TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2008

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2008 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President Kevin Underwood, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Betty J. Michael, David S. Byers, Kathy Vernon and Andrew S. Gutwein. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

President Murtaugh called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the February 13, 2008, meeting minutes, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Net Balance	$1,659,421.22
Total Additional Appropriations	$ 582,024.00
Total Budget Reductions	$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (to date)	$ - 4,652.12
Uncommitted Funds	**$1,072,745.10**

Auditor Weston reported surplus COIT and CEDIT funds will be deposited in March into Rainy Day - General Fund 98 in the amount of $625,000 and $576,000 into the Rainy Day - Economic Development Rainy Day Fund 99.

TREASURER'S INTEREST REPORT

Treasurer Plantenga stated overall interest rate for January was 4.1%.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS

President Murtaugh reported representatives from Lafayette Venetian Blind were unable to attend. He confirmed the statement of benefits exceeded the projected figures.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the compliance with statement of benefits, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

STATEMENT OF BENEFITS

Voestalpine Elmsteel

Jody Hamilton, Lafayette/West Lafayette Development Corporation gave details regarding the 7-year personal property tax abatement as requested by the company. The company is expanding to include a new product line expected to start before the end of the year. The $4.4 million investment will create an additional 13 jobs. Andrew Ball shared details of the company plans to re-structure and add a new product allowing them to compete with international automotive suppliers. He explained the investment

mimics the line added by the parent company in Austria. Mr. Ball stated the corporate office is eager to begin production in Lafayette where the labor is skilled and dedicated.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the Resolution 2008-09-CL, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

Becknell Development

Jody Hamilton, Lafayette/West Lafayette Redevelopment Corporation explained the request for the 10-year real estate property tax abatement. Becknell Development is requesting tax abatement for a 200,000 square foot office/warehouse facility. Becknell confirmed they are under negotiations with a company to lease the facility. If negotiations are successful, the company would create 200 additional jobs.

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the Resolution 2008-10-CL, Establishing an ERA and approving the SB-1, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Van Phillips and Jos Holman requested approval for the 2009 Tippecanoe County Public Library Capital Projects Plan in the amount of $67,000.

Public Comment

None

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve Resolution 2008-11-CL; Approving 2009 Library Capital Projects Plan, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT 1 – Laurie Wilson

Sex Offender Management Fund 236

Grant Coordinator Laurie Wilson requested a transfer of funds for a part time Case Manager. Superior Court 1 had previously contracted an individual to fill the position and the individual resigned.

Transfer $38,391

$35,662	Other Professional Services to Part/Time
$2,729	Other Professional Services to Social Security

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the transfer as requested, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

A salary statement was recommended for approval for the Case Manager part time position.

Salary Statement: $15.00 per/hour

$15 per/hr	Case Manager

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary statement as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT 4 – Debbie Tague

Debbie Tague requested approval of a salary statement for part time Court Reporters. Superior Court 4 wants to make us of a part time employee from the Magistrate's office that is paid $15 an hour.

Salary Statement: $15.00 per/hour
$15 per/hr Court Reporter

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary statement to include up to $15.00 per hour for Court Reporters, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT 6

General Fund 001

Councilmember Kemper acknowledges pauper attorney fees were cut substantially for this court at budget hearings and the council anticipated additional appropriation requests.

Additional Appropriation: $1,500
$1,500 Pauper Attorney

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

CLERK – Christa Coffey

IV-D 10-99 Child Support Fund 162

Deputy Clerk Christa Coffey requested approval for reimbursement funds from the state for child welfare payment processing.

Additional Appropriation: $58,419

$30,000	Salaries/Wages Part Time
$2,295	Social Security
$8,000	Equipment/Office
$5,000	Travel/Training
$10,000	Other Professional Services
$3,124	Office Supplies

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the additional appropriations from Fund 162 as requested, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

BOARD OF ELECTION & REGISTRATION

General Fund 001

Bob Reiling, President of the Election Board, requested an additional appropriation to increase compensation for election board members. Additional involvement of the election board in the vote

center process has forced members to work longer hours. With approval the board members including Deputy Clerk and excluding the Clerk will receive an increase in pay.

