

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

The Howard County Council met in a Special Session on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those present included President Richard Miller, Vice President Paul Wyman and members James Papacek, Leslie Ellison, Joe Pencek and Jeff Stout. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Ann Wells.

The meeting was called to order and conducted by President Miller. The Council was led in prayer by Mr. Miller.

IN THE MATTER OF OPENING COMMENTS:

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

Councilman Ellison: After much thought and soul searching, Mr. Ellison does not feel good about the outcome of the final 2009/2010 Budget Hearing. He believes that the Council should be able to "...sift through and embrace the knowledge that God has given us". He would like to see the budget discussion opened back up.

Councilman Wyman: In response to discussion pertaining to the funding of the 3% employee raise for 2008, during the 2009/2010 Budget Hearings, Mr. Wyman asked that the record reflect a decision concerning employee raises, made by the Council at its meeting dated August 21, 22, 23, and September 5, 2007, as follows:

"A motion was made by Mr. Wyman as follows:

- 1) that \$250,000.00 be taken from General Operating Funds and \$250,000.00 from EDIT funds to make up for the funds needed to underwrite the 2007 raise;
- 2) that the General Operating Fund support a 3% pay raise for full-time employees for the year 2008;
- 3) that the County Council foregoes their 3% raise.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried."

This clarifies that originally, the raises were to be funded equally by County General and EDIT funds. Mr. Miller continued this discussion with clarification as to the motion made in 2006, of the use of EDIT funds to help with employee benefits.

Councilman Papacek: With respect to the proposed 2010 Budget, he feels that the Council "did as well as they could under the circumstances", believing that the Office Holders and Department heads have been frugal with their budgets and that there is unappropriated money in County General that can be used. He feels good about the fact that they were able to approve a budget without taking away employee benefits, decreasing employee salaries or laying off employees, and it is due to the foresight of County Government. He sees no reason to re-open the 2010 Budget discussion.

Mr. Miller reminded the Council that they could do what they thought best, but that once the Budget is approved and advertised, no changes can be made to that budget until the year the budget applies to. By the beginning of 2010, the Council will have more financial information and the Budget will most likely be addressed at that time. In response to a question asked by Councilman Pencek, Mr. Miller clarified that this meeting is not a continuation of the 2009/2010 Budget Hearing, but a separate Special Called Session.

Councilman Stout asked that it be entered into the record that when he voted to approve the 2010 Budget, it was with the understanding that Council would be able to amend the document after receiving more information at a later date.

Discussion continued concerning the 2010 budget and at its conclusion, the agenda's business was resumed.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2009-HCCO-28 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Ordinance No. 2009-HCCO-28 Additional Appropriations was read one time by Auditor Ann Wells and acted upon as follows:

<u>500</u>	<u>Howard County CEDIT Fund</u>	REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
03701.00	New Business – Employment Incentive	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00

Commissioner Bill Thompson was in attendance on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to request incentive funds for a prospective business to locate here, in Howard County. He and Attorney Murrell continued to explain the process of releasing the funds, if appropriated by the Council as follows:

The funds would be released to the Greater Kokomo Alliance Group;

\$5,000.00	Front Money
\$5,000.00	End of 2009 contingent upon having 8 employees in place
\$40,000.00	Remainder in 2010, up to 1,000.00 per employee, to be tracked, and release of funds authorized, by the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance

Mr. Jeb Conrad, of the Alliance Group, continued to explain the need for incentive funds and the progress of discussions with this prospective company. At the conclusion of discussion a motion was made by Mr. Wyman, seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried to approve the request of \$50,000.00 to line item 03701.00, New Business – Employment Incentive of the CEDIT Fund.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION NO. 2009-HCCR-18 – TRANSFERS:

Resolution No. 2009-HCCR-18 – Transfers was read in full one time by Auditor Wells and acted upon as follows:

<u>001</u>	Transfer From:	To:	Amount	Approved:
<u>027</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		<u>Requested:</u>	
01111.00	<u>Howard County Civic Center</u>			
	General Manager	01113.00 Assistant Events Coordinator	\$ 7,960.00	\$ 7,960.00

On behalf of the Kokomo Event Center (Civic Center) Mr. Jim Parsons explained that the General Manager Position will not be filled until the beginning of 2010. This means that none of the appropriated money for that position will be used this year. The \$7,960.00 is needed in the Assistant Events Coordinator line item to finish the year. This is not an increase to the salary of the Coordinator's position.

A motion was made by Mr. Wyman to approve the transfer of \$7,960.00 from line item 01111.00, General Manager to line item 01113.00, Assistant Events Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2010 PROPOSED BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR THE HOWARD COUNTY RECYCLING DISTRICT:

Recycling District Director Mikki Jeffers submitted the final proposed 2010 Budget for the Recycling District. This budget has been approved by the Recycling District Board. The final budget was decreased by \$171,300.00 from the original budget. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to give a non-binding recommendation of the 2010 Recycling District Budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

At the conclusion of the Agenda business Councilman Wyman reminded the Council that Oktoberfest is this Friday, September 18, in Downtown Kokomo.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD H. MILLER, PRESIDENT

PAUL G. WYMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

JAMES T. PAPACEK, COUNCILMAN

LESLIE ELLISON, COUNCILMAN

STANLEY ORTMAN, COUNCILMAN

JEFFREY A. STOUT, COUNCILMAN

JOSEPH PENCEK, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST:

ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

Howard County Council Special Called Meeting September 17, 2009