

MINUTES OF A  
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING  
OF THE  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL  
January 10, 2023

The public hearing meeting of the St. Joseph County Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m., on January 10, 2023 by the President, Mark Root.

Members in attendance were:

Mr. Joseph G. Thomas  
Mrs. Amy Drake  
Mr. Daniel J. Schaetzle  
Mr. Rafael Morton  
Ms. Diana Hess  
Mr. Randall L. Figg  
Mr. Mark A. Catanzarite  
Mr. Bryan Tanner  
Mr. Mark Root

Present from the Auditor's office was Auditor, John Murphy.

Council staff present was Mr. James A. O'Brien, Attorney and Ms. Jennifer Prawat, Administrative Assistant.

**Petitions, Communications & Miscellaneous Matters:**

Mr. Figg made the motion to nominate Terry Buckmaster to the St. Joseph County Housing Authority Commission, reappoint Lance Roush to the Area Board of Zoning Appeals and Rob Maurer to the St. Joseph County Water Resources Advisory Board and was seconded by Mr. Morton. The motion passed by a vote 9-0.

Mrs. Drake made the motion to nominate Mr. Jamie O'Brien as the County Council attorney and was seconded by Mr. Schaetzle. The motion passed by a vote 6-3. Against: Mr. Morton, Ms. Hess and Mr. Catanzarite.

Ms. Hess made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2022 and January 3, 2023 meeting and was seconded by Mr. Tanner, the motion was passed by a voice vote; 9-0.

No report from the County Auditor

Report from the County Commissioners: Carl Baxmeyer: Wanted to report a little bit on the behavioral crisis center, which we did not take action on last year, one of the things that we promised was that we would convene, the group to look at the whole continuum of health care that has not been done yet but some actions have been taken, Commissioner Dieter met with both Beacon and Oaklawn, I myself met with Oaklawn and renewed the commitment that we would put that group together as soon as possible, it's been delayed for a couple of reasons, first of all, the city's commitment to fund the first construction and the first year operation cost kind of relieves the pressure a little bit to take immediate action and secondly, Lori Netzinger from Oaklawn is out on medical leave for a while so obviously we want her to be a part of the group so we will convene that group so we will convene that group including representation of course from the Council as well. Secondly, along the same lines, county attorney Mike Misch is drafting a preliminary agreement with Oaklawn and of course that will be discussed with the whole group and brought back to the council as soon as we can, finally, just want to mention that next week on Tuesday evening the board of Commissioners will hold their first evening meeting. Similar to what the council does.

No report from any Special Committee

**First Reading(s):**

**BILL NO. 1-23:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE XV, LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 154, PLANNING AND ZONING, OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CODE, AS AMENDED, FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 18370 DUNN ROAD FROM PUD: PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO R-2: RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT  
PETITIONER: A26 FLATS LLC  
Assigned to the Land Use Planning Committee

**BILL NO. 2-23:** AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PUBLIC WAY OR PUBLIC PLACE, LOCATED WHOLLY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED PORTION OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, PUBLIC WAY OR PUBLIC PLACE  
PETITIONER: VIOLA WOODS, PO BOX 553, LAKEVILLE, IN 46536  
Assigned to the Land Use Planning Committee

**Salary Amendment(s):**

**BILL NO. 178-22:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 115-22, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2023 PETITIONER: TREASURER (Combined with Bill No. 177-22 A)

Mr. Schaeztle reported that Bill No. 178-22 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Mr. Murphy: We had seven different drafts during the year and during the time period, we had four employees in these two classifications for the county in the Treasurers department, when I changed over, remember we went to the 3% across the board method later on, I inadvertently deleted one of the employees from the budget book.

A motion to pass Bill No. 178-22 was made by Ms. Hess and seconded by Mr. Figg. Bill No. 178-22 was passed to-wit; 9-0

**Public Hearing/Public Comments: Fiscal Matters:**

**BILL NO. 177-22:** AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**APPROPRIATION(S):**

**A. Treasurer**

**General Fund**

1000-11682-000-0003

Cashier/Clerk

\$36,705.00

1000-11980-000-0003

Chief Deputy Attorney/Office Manager

\$1,591.00

TOTAL: \$38,296.00

**B. Health Department**

**Health Beacon Safety Pin**

9166-33368-000-0055

Public Info & Education

\$5,626.90

TOTAL: \$5,626.90

**C. Ducomb Center**

**Community Coordination Grant**

8931-31070-000-0080

Consulting Svc.

\$100,000.00

TOTAL: \$100,000.00

**D. Ducomb Center**

**Other Compensation**

9127-11138-0022-0795

Other Compensation

\$15,350.00

TOTAL: \$15,350.00

Mr. Root: All financial issues were heard and discussed at our December 20, 2022 committee meeting.

A motion to pass Bill No. 177-22 was made by Mr. Tanner and seconded by Mr. Morton. Bill No. 177-22 was passed to-wit; 9-0.

**BILL NO. 180-22:** AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE DEPARTMENT HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
PETITIONER: CLAY FIRE TERRITORY

**Clay Fire Territory**

**American Rescue Plan Fund**

8590-43010-000-0040

Other Improvements

\$250,000.00

TOTAL: \$250,000.00

Mr. Root reported that Bill No. 180-22 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Jaren Kilian, 18355 South Bend, we come with a favorable recommendation from the committee in support of our grant proposal for two fire wells located in Harris Township, in that part of the county, there is no supplied water, municipal or otherwise, we have a significant deficit for water both residentially and commercially to support any of our fire activities in that part of the community. Our grant proposal has gone from one hundred, twenty-five thousand dollars per site for a total of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, we just received in December an updated quote from the Peerless Midwest. That price increase has gone up to one hundred, thirty-five thousand dollars, Clay Fire Territory will be responsible for the remaining balance of ten thousand dollars per well plus any additional infrastructure improvements we are going to need to make once we install those wells.

A motion to pass Bill No. 180-22 was made by Mr. Tanner and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill No. 180-22 was passed to-wit; 9-0

**BILL NO. 181-22: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE DEPARTMENT HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
PETITIONER: ELECTION BOARD**

Election Board

American Rescue Plan Fund  
8590-44010-000-0040

Election Equipment

\$166,425.00

TOTAL: \$166,425.00

Mr. Root reported that Bill No. 181-22 comes with a favorable recommendation.

David Smith, 119 Niles Ave, Mishawaka, I've served for about 20 years as a machine technician for the county and tonight I am here as proxy for the election board. The purpose of the bill is to replace the 180 poll pads we purchased in 2016, if any of you have owned a tablet, you know they do go out of style and use fairly quickly. These were long in the tooth in 2020 general election and our concern is by next years general election that they won't be viable. Currently, of the 180, we are being loaned 165 from Knowing because of some technology issues with our existing older units which were original iPad errors, this is about five generations later in technology, it replaces the 180 in our inventory, seeks to add 45 units because as many of you know, a number of election sites and traffic amount of equipment is always a concern in 2020 we were at the bare minimum of our inventory, everything in our inventory was deployed in 2022 last fall, we had about 8 units left to spare, many times we could add more equipment at the site to increase the throughput of traffic so we would like to add 45. This also includes replacing our Verizon hot spots with some cradle point units, I think there are 60 of those in there.

Mr. Catanzarite: You mentioned next year, are you referring 2023 or 2024 election?

Mr. Smith: 2024 Presidential, the idea is to get these this year to deploy them and test them during a smaller election than to wait.

A motion to pass Bill No. 181-22 was made by Ms. Hess and seconded by Mr. Morton. Bill No. 181-22 was passed to-wit; 9-0

**Miscellaneous:**

**12. Land Use Planning:**

Mr. Root: Bill No. 161-22 and 162-22 have been withdrawn at the request of the petitioner.

Mr. Tanner made the motion to withdraw Bill No. 161-22 and Bill No. 162-22 and was seconded by Mr. Schaeztle. The motion passed by a voice vote 9-0.

**BILL NO. 161-22: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL AMENDING TITLE XV, CHAPTER 154: LAND USAGE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CODE TO ESTABLISH THE INDIANA ENTERPRISE CENTER OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT  
PETITIONER: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION**

**BILL NO. 162-22: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL AMENDING TITLE XV, CHAPTER 154, PLANNING AND ZONING OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CODE AS AMENDED TO DESIGNATE THE INDIANA ENTERPRISE CENTER OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT  
PETITIONER: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION**

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

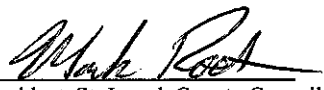
**Privilege of the floor:** Limit of 3 minutes to items not on agenda

Isaac Hunt, Project Manager for Violence Intervention, I was not able to be present at the last meeting about the crisis center. My son passed so I was not able to be here but I wanted to have my voice heard on this issue. This is not just a South Bend issue; it is a county issue. Over this past holiday weekend, we had five suicides. I don't know how many domestic batteries between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. A lot of these would have been relieved, I am glad to hear things are taking place but a lot of these incidents could be stopped if we had this task force. I am not just asking you guys the manager for GVI but I am asking you as a resident who lost a son, I just lost my son and if he could have gotten some counseling he probably would be here today. I'm not just talking to you from an expertise in my field but I am talking from a personal, heartfelt level, from losing a 31 year old son. I plead to your heart and compassion, people are sick and need help.

Cheryl Nix, 17901 Sabel Ridge Drive, I'd like to share some excerpts from Sherrif Redman's viewpoint written on January 4, 2023. Over the past few years, I've initiated and attended many planning meetings and public information events and spoken about the importance of providing more mental health services to those in need and the need for the creation of a mental health crisis center. This need is even more crucial today due to the aftereffects of COVID-19. He goes on to say, we have partnered with Oaklawn on several levels including providing mental health and addition services in our jail and a partnership with Oaklawn and the national alliance on mental illness to provide local police and correction officers with critical incident training. Our police department has made huge strides in dealing with mental health and St. Joseph County is being recognized for this work throughout the state of Indiana. We were recently acknowledged for the proactive work being done here in our community at a mental health summit hosted by the Indiana Supreme Court and the Governor. At the same time the implantation of the new mental health crisis center was placed on hold by the County Commissioners, our department investigated three over dose deaths, an attempted suicide and I personally received a phone call from an emotional father seeking help for his adult daughter who was threatening to end her life, dad did not know who to where to seek help. Oaklawn's planed mental health crisis center is vital to our community and to our county police department. Now that it's creating and opening is funded, I'm going to add this, by the City of South Bend, our county needs to step up and provide some necessary operating funds. I will be asking our county council and county commissioners to reallocate that planned funding to support the operations of the mental health crisis center and join this partnership with Oaklawn and the City of South Bend.

**Adjournment** Mr. Morton stated that the meeting was adjourned 6:29 p.m.

  
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Auditor, St. Joseph County

  
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President, St. Joseph County Council

**AGENDA FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL  
January 10, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**

**This meeting will be held in person with the option of Zoom**

Join the Meeting

Meeting ID: 868 2914 7532

Passcode: 548840

Telephone: 312.626.6799

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Invocation**
- 4. Petitions, Communications and Miscellaneous Matters**
- 5. Report from the County Auditor**
- 6. Report from County Commissioners**
- 7. Report from Council Special Committee**

**8. First Readings:**

*WUP*  
**BILL NO. 1-23:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE XV, LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 154, PLANNING AND ZONING, OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CODE, AS AMENDED, FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 18370 DUNN ROAD FROM PUD: PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO R-2: RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT  
PETITIONER: A26 FLATS LLC

*WUP*  
**BILL NO. 2-23:** AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PUBLIC WAY OR PUBLIC PLACE, LOCATED WHOLLY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED PORTION OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, PUBLIC WAY OR PUBLIC PLACE  
PETITIONER: VIOLA WOODS, PO BOX 553, LAKEVILLE, IN 46536

**9. Salary Amendment(s):**

**BILL NO. 178-22:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 115-22, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2023 PETITIONER: TREASURER (*Combined with Bill No. 177-22 A*)

**10. Public Hearing/Public Comments: Fiscal Matters**

**BILL NO. 177-22:** AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

**APPROPRIATION(S):**

A. Treasurer

General Fund

1000-11682-000-0003

Cashier/Clerk

\$36,705.00

1000-11980-000-0003

Chief Deputy Attorney/Office Manager

\$1,591.00

TOTAL: \$38,296.00

B. Health Department Health Beacon Safety Pin 9166-33368-000-0055	Public Info & Education	\$5,626.90
		<u>TOTAL: \$5,626.90</u>

C. Ducomb Center Community Coordination Grant 8931-31070-000-0080	Consulting Svc.	\$100,000.00
		<u>TOTAL: \$100,000.00</u>

D. Ducomb Center Other Compensation 9127-11138-0022-0795	Other Compensation	\$15,350.00
		<u>TOTAL: \$15,350.00</u>

**BILL NO. 180-22:** AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE DEPARTMENT HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
PETITIONER: CLAY FIRE TERRITORY

Clay Fire Territory American Rescue Plan Fund 8590-43010-000-0040	Other Improvements	\$250,000.00
		<u>TOTAL: \$250,000.00</u>

**BILL NO. 181-22:** AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE DEPARTMENT HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
PETITIONER: ELECTION BOARD

Election Board American Rescue Plan Fund 8590-44010-000-0040	Election Equipment	\$166,425.00
		<u>TOTAL: \$166,425.00</u>

**11. Land Use Planning:**

**BILL NO. 161-22:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL AMENDING TITLE XV, CHAPTER 154: LAND USAGE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CODE TO ESTABLISH THE INDIANA ENTERPRISE CENTER OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT  
PETITIONER: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION

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PETITIONER: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION

**12. Unfinished Business:**

**13. New Business:**

**14. Privilege of the floor:** Limit of 3 minutes to items *not* on this agenda

**15. Adjournment**

**Notes:**

January 24, 2023 - Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

February 14, 2023 – Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.