

REGULAR MEETING – February 17, 2009

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday evening, February 17, 2009, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., local time, in the Common Council Chambers, located in the lower level of the City Hall Building, 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Bob McKee.

Roll call was authorized and the following were noted present and/or absent:

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Patricia Boy, Phillip Jankowski, Marc Espar Robert McKee, Ron Meer, Richard Murphy, Joe Doyle, and Angie Nelson, Willie Milsap (9).

ABSENT: None (0).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk - Tom Fedder and Deputy Clerk – Gale Neulieb and Council Attorney – James Meyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President McKee inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the regular Meeting of February 3, 2009 and hearing none, the minutes were approved as printed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Espar reported on the Finance Committee meeting held February 12, 2009 regarding the 2007 “unqualified report” by the State Board of Accounts.

Councilman Murphy stated that he would be scheduling the first Coffee with the Council in the First Ward in the next few days.

Councilman Espar reported on the Judiciary and Rules Committee meeting held on February 12, 2009 stating their recommendation formalizing the process by which the council appoints individuals to various boards and commissions.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Councilman Milsap reminded everyone of the Michigan Boulevard Oversight Committee meeting tomorrow February 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fifth Ward Office, 1401 E. Michigan Boulevard.

Council President McKee advised that Friday, February 20, 2009 would be the last day to submit a form or letter to serve on the Government Efficiency Task Force to the Clerk's Office.

REPORTS of OTHER CITY OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

John Schaefer, Controller advised the Council that \$624,000 has been spent since November 17, 2009 in regards with snow removal.

PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council President McKee stated that if there were only one nomination for the appointment of the Community Enrichment Corporation there would be a vote this evening, if there were more than one nomination the vote would be held over until the next council meeting (March 3, 2009).

Nominations were open for the Community Enrichment Corporation, Councilman Willie Milsap nominated Faye Moore, which was seconded by Councilwoman Nelson.

The motion was carried and Faye Moore was appointed to the Community Enrichment Corporation by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Meer, Milsap, Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, and McKee (9). NAYS: None (0).**

NEW BUSINESS

Council President McKee withdrew the "Healthy Communities of LaPorte County's Tobacco Prevention Council" report from the agenda.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mike Rivera, 209 Pearl Street asked about the status of projects regarding the stimulus plan and the hiring of minorities and citizens that live in our community.

Council President McKee addressed Mr. Rivera's question regarding the language in the compliance ordinance.

Allan Austin thanked the Council members that voted for him to be on the Ethic Advisory Board and addressed Councilman Milsap regarding his vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilman Meer commented on the stimulus monies, major move monies, and neighborhood grant monies, that will be coming into our City, creating jobs, and commented on how the hiring of minorities, and citizens of our City should be done. Mr. Meer stated that House Bill No. 1656 is requiring 90% Indiana residency be hired on municipal jobs in Indiana, and the Council was told previously when they wanted 25% of residency for hiring it was unconstitutional.

Councilman Jankowski commented on the Proposal and Operating Plan received from MCchannel99/ ALLCommunity and that he would be scheduling a meeting to discuss an action plan to address their proposal.

Councilman Murphy reported on a seminar he attended that Dr. Julie Kindzelman of Racine, Wisconsin addressed various ways to reduce e-coli on our beaches.

Councilwoman Boy addressed Allan Austin's comments regarding Erik Prascak's appointment to the Ethic Advisory Board.

Council President McKee stated that he believes the most difficult vote for each Council Member has to do with appointing people to Boards and Commissions and explained reasons why.

Council President McKee advised that Indiana Code Section 36-1-9-10 does clarify the process of political affiliation. Mr. McKee presented the following letter received from the LaPorte County Republican Central Chairwoman, Coral L. Laun:

Dear Mr. President:

This is to acknowledge that Mr. Erik Prascak, 9 Bristol Drive, Michigan City, IN. 46360, is a member in good standing with the LaPorte County Republican Party, and has shown himself to be a good supporter in many of our efforts through out the many years that he has been involved.

**Always Republican,
Coral L. Laun, LaPorte County Republican Chairwoman**

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Milsap, supported by Councilman Espar, and there being no further business to transact, President McKee declared the meeting ADJOURNED (approximately 7:00 p.m.).

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk