05, Dispatcher Overtime. Mr. Ortman also moved in the Howard County Work Program, to approve the transfer request of \$641.00 from line item 04721.00, Equipment, to line item 03252.00, Repair & Maintenance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>1000</u> | <u>Howard County General Fund</u> | | | | |
| <u>023</u> | <u>Howard County Commissioners</u> | | | | |
| 01116.00 | Projects Manager | 01121.00 | Part Time Personnel | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |

Personnel Director Wanda McKillip stated that the transfer is needed to cover more part-time hours needed going into a very busy time of year, in the next several months. She cited extra work generated by the Wellness Program and the Health Care Reform Act.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the transfer of \$6,000.00 from line item 01116.00, Projects Manager, to line item 0112.00, Part Time Personnel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2015-HCCO-21 – AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2015:

| | | AMOUNT REQUESTED: | APPROVED: |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| <u>1000</u> | <u>Howard County General Fund</u> | | |
| <u>005</u> | <u>Howard County Sheriff Department</u> | | |
| 01123.00 | Dispatchers | \$ (20,000.00) | \$ (20,000.00) |
| 01123.04 | Part Time Dispatchers | \$ (20,000.00) | \$ (20,000.00) |
| 01123.05 | Dispatchers Overtime | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 40,000.00 |
| <u>023</u> | <u>Howard County Commissioners</u> | | |
| 01116.00 | Projects Manager | \$ (6,000.00) | \$ (6,000.00) |
| 01121.00 | Part Time Personnel | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |

A motion was made by Mr. Ortman to approve Salary Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-21 – Amending Salary Ordinance For 2015, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED JAIL & JUVENILE COIT TAX INCREASE:

At the June 23, 2015, Regular Council Meeting and the Public Hearing concerning the Proposed Jail & Juvenile COIT Tax Increase, after discussion and comment concluded, the issue was taken under advisement to consider the comments and suggestions made at the Public Hearing, and re-visit the issue before August 31, 2015 (*please refer to page four, “Public Hearing Concerning the Proposed Increase in Special Income Tax”, of the Regular Meeting minutes dated June 23, 2015*). A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to take this issue off the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried. Mr. Papacek commented that Councilmembers have talked to community members and leaders, looking at alternatives to raising money needed for administration of the Jail and Kinsey Youth Center. There has been no other effective solution found, other than the raising of the Jail & Juvenile COIT Tax. In considering the State Jail report that the County goes by for the operation of the Criminal Justice Center, it does state that Howard County is thirteen (13) officers short of what is needed to operate the jail. Being understaffed can affect the county by increasing the liability insurance that must be carried and increasing the deductible the county has to pay for liability cases. The cost of hiring the additional thirteen officers, with benefits, will cost about \$630,000.00. We also do not know what the future affects will be of proposed changes to legislation in sending certain low-class felons back to the county they were sentenced from. Mr. Papacek also commented on some comparisons made by several commenters, to Bartholomew County. Mr. Papacek found that the Criminal Justice Facility in Bartholomew County has about half of the beds that Howard County does, meaning about half the inmates that Howard County is responsible for. Howard County also operates using Direct Supervision, which is a highly intensive man powered corrections program. Howard County has five (5) courts, costing close to \$1 million; Bartholomew County has three courts at a cost of \$600,000.00. Howard County also has a much larger caseload than Bartholomew County. The Judicial Commissioner has stated that Howard County’s caseload could support an additional two and a half courts. A good percentage of inmates are awaiting trial. Bartholomew County generates about \$9 million more in tax dollars than Howard County, showing they have a higher tax rate. Mr. Papacek continued to address some of the other suggestions offered during the Public Hearing, and stated that money from other funds could not be transferred to the Jail & Juvenile COIT Fund because of the way the fund is written.

Councilman Stout reminded the Council that if the increase is approved, at some point in time, the tax amount could be decreased, as well.

Councilman Ellison reported that he has talked with several of his constituents who do not want the tax. He would vote no on the increase, in order to represent the opinions of his constituents.

President Miller opened the floor for additional comment as follows:

Connie Brown, Howard County Resident
George Maus, 3305 Walton Way, Kokomo, Indiana
Kokomo Police Chief Robert Baker
David Tharp, 1927 South Courtland Ave, Kokomo, Indiana

At the conclusion of comment and discussion County Attorney submitted Ordinance No. 2015-HCCO-22, an ordinance of the Howard County Council further amending Ordinance No. 2007-HCCO-12, to increase the Special Jail and Juvenile Detention Center County Option Income Tax imposed under IC 6-3.5-5-6-28. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve Ordinance No. 2015 HCCO-22, increasing the Jail & Juvenile COIT Tax from .20% to .25%, in order to adequately operate and maintain the Howard County Jail and the Juvenile Detention Center. This increase will occur after September 30, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried with five aye votes and one nay vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Mr. Miller opened the floor for other business as follows:

Jerry Paul, Webster Street, Kokomo, Indiana, President of the Howard County Veteran's Memorial Corporation at Darrough Chapel Park: Mr. Paul informed Council members of the Corporation's intent to restore the tank at Foster Park. They have begun fundraising activities and contacted an Army veteran who restores tanks. Mr. Paul is asking Council members to spread the word and talk to people about giving for this project.

Nick Glover, Kokomo Fire Chief: Chief Glover expressed concern over the degree of dispatch errors over the last year.

Tony Arnett, Kokomo Police Department: Expressed concern over the degree of dispatch errors over the last four years.

Sheriff Steve Rogers: He has not had conversations with either Mr. Glover or Mr. Arnett, but pledged that he would talk with them to try to address the issues. He has had conversations from Dispatch Coordinator Gary Bates about issues and those have been addressed with actions such as the installation of a new CAD system and the re-writing of certain protocols.

Kurt Reed, 3506 Melody Ln. East, also employee of Kokomo Fire Department: Addressed the recent passing of a citizen involving a dispatch error.

*There being no further business to come before the County Council at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m. on a motion made by
Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.*

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD H. MILLER, PRESIDENT

JAMES T. PAPACEK, VICE PRESIDENT

LESLIE W. ELLISON, MEMBER

STANLEY E. ORTMAN, MEMBER

JEFFREY A. STOUT, MEMBER

JOHN J. ROBERTS, MEMBER

DWIGHT V. SINGER, MEMBER

ATTEST:

MARTHA J. LAKE, AUDITOR
Howard County Council Meeting July 28, 2015