

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2006**

The Tippecanoe County Council Meeting met at 2:10 P.M. Tuesday, March 14, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President David S. Byers, Vice President Jeffrey A. Kemper, Ronald L. Fruitt, Betty J. Michael, Thomas P. Murtaugh, Kevin L. Underwood, and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

President Byers convened the meeting.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT: Robert Plantenga

Auditor Plantenga reported the 2006 uncommitted County General Funds through February 28, 2006 are \$914,032.08. Auditor Plantenga reviewed the Revenue Report and pointed out two items of note:

Line 32-55	Public Defender Commission	\$66,823.54
Line 42-20	Sheriff-Inmate House-DOC	\$436,555.00

He reviewed Fund Balances and noted the following

Fund 001	General Fund	\$-1,818,961.02
	(No Property Tax collections included)	
Fund 176	E-911 Fund	\$589,546.95
Fund 310	County Self Insurance	\$-18,682.72

Auditor Plantenga distributed a list of companies with Property Tax Abatement in all of Tippecanoe County that was previously requested by President Byers. The list included the property type (Real or Personal), the length, and the last year of the abatement.

TREASURER'S INTEREST REPORT

Chief Deputy Treasurer Shannon Withers distributed the Interest Report showing the average interest rate for January 2006 was 4.21%.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2006 Regular Meeting as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.
- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2006 Special Meeting as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

FFR COOPERATIVE: Compliance with Statement of Benefits (CF-1): Richard Carson, Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Carson said their partnership is working well and, because things are going so well, they are thinking about expanding. He said the recent consolidation in the seed industry has reduced the number of members that support them and the number of customers but there is less competition. The following numbers were provided to show compliance:

<u>Employees and Salaries</u>	<u>Estimated on SB-1</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Current number of employees	20	23
Salaries	949,700	1,445,600
Number of employees retained	20	20
Salaries	949,700	1,246,600
Number of additional employees	3	3
Salaries	118,000	199,000

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to find FFR Cooperative is in substantial compliance, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

LAFAYETTE VENETIAN BLIND: Compliance with Statement of Benefits (CF-1): Mark Trowbridge, Controller

Mr. Trowbridge stated they are happy with the progress made in the past two years after the Council approved a tax abatement on the 48,000 square foot expansion. The expanded area is full with the new product line as well as expanded old product lines. He said the number of new employees is greater than anticipated.

<u>Employees and Salaries</u>	<u>Estimated on SB-1</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Current number of employees	700	700
Salaries	20,150,000	20,312,137
Number of employees retained	700	700
Salaries	20,150,000	20,312,137
Number of additional employees	50	139
Salaries	903,640	2,641,000

- Councilmember Kemper moved to find Lafayette Venetian Blind is in substantial compliance, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

CATERPILLAR LOGISTICS SERVICES, INC.: Doug Garwood

Mr. Garwood said they estimated hiring 75 new employees but they hired 103. The market is good for Caterpillar engines which Caterpillar Logistics supports.

<u>Employees and Salaries</u>	<u>Estimated on SB-1</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Number of additional employees	75	103
Salaries	2,041,880	4,487,653

- Councilmember Underwood moved to find Caterpillar Logistics Services, Inc. is in substantial compliance, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

McKINNEY CORPORATION: Jerry McKinney

Mr. McKinney reported they received the tax abatement one year ago and have hired one more employee than estimated. He noted they are also paying higher salaries than estimated.

<u>Employees and Salaries</u>	<u>Estimated on SB-1</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Current number of employees	22	28
Salaries	673,320	875,600
Number of employees retained	22	22
Salaries	673,320	689,960
Number of additional employees	5	6
Salaries	160,680	185,640

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to find McKinney Corporation is in substantial compliance, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

COURT SERVICES: Victims of Community Fund 576: Director Cindy Houseman

Additional Appropriation: \$1,983

1,699	Full Time Employee
130	Social Security
94	Retirement
60	Workers Comp

<u>Salary Statement</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Full Time	Front Office Coord	1,204.08	28,898

Mrs. Houseman requested funding approval for the reclassification of the Front Office Coordinator from COMOT III to COMOT IV. She reported that approval was recommended by Wagner, Irwin, & Scheele and the County Reclassification Committee.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the appropriation of \$1,983 in Fund 576, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.
- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary statement, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

Auditor Plantenga established the increased salary will go into effect Thursday, March 16th.

