

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included Vice President Jack Dodd, Member Jeff Lipinski, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease. President Brad Bray was absent from the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by Vice President Jack Dodd. Vice President Dodd led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Lipinski offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 21, 2023, regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski, Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

PLAN COMMISSION

Rezoning (Case 9-CZ-23)

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-36 for the rezoning of the property located at 12165 W. 100 N., Kokomo, Indiana from AG (Agriculture) to RR (Rural Residential). There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the rezoning request having been heard, Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-36 as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on August 25, 2023, in the amount of \$941,192.69 was submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on August 25, 2023, in the amount of \$941,192.69 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid September 5, 2023, in the amount of \$627,794.96 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Lipinski spoke on the passing of Howard County Highway employee Danny Bowman, who was killed in a car accident while on the job. Commissioner Lipinski stated that Mr. Bowman had a great family and that his death is a huge loss to the community. He stated that Steven Seward, who was also in the vehicle, has made it home from the hospital and is improving daily. Commissioner Lipinski stated that the leadership of the Highway Department has been great and that they are a strong group of men and women and are greatly appreciated. Commissioner Lipinski stated that two County workers were the first to come to the scene of the accident and stated that they are heroes. He also asked to keep the Horn family in their prayers.

Commissioner Dodd stated the public sector gets complacent and that accidents do happen. He stated that the County should not need to get complacent and that it has lost good, dedicated employees. He stated to keep the County's employees in your thoughts and prayers as well as the families who have lost loved ones.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Jerry Paul of 1326 S. Webster St., Kokomo, Indiana: Mr. Paul, who is the president of the Howard County Memorial Corporation, gave an update on the Opha May memorial. Mr. Paul stated that he will wait until President Bray is present to ask for a commitment on the money for the memorial. He stated that they had a meeting with the Mayor and is waiting to hear back from him. Mr. Paul stated that he is not happy about the four bump outs at the courthouse and that he feels that it drags the courthouse down. His goal is to take over the bump outs and make them look better. Mr. Paul spoke with the welding teacher at Kokomo High School and stated that they are going to supply all the rod iron for the memorial. Commissioner Lipinski asked if the City has made a commitment yet. Mr. Paul stated that they have not, but he was going to push for it to happen soon. Mr. Paul stated that they will be doing several fund raisers for the memorial and would like the memorial to be done this year. He stated the Tour of Honor will be selecting their sites for the next year and he wants to make sure Kokomo is on there. His friend Robin, who also attended the meeting, is working on getting the Tuskegee Airmen Traveling Exhibit to Grissom Air Force Base. Mr. Paul stated that he needs the County's support to make this memorial happen.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time

*the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.*

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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