

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

The Howard County Council met Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those present included President Richard Miller, Vice President Paul Wyman, and members James Papacek, Stanley Ortman, Jeff Stout, Leslie Ellison and Joseph Pencek.

The meeting was opened by Sheriff Marshall Talbert and conducted by President Miller.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the January 27, 2009 meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Wyman and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

**IN THE MATTER OF OPENING COMMENTS:**

Councilman Papacek submitted copies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009 Inventory of Economic Development Related Projects and Initiatives. This inventory reports the ongoing and new initiative projects each of the seven Economic Development agencies, and is prepared by Kokomo General Office of Development. Mr. Papacek will bring quarterly reports to the County Council for their information.

Vice President Wyman commented that today is his eighth wedding anniversary. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Wyman were extended.

**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2009-HCCO-10 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Ordinance No. 2009-HCCO-10 – Additional Appropriations was read in full one time by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

<b><u>500</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County CEDIT Fund</u></b>	<b><u>REQUESTED:</u></b>	<b><u>APPROVED:</u></b>
03121.00	Kitty Run Watershed Project	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00

First Deputy Surveyor Greg Lake submitted this request for \$150,000.00 as recommended by the Howard County Board of Commissioners, for the first phase of the Kitty Run Watershed Project (*please refer to page eight, "In The Matter Of The Kitty Run Watershed" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 27, 2009*). Mr. Lake informed the Council that because Howard County does have an MS4 Stormwater District, and because in 2005 a watershed plan was created, Howard County has applied and been picked up for stimulus monies through the State Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Lake estimates that the Phase Two project will be about \$1 million dollars, but the loan application request was for \$1.6 million. This means that proceeding to Phase Two of the Kitty Run Watershed Project is now a possibility.

At the conclusion of ensuing discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve the appropriation of \$150,000.00 to line item 03121.00, Kitty Run Watershed Project.

<b><u>269</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Health Department – QA Project Fund</u></b>		
02371.00	Other Supplies	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
02371.01	Gift Cards	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
03120.00	Bridges Outreach Program	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

Health Department Director Kent Weaver submitted this request to appropriate a new grant to Howard County from the State Board of Health and the Indiana Public Health Association. The Health Department's involvement with this program is to help with funding the Health Fair activities, and to administer the funds to the schools and the Bridges Outreach Program. According to Mr. Weaver, Other Supplies line item will supply healthy foods and snacks for school children and the Gift Cards line item is to be used as incentives to parents to bring their families to the Health fair.

At the close of ensuing discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the appropriations as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

<b>TOTAL QA PROJECT FUND</b>		<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONALS ALL FUND</b>		<b>\$ 170,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 170,000.00</b>

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2009-HCCR-02 – TRANSFERS:**

Auditor Ann Wells read Resolution No. 2009-HCCR-02 – Transfers one time and it was acted upon as follows:

	<b>Transfer From:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Allowed</b>
<b><u>001</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County General Fund</u></b>			
<b><u>018</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Maintenance</u></b>			
01115.00	Labor Maintenance	01118.00 Part Time	\$ 15,700.00	\$ Denied

Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Scott Reed reminded the Council that he is not replacing a retired employee with a full-time employee, but will be using part-time employees, and the request to transfer into the Part Time line item is to cover the increased use of part time personnel (*please refer to page seven, "In The Matter Of 2009 Proposed 5% Budget Decrease" of the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 27, 2009*). Currently he has two part time employees that work about thirty-five hours per week and Mr. Reed believes this money will be needed to retain the part time that is needed.

Discussion ensued concerning the amount of tax monies that will be brought in for this year. At the present time, that is an unknown amount and the Council would like to wait on this request for later in the year. At the conclusion of discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Pencek and carried to deny the request to transfer \$15,700.00 from 01115.00, Labor Maintenance to 01118.00, Part Time.

<b><u>023</u></b>	<b><u>Howard County Commissioners</u></b>			
03514.00	Workmen's Compensation	03616.00 Plan Commission	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
		US 31 Projects / County 40%		

Commissioner President Dave Trine and Plan Commission Director Glen Boise explained that this request is the County's share of match money (40%) for a grant that has been approved for money to fund a project concerning the best usage of land along the new US 31 Freeway Corridors Plans. Chief Deputy Auditor Laurie Martin explained that there is a surplus of funds in the Worker's Compensation line item and a transfer at this time would be more effective than a request for an additional appropriation.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the transfer of \$4,000.00 from line item 03514.00, Workmen's Compensation to 03616.00, Plan Commission US 31 Project / County 40%. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried. Mr. Boise thanked both the County Council and the Board of Commissioners.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE PROPOSED 5% DECREASES TO THE 2009 BUDGET:**

President Miller opened the floor to Committee Members Paul Wyman, Jeff Stout, Stan Ortman, and Dave Trine to proceed with a Committee Report from their meeting with Office Holders and Department Heads concerning possible 2009 budget decreases. Mr. Wyman spoke on behalf of the Committee and reported that about 85 – 90% of the Office Holders and Department Heads were in attendance to discuss their budgets and ways they could find decreases. The County is able to realize approximate savings in the following amounts:

County General	\$306,000.00
Hiring Freeze	\$100,000.00
Cumulative Capital Fund	\$ 70,000.00
COIT Fund	\$ 19,000.00
EDIT Fund	<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>
	<b>\$502,000.00</b>

The Committee will meet in a few weeks to look at other areas for potential savings, as well as future savings from the hiring freeze, then report back to the Council. The Committee appreciates the Office Holders and Department Heads and the time they invested in examining their budgets for ways to comply with the Council's request. Mr. Stout informed the Council that there are several funds that are shared with the City, and the Committee is waiting for numbers from those offices to determine if there will be more savings. Councilman Pencek voiced concerns of lost revenue this year and a possible decrease in certification for 2010. He believes we are not decreasing the budget enough. Discussion ensued

between the Council members on these issues, and all were reminded that the process is not yet complete, but it is looking favorable. Mr. Miller extended appreciation to the committee.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2008 ENCUMBRANCES:**

President Miller submitted a listing of 2008 / 2009 Encumbrances. This listing shows how much of the 2008 budget funds were encumbered to the 2009 budget year to pay for expenses incurred in 2008 but paid in 2009 (including salaries).

County General Fund Total	\$1,495,286.19
Other Funds Total	<u>\$1,134,188.45</u>
Total All Funds	<b>\$2,629,474.64</b>

This left an unspent balance in County General of \$1,009,167.40.

The complete listing is on file in the Auditor's Office. A motion was made by Mr. Ortman, seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried to accept the 2008 / 2009 Encumbrance listing as submitted.

**IN THE MATTER OF VETERAN'S HEALTH CONCERNS:**

Ms. Lisa Wilken was in attendance to present Veteran health concerns to the County Council. Ms. Wilken is the Operations Director for the advocacy group Operation Firing For Effect. Currently the Department of Veterans Affairs is funded by the Discretionary side of the budget. OFFE is working to change funding from the Discretionary side of the budget to the Mandatory side of the budget. That would insure that the budget is passed on time, with no delays. It would also insure that a complete inventory and audit is done for the Department of Veterans Affairs. It will take the budget out of the hands of the professional politicians, removing it from the political arena. She is asking that the County Council approve and sign the Mandatory Resolution for Veterans' Healthcare services. Ms. Wilken distributed packets of information regarding veteran issues, including Media Releases, fact sheets, and reports concerning VA malpractice claims. At the conclusion of the presentation, a motion was made by Mr. Ortman to table this issue until the March meeting so that the Council can review the report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE HOWARD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:**

Mr. Miller submitted a request to appoint Mr. James Papacek to the Howard County Economic Development Commission. A motion was made by Mr. Pencek to appoint Mr. Papacek to the Howard County Economic Development Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF KOKOMO CIVIC CENTER REQUEST TO HIRE POSITIONS:**

On behalf of the Kokomo Civic Center, Mr. Jim Parsons submitted a request to reinstate the General Manager and Events Coordinator positions. Mr. Parsons reviewed with the Council how the Civic Center has been operating the last several years, as well as the amended budget for 2008 and the 2009 budget. The personnel committee for the Civic Center tried to fill the positions that had been vacated in the year 2007, and had interviewed and made four offers. Those offers were turned down due to the salary level and the work load. Mr. Parsons has been acting as the General Manager, on a contract basis, and the Assistant Events Coordinator has been the acting Events Coordinator. Mr. Parsons requested that the current Events Coordinator Assistant move up to the General Manager position, and hire a new Events Coordinator. Mr. Parsons also submitted a listing, by month, of how the facility was used in 2008. At the conclusion of ensuing discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Stout and carried to reinstate the General Manager and Events Coordinator positions to the Kokomo Event Center.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMENTS BY COUNTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAM THOMPSON:**

Commissioner Thompson informed the Council that Ms. Wilken was scheduled to appear before the Board of Commissioners at their February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting but was not able to attend due to illness. He thanked Ms. Wilken for attending this meeting, and for her service to the Country.

Mr. Thompson also informed the Council that Councilman Ellison had surgery last week and that is why he is not attending tonight's meeting. President Miller extended recognition to Mr. Ellison for his ten years of service anniversary.

**IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

Sheriff Talbert submitted the following issues for the Council's information and approval:

1. **Annual Jail Report:** Sheriff Talbert submitted the 2008 Annual Jail Report. Of all the information in the report, Sheriff Talbert finds one of the most alarming statistics to be the average daily population of female inmates, at forty-nine (49). That number is 17 over the capacity in the female pod. The current average female arrest and population is fifty-seven (57). The most obvious and immediate concern for the Criminal Justice Center is the female population. It is an increasing problem on the national level as well. Sheriff Talbert reminded the Council that his report is prepared by Captain Vincent. Last year's Annual Report, prepared by Captain Vincent, received accolades from the Sheriffs Association's Attorney, and it was distributed as a model for other Counties to follow.
2. **Video Arraignment Link:** The video arraignment project is moving forward with its link to the Howard Regional Hospital being complete. The link to the Indiana Department of Corrections is progressing. The jail previously had video arraignment connections to the Courthouse and that has now been expanded to Howard Regional and the State's Department of Corrections.
3. **Fish Fry Benefit:** Sheriff Talbert informed the Council of the Fish Fry Benefit for Deputy Don England, March 20, 2009 at the Shrine Club. Deputy England has medical issues that have forced him into retirement.
4. **Request To Fill Position:** Due to the retirement of Deputy England, Sheriff Talbert requests to fill that position. With this retirement, Deputy Sparks in active US Military duty, and another position on disciplinary leave, soon to be vacated, he is three Deputies short. There is an eligibility list but Sheriff Talbert was hesitant, not knowing the Council's direction for filling positions for 24/7 departments. Councilmen Papacek and Wyman clarified that departments that operate 24/7 are exempt from the hiring freeze, but are to report any new employment at the next Council meeting. Sheriff Talbert will move forward in hiring for the retired position.
5. **Commissary Report:** Sheriff Talbert does not have a Commissary Report to present to the Council, at this time. Reports will be submitted at the next Council meeting.
6. **Training Reimbursement Request:** Jail Maintenance Supervisor William Stonestreet (now Buildings and Grounds Assistant Superintendent) is receiving special training from Ivy Tech for heat pump maintenance and repair. With seventy-two (72) heat pumps at the Criminal Justice Center, that knowledge will be invaluable. Sheriff Talbert requests that Mr. Stonestreet be reimbursed for his training in the amount of \$600.00. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve the reimbursement of training costs to Mr. Stonestreet in the amount of \$600.00, to be paid from the Sheriff's Commissary Fund, after the successful completion of the training,.
7. **Sheriff Department Vehicle Purchase:** Sheriff Talbert believes he will only need to replace a few vehicles, this year. He asked for clarification in a vehicle line item and if there were funds dedicated to that line item. It was confirmed that there is a Vehicle Commissioners line item in the Cumulative Capital Fund (150-000-04723.23) and it has \$200,000.00.

There being no further business to come before the County Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:**

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RICHARD A. MILLER, PRESIDENT

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PAUL G. WYMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

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JAMES T. PAPACEK, COUNCILMAN

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LESLIE ELLISON, COUNCILMAN

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JEFFREY STOUT, COUNCILMAN

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JOE PENCEK, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST:

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ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

Howard County Council Meeting February 24, 2009