COURT SERVICES: Drug Court Drug Screen Grant Fund 580: Director Cindy Houseman

Appropriation of Budget: \$2,500

2,500	Departmental/Drug Screens
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Mrs. Houseman reported that they pay \$500 to \$700 per month for drug screens for Drug Court clients. She said research shows that frequent drug screens make clients more accountable. For clients who can't pay all the fee at one time, Mrs. Houseman said they establish payment plans.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the appropriation of \$2,500, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SHERIFF: Sheriff Equipment Grant Fund 186: Sheriff William "Smokey" Anderson

Appropriation of Budget: \$6,999

6,999	Equipment/Emergency
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Sheriff Anderson said this grant money will be used to purchase a digital body mic for undercover work.

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the appropriation of \$6,999, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

SURVEYOR: Engineering Review Fees Fund 244

Additional Appropriation: \$15,396

15,396	Engineering Review Fees
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Councilmember Kemper said Mr. Murray was unable to attend today's meeting but requested approval of the appropriation to pay Engineering Review Fees.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the appropriation of \$15,396, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

CLERK: IV-D Incentive Fund 162: Clerk Linda Phillips

Transfer: \$14,000

From:	162-5810-413-30-90	General Operations-Misc	14,000
To:	162-5810-414-62-90	Capital Outlay-Misc	4,000
	162-5810-414-62-45	Capital Outlay-Furniture	10,000

Mrs. Phillips explained she wants to transfer funds from the General Operations-Misc line that the Council approved in February to purchase furniture for the Juvenile Magistrate's Office, a security shredder, and a computer for the IV-D staff.

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the transfers, seconded by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

2006 ANIMAL SHELTERING AGREEMENT: Tippecanoe County Humane Society: Commissioner John Knochel

Commissioner Knochel requested the Council's approval of the Agreement with the Humane Society for sheltering Tippecanoe County animals. He said the Commissioners also entered into an agreement with Crystal Creek Kennels to take animals picked up in the northeast portion of the County to save the Animal Control Officers a trip to the Humane Society. The Agreement amount with the Humane Society is \$45,000 less a credit of \$45 for each animal taken to Crystal Creek Kennels.

Councilmember Vernon announced she will abstain from the vote because her husband is on the Humane Society's Board.

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the 2006 Animal Sheltering Agreement with the Tippecanoe County Humane Society in the amount of \$45,000, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried with Councilmember Vernon abstaining.

RESOLUTION 2006-09-CL – AMENDED: Previously Approved 2/21/2006

Resolution 2006-09-CL – Amended contains Tippecanoe County Income Tax Council Ordinance 2006-01-TCITC – Amended that will appear in its entirety in the Ordinance and Resolution Book in the County Auditor's Office. Ordinance 2006-01-TCITC was amended to correct a technical error.

Attorney Luhman explained this is an amended form of the Ordinance passed on February 21st authorizing an increase in the combined COIT and EDIT Tax from 1% to 1.1% so that Homestead credits could be provided to taxpayers whose taxes would otherwise go up because of the loss of revenue from the Inventory Tax. After the Ordinance was distributed to other members of the Income Tax Council, the City of Lafayette thought the Ordinance should make clear that the reason the combined rate goes from 1 to 1.1% is because the EDIT portion is increased from .4 to .5%. Therefore, the County Council is being asked to approved a technical amendment to the Ordinance.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approved Ordinance 2006-01-TCITC - Amended, seconded by Councilmember Underwood.

Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

David Byers	Yes
Jeffrey Kemper	Yes
Ronald Fruitt	No
Betty Michael	Yes
Kathy Vernon	No
Thomas Murtaugh	Yes
Kevin Underwood	Yes

- The motion to approve Ordinance 2006-01-TCITC - Amended passed 5 – 2.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Councilmember Kemper spoke for Public Defender Amy Hutchison who was unable to attend today's meeting. He said the Public Defender had a full time position that was only filled by a part-time employee but she now plans to hire a full time employee to fill the position. In addition, Mrs. Hutchison plans to propose hiring an appellate attorney on a contractual basis to save the County money during criminal appeals.

ORDINANCE 2006-06-CL: Permitting Transfer of Monies for a Loan Between Funds for Cash Flow Purposes: Department of Child Services Director Angela Smith Grossman

Ordinance 2006-06-CL will appear in its entirety in the Ordinance and Resolution Book in the County Auditor's Office.

Mrs. Grossman said they are requesting a loan from the General Fund to cover a cash flow shortfall until the next tax draw in June. Increases in placements and rates in 2005 caused increased unpaid expenses that were carried over to 2006. She said some of the providers are threatening to reject our placements but they beyond the 30 to 60 day lag in payment for services. She estimated a \$2.5 million shortfall for 2006.

Attorney Luhman explained that approval of the Ordinance will authorize the Auditor to loan the Welfare Fund \$1 million from the Rainy Day Economic Development Fund to be paid back by July 15, 2006 after the next tax draw. He said providers won't take our placements if their bills are not paid. Attorney Luhman said there is still the long term problem of an estimated \$2.5 million shortfall that will have to be addressed before the end of the year but there are several options that can be explored.

Councilmember Murtaugh thought the interest rate of 4% per annum in the Ordinance should be amended because, during a conversation yesterday with the Treasurer, he learned the Rainy Day Economic Development Fund money is in an account which is currently earning 4.85%.

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve Ordinance 2006-06-CL with an amended interest rate of 4.85% per annum on first reading, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt.

Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

Kevin Underwood	Yes
Thomas Murtaugh	Yes
Kathy Vernon	Yes
Betty Michael	Yes
Ronald Fruitt	Yes
Jeffrey Kemper	Yes
David Byers	Yes

- The motion to approve Ordinance 2006-06-CL as amended passed 7 – 0 on first reading.
- Councilmember Vernon moved to suspend the rules and allow a vote on second reading the same day presented, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.
- Councilmember Michael moved to approve Ordinance 2006-06-CL as amended on second reading, seconded by Councilmember Murtaugh.

Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

Betty Michael	Yes
Kathy Vernon	Yes
Thomas Murtaugh	Yes
Kevin Underwood	Yes
Ronald Fruitt	Yes
Jeffrey Kemper	Yes
David Byers	Yes

- The motion to approve Ordinance 2006-06-CL as amended passed 7 – 0 on second and final reading.

FYI: Commissioner John Knochel

- Commissioner Knochel said he attended the announcement that the Toyota Camry will be manufactured at SIA. He said several parts suppliers were in attendance and, if they like what they saw, he thinks spin-off businesses may locate here. He thought a comment he read “here is a community that is hitting on all cylinders” described the cooperation of the County, the City of Lafayette, and the State to put together the incentive package to get Toyota here.
- Commissioner Shedd announced that, under the leadership of Chief Deputy Clerk Christa Coffey, Tippecanoe County won the United Way award for 2005 Best Overall Campaign for an organization with over 500 employees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MEETINGS


Leadership Lafayette will hold a Reality Session on April 12, 2006 at 11:30 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

The Tippecanoe County Council will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting at 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 11, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

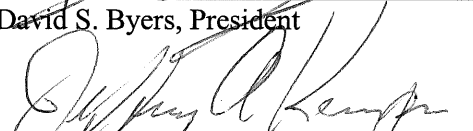
ADJOURNMENT

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL




 David S. Byers, President



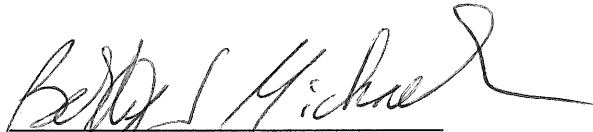
 Jeffrey A. Kemper, Vice President



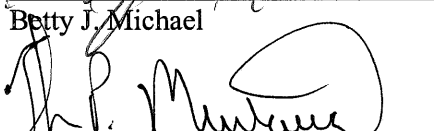
 Ronald L. Fruitt

Attest: 

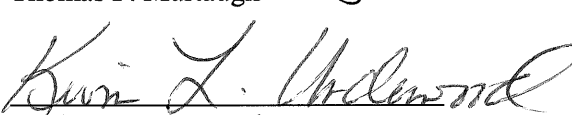
 Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor



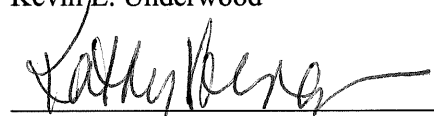
 Betty J. Michael



 Thomas P. Murtaugh



 Kevin L. Underwood



 Kathy Vernon