

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2013

The Howard County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President Stan Ortman, and members Jeff Stout, Leslie Ellison, John Roberts, Dwight Singer and James T. Papacek. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Martha Lake.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Steve Rogers and conducted by President Richard Miller.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 22, 2013 Regular Meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ellison.

At this time Councilman Jeff Stout offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Mr. Miller opened the floor for comment as follows:

Councilman Dwight Singer: Mr. Singer is happy that the Lady Comets basketball team, from Eastern Howard County (Greentown), is representing Howard County in the State Championship game.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2013-HCCO-4 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Auditor Martha Lake read Ordinance No. 2013-HCCO-4 – Additional Appropriations in full one time and it was acted upon as follows:

<u>1000</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>	AMOUNT REQUESTED:	APPROVED:
<u>007</u>	<u>Howard County General Fund</u>		
03120.00	Contract Services – Purdue Salaries	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00

County Agent Paul Marcellino began by reminding the Councilman of the meeting with Larry Devore, tomorrow, at the Government Center. Mr. Devore will be reporting on taxing issues on the state level, and what that means for local government offices. A recording will be available for those who cannot attend the meeting. Mr. Marcellino submitted a request of \$2,100.00 to meet the three Educator Service salaries budgeted by Purdue University for 2013. At the request of Councilman Ortman, Mr. Marcellino gave a synopsis of services provided by the three full-time Educators and the Food Nutrition Program part time educator assigned by Purdue that works three days per week.

At the conclusion of his presentation, a motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the request of \$2,100.00 to line item 03120.00, Contract Services – Purdue Salaries. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried.

<u>2508</u>	<u>Howard County Sheriff LEEF Fund</u>		
03213.00	Travel & Training	\$ 1,893.00	\$ 1,893.00

Sheriff Steve Rogers informed the Council that the requested amount reflects the monies received from local traffic tickets earmarked for training purposes. The amount needs to be appropriated to the Travel & Training line item.

The appropriation of \$1,893.00 to line item 03213.00, Travel & Training, was approved on a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Stout.

IN THE MATTER OF THE GREENTOWN LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Personnel Director Wanda McKillip submitted a recommendation from the Greentown Public Library Board to appoint Mr. Dick Mosier to finish the term vacated by Mr. Brad Bray that expires December 31, 2013. A motion was made by Mr. Stout to approve the appointment of Mr. Dick Mosier to finish the term vacated by Mr. Brad Bray, to expire December 31, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Murrell informed the Council that Mr. James H. Miller's appointment to the Howard County Economic Development Commission expired January 31, 2013, and will need to be filled. Mr. Larry Hinesley's appointment expires January 31, 2014, but he would like to retire immediately. Individuals for these appointments will be suggested at the next Council meeting.

The Howard County Redevelopment Commission is being kept viable and the County Council will need to reappoint Mr. Phillip Newton and Mr. E. P. Severns. A motion was made by Mr. Singer to reappoint Mr. E. P. Severns and Mr. Phillip Newton to the Howard County Redevelopment Commission as the County Council's appointees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF A POSITION REHIRE REQUEST FOR SUPERIOR COURT IV:

Judge George Hopkins, Superior Court IV, submitted a request to replace the secretarial position recently vacated for financial reasons. This request is not for a new position. Of the five courts in Howard County, Superior Court IV has the fewest number of employees but the same case load as Superior Court II and the Circuit Court. Judge Hopkins feels this information justifies rehiring this position. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek to rehire the Secretarial position in Superior Court IV. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF A POSITION REHIRE REQUEST FOR THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE:

Prosecutor Mark McCann submitted a request to rehire a recently vacated IV-D Caseworker position, due to financial reasons. Mr. McCann described the IV-D position as a child support collection position, reimbursed 66.66% by the Federal and State Governments. The rehire request was approved as submitted on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Ortman.

IN THE MATTER OF MISCELLANEOUS COUNCIL BUSINESS:

1. **E911 C-COM Update:** C-COM Coordinator, Nick Capozzoli, submitted an Annual Updated Report, including an Operating Cost (2011-2012), and a CO-Located Communications Calls for Service report. He distributed copies to the Councilmen, reviewed the reports, and fielded questions from the Councilmen. President Miller thanked Mr. Capozzoli and the dispatchers for the work they do. Councilman Stout pointed out that, according to the number of combined police and fire calls reported, it worked out to seven hundred calls per twenty-four hour shift.
2. **VSO Monthly Report:** Veterans Service Office, Col. Ross Waltemath, submitted and distributed copies of the VSO Monthly Report for the month of January, 2013. He then reviewed the report with the Councilmen and called attention to the federal dollars given to Howard County Veterans, the expanded report of out-of-County veteran traffic (including neighboring Counties' VSO offices' number of employees and whether the office has part-time or full-time hours), and the addition of the monthly tracking of death benefits to veterans' families. Col. Waltemath plans to attend each Council meeting and submit a monthly report. Council members thanked Col. Waltemath for the report.
3. **Hiring Practice Procedure Discussion:** Vice President Stan Ortman began the discussion by commenting that just about every Howard County Office has been represented, in the last two years, in the matter of rehiring a position that's been vacated. The following policy was put into place at the December 9, 2008 Council Meeting (*please refer to pages 4 and 5, "In the Matter Of Discussion Involving Proposed Budget Decrease & Hiring Freeze For 2009", of the Regular Meeting dated December 9, 2008*).
 1. The Council approved a hiring freeze through attrition.
 2. Each lost position would require justification to the Council, and their approval to rehire.
 3. Increase all Full Time / Part Time employees' Health insurance rates by 15%.
 4. Each Department Head has until January 27, 2009 to review their budgets for a 5% decrease.

After speaking with several Department Heads, Mr. Ortman believes that unnecessary positions have already been eliminated, in the last several years, and it's a waste of time to bring rehire requests to the Council for positions that have already been part of an approved budget. He feels that it is more correct to deal with the number of positions at the budget session. To further discussion, Mr. Ortman moved to allow Department Heads to rehire a vacated, budgeted position without Council approval. Discussion ensued. Councilman Stout suggested a quarterly report, generated by Personnel, to track employee turnover in County Departments. Discussion continued and at its conclusion the motion on the table was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried. Department Heads are now able to re-hire a budgeted position that has been vacated, without further approval by the County Council.

4. On behalf of Sheriff Steve Rogers, Auditor Martha Lake submitted the Jail Commissary Fund report for the month of January, 2013.

IN THE MATTER OF A REQUEST TO ASSIST FUNDING OF A VETERANS MONUMENT:

Mr. Jerry Paul, President of the Howard County Veteran Memorial at Darrough Chapel, distributed information concerning the progress of the Memorial for Veterans' Families, and fundraising efforts for the memorial. Mr. Paul is passionate about remembering not only our veterans, but also focus on the veterans' families, and on female veterans. Mr. Paul is asking for assistance from the City of Kokomo and Howard County, in the amount of \$50,000 each. He has already spoken to the Kokomo Common Council and to the Howard County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Paul fielded questions from the Councilmen.

IN THE MATTER OF A CITIZEN CONCERN:

Brett McNeill, 1601 Bramoor Drive, Chippendale Subdivision, Kokomo, IN: Mr. McNeill is a citizen of Howard County who received a registered letter from attorneys Bingham, Greenebaum and Doll, of Indianapolis, representing the juwi Wind Company. Mr. McNeill felt immediately threatened by having wind turbines approximately 1500 feet from his back door. This is a "Tipton County initiative" and he has no recourse other than to accept the decision of the Tipton County Commissioners and the Tipton County Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. McNeill is here to inform Howard County that he is impacted by the decisions of Tipton County, and would like to ask advice and counsel about wind turbines for Howard County. He is aware that Eon Wind Company, which has a wind farm in eastern Tipton County, is planning on expanding in Grant County and eastern Howard County. He asks what governing body in Howard County is responsible for wind turbine reviews and approval.

Mr. Miller gave a brief civics lesson, explaining that the Council is the budgeting body. Anything involved with finances comes to them. The elected business agent of the county is the Howard County Board of Commissioners. Along with speaking with the individual members of the County Council, Mr. Miller suggested that it was appropriate to contact the Board of Commissioners. Two of the County Commissioners were in attendance and introduced to Mr. McNeill.

Attorney Murrell also commented on this situation and encouraged Mr. McNeill to attend the Tipton County Board of Zoning Appeals meeting.

***There being no further business to come before the Council at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. on a motion
made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Stout.***

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD H. MILLER, PRESIDENT

STAN ORTMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF STOUT, MEMBER

LESLIE ELLISON, MEMBER

JOHN J. ROBERTS, MEMBER

DWIGHT SINGER, MEMBER

JAMES PAPACEK, MEMBER

ATTEST:

MARTHA J. LAKE, AUDITOR
Howard County Council Meeting February 26, 2013