Additional Appropriation: $4,200
$4,200 Salaries/Wages Board Member

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

CASA – Coleen Hamrick

Director Coleen Hamrick requested approval of a salary statement for new positions in the CASA office. She reported additional funding is available from the state for each county based on number of children served through the program. Tippecanoe County will receive $94,000 from the state for the next two years and Director Hamrick feels the program would benefit best with an increase in staffing each year for the next two years.

Salary Statement
$28,981 Volunteer Coordinator
$28,981 Intake Coordinator
$26,838 Office Manager
$19,863 Clerical
$43,897 Executive Director

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary statement as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

CASA Donation Fund 151

Additional Appropriation: $463
$313 General Operating/Misc.
$150 General Operating/Misc.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

PROSECUTOR – Pat Harrington

Adult Protective Services Fund 250

Prosecutor Harrington requested an additional appropriation for maintenance on vehicles used by investigators.

Additional Appropriation: $4,000
$4,000 Equipment/Vehicles

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the additional appropriation as stated, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

CARY HOME – Jason Kniola

Director Jason Kniola requested approval for a part time rate increase for Adolescent Childcare workers. He suggested the increase may attract more experienced staff.

Salary Statement: up to $11.00 per/hour
$11 per/hr Adolescent Childcare Workers

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve up to $11.00 an hour for Adolescent Childcare Workers retroactive to February 1, 2008, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

SHERIFF

Bomb Disposal Grant Fund 185

Sheriff Brown requested approval of a grant appropriation for servicing the Sheriff's Departments Bomb Robot.

Grant Appropriation: $4,000
$4,000 Equipment/Emergency

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the grant appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

TAX/ASSESS SYSTEM SOFTWARE DISCUSSION

Auditor Weston spoke regarding an integrated Tax and Assess software program. The Auditor, Treasurer and County Assessor began the discussion in 2006 to talk about state requirements, functionality and capability options. Request for proposal were received in July of 2007 from eight companies. As of December 2007, a unanimous decision had not been reached for all departments. In February 2008, the legislature proposed developing a state-wide system for use by all counties before 2011. At this point, without solid details the purchase of new system is on hold. Department heads are reviewing the current system in an effort to update it until more information is available.

MITS Director Diane Hawkins confirmed the state's purpose is to eliminate redundancy in data between the Auditor and Assessor. The current hardware could not meet the guidelines set by the state and would need an enormous amount of work to become compliant. County Assessor Samantha Steele replied our program does not allow for sketching which would be beneficial to the assessors during trending.

Councilmember's shared their concern for funding the software. They suggested members of the team provide more detailed cost information to the council with a brief description of the companies and a recommendation at the next meeting.

- Councilmember moved to table the request until the next council meeting, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE – Rebecca Humphrey

Director Humphrey reported the commissioners have decided to purchase the Duncan Road property. The commissioners have also selected DLZ as the architect for the youth center.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES – Angela Smith Grossman

Director Angela Smith Grossman reported the department has a $1.8 million cash balance and $500,000. The department recently exceeded state expectations for children in relative care for less than a year in Tippecanoe County. In April, Director Grossman will provide a financial update to the council which is required by the state. A public meeting will be held on March 14, 2008 at 10:00 a. m. at Christ United Methodist Church to provide public information on the treatment of juveniles in Tippecanoe County.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Byers and Councilmember Michael received a letter from Villa Director DeAnna Sieber regarding the poor condition of the building. Councilmember Byers asked council members to plan for future request for building repair.

COMMISSIONER'S FYI

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michele Edmonds, taxpayer, shared her concern for the major decisions being made by the commissioners and the council before the juvenile center project has earned public support. She believes costly decisions are being made in the county for the juvenile center without taxpayer approval. She encouraged council members to put a stop to commissioner spending on this project until the commissioners understand that taxpayers are not giving a blank check for the center without a firm and fiscally responsible plan for the center.

- Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Thomas P. Murtaugh, President

Betty J. Michael

Kevin L. Underwood, Vice President

David S. Byers

Andrew S. Gutwein

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Attest:
Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon