

Council Meeting
June 16, 2009 – 5:10 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Spaetti. Councilmen Spaetti, Ebert, Winsett, Kress, Waninger, Kroeger, Bunner, and Attorney Wetherill were present.

Minutes

5/13/2009 executive session minutes and 05/19/2009 minutes; Winsett made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Recorder – Fraud Alert & Enhanced Access

Wetherill read Ordinance 2009-02, establishing the enhanced access fund for the recorder's office. Discussion was had on what the enhanced access and fraud alert does for the users of the recorder's office. A call to the company representative was made. Kroeger made a motion to approve Ordinance 2009-02. Winsett seconded. The motion passed with a 6 to 1 vote, with Waninger opposing.

YCC Board

Tim Lloyd, Tim Sigler, and Benjamin Duttlinger, representing the YCC Board, discussed the plans for YCC to construct a new community center building. The building will be approximately 1,200 sq. ft. and cost approximately \$1.2 million. They stated they are not currently asking the county for money. They are pursuing other avenues, such as grants and fundraisers, but they want to keep the county informed of their progress.

Emergency Notification System

EMA Director Perdue and Deputy Singleton discussed a Public Disaster Notification System produced by Connect-CTY. This system would have a flat annual fee of \$17,381, which is based on the population of the county. The system can be used an unlimited number of times by multiple users for the flat fee. Purdue explained that they have tested and researched many different systems and this one is the most efficient. Kroeger stated that he would like to get feedback from other departments on the system.

Ride Solutions

Kelly Mitchell, representing SIRS, and Becky Guthrie, representing Ride Solutions, explained the proposal for Ride Solutions to partner with SIRS to provide rural public transportation to Spencer County. Commissioner David Gogel and Councilman Bunner spoke representing the Spencer County Council on Aging (SCCA). Commissioner Logsdon stated that he encouraged Mitchell to speak to the council and because the commissioners may have funding for the partnership in the 2010 commissioners budget. Logsdon stated that he felt Ride Solutions could provide a service that the SCCA currently does not offer. Bunner contended that anyone requesting a ride from the SCCA would not be turned down, regardless of age. Gogel stated he fears that if Ride Solutions came into the county, it would be the end of the SCCA. Mitchell stated that the SCCA has a priority to help the elderly and disabled. Ride Solutions is not a Medicare provider and will not be taking Medicare rides away from the SCCA. Further discussion was had, with no decision reached.

Additional Appropriations

County General

EMA/Telephone Costs – Perdue requested an additional \$1,600 to pay for phone bills through the end of the year. Singleton stated that she had negotiated a better payment plan and the bills will not be as high as they have been. Ebert made a motion to approve \$750. Waninger seconded. All in favor.

EMA/Reimbursable Grant – Perdue requested \$14,864 to pay for the county GIS data to be available to state agencies. The money will be 100% reimbursed by a grant. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Commissioners/County Attorney Salary and Soc. Sec. – The commissioners requested the balance needed for the balance of the county attorney's salary (\$14,500) and for social security related to that salary (\$2,260). Ebert made a motion to approve. Waninger seconded. All in favor.

Commissioners/Animal Control – The commissioners requested \$25,000 for Animal Control which was discussed at a prior meeting. Kress made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Commissioners/Unemployment – Shelton stated that \$5,800 is needed for unemployment claims. Discussion was had and the council decided to have Wetherill review new claims to make sure it is being done correctly. Kress made a motion to approve the \$5,800. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Law Enforcement Fund

Prosecutor Wilkinson requested a total of \$870 from the Law Enforcement Fund, for Respect for Law Camp, LTA Youth Fund, Lodging Expenses, and a Digital Camera and memory card. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Rainy Day Fund

Circuit Court Recording System – Judge Dartt requested that the request for the recording system be tabled again since he has not received word on if the grant application has been approved. Ebert made a motion to table. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Transfers

Surveyor Herron requested a transfer of \$3,000 from Extra Help to Other Services. Kress made a motion to approve. Winsett seconded. All in favor.

FEMA Funds

Herron announced to the council that the county will be receiving \$140,000 from FEMA to clean storm debris and correct damage done to the drains which were previously cleaned out using Rainy Day Funds. Commissioner Logsdon credited Herron and Deputy Elaine Jones for the work they put into the application for the funds. Logsdon also thanked the council for allowing funding of the projects through Rainy Day. He said the funding was given because it could be shown that all the taxpayers in the county paid for the projects. The council thanked Logsdon, Herron and his staff for their work.

Luce Township Sewer

Matt Steinkamp, LTRSD board member, stated that he was directed by the board to request that the council continue the \$150,000 per year funding. In the past the payments were made in two \$75,000 payments.

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Kroeger stated that funding was done in the past because the council wants to see a sewer system in Luce Township. If funding is to be given, the council will need assurance that an agreement has been worked out with Freedom Bank. Kroeger asked Wetherill if funding can be made subject to an agreement with Freedom Bank. Wetherill said yes. Steinkamp stated that a majority of the board agrees that payment needs to be made to Freedom Bank. Kroeger asked LTRSD board president Ed Ingram if he would allow a motion to pay Freedom \$75,000 if the council agreed to give the district more funds. Ingram stated he would allow the motion but he would argue against it, because the district needs a new PER and there are other expenses.

After further discussion Kroeger made the following motion: "I move to appropriate \$75,000 from COIT Funds to be distributed to LTRSD for the purpose of amortizing their debt with Freedom Bank. The distribution is subject to a submission to the Spencer County Council, by LTRSD, of an agreement with Freedom Bank substantiating the payment as to the amount of principal and interest. This payment is subject to the understanding that it is a one time distribution and in no way implies a commitment of any future payments to LTRSD." Bunner seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 to 1 with Winsett opposing.

Rock Creek Shavings, LLC

Renny Rickelman presented his application for Tax Phase In for his company, Rock Creek Shavings, LLC. Rickelman explained that his company would supply local turkey and other poultry and livestock producers with quality wood shavings. He said it would benefit the area by reducing transportation expenses for poultry and livestock producers and providing work for area logging companies. The company would also convert surplus softwood timber with no or minimal value into a valuable resource, and assure local grain and forage producers of a supply of natural fertilizer.

Tom Utter, of LEDC, listed several positives that are a result of the new company:

- New private investment
- New employment
- Use for discarded, diseased wood
- Sits on a state maintained road
- Fulfills a need in the poultry industry
- Diversifies our area industry
- Benefits the timber industry
- Will attract related projects
- IDEM considers it a Green Project
- No emissions
- Virtually no smoke

Kroeger discussed how the council decides on whether to grant Tax Phase In. There is a questionnaire to use as a guideline, but it is not an exact formula. All aspects need to be considered. Attorney Lueken, speaking as council for Rock Creek Shavings, LLC, discussed the proposed Resolution to designate the area as a Revitalization Area and approve the Tax Phase In.

Discussion was had on the length of time for the Tax Phase In on real and personal property. The resolution drafted by Lueken includes a 10 year Tax Phase In for real estate and a 10 year Tax Phase In for personal property. Waninger made a motion to adopt the resolution as written. No second. The motion died. Ebert made a motion to approve a 5 year Tax Phase In on personal property and a 6 year Tax Phase In on real estate. Winsett seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 6 to 1, with Bunner opposing. Bunner stated he felt it was still too long.

Budget Hearings

The budget hearing dates were set for August 24, 25, and 26.

Budget Review

The budget review date was set for September 17 at 7:30 am. This will be when the council will review taxing units' budgets.

Property Tax Bills

Kroeger stated the property tax bills which will be coming out soon. Shelton said the due date is July 10. Kroeger discussed how some property owners will be seeing higher taxes and it is a direct result of the state tax

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credits which were taken away from the county by the state. Kroeger wanted it clear that increased taxes are not a result of increased spending by local government.

Ebert made a motion to adjourn. Bunner seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

County Council,

President

Attest:

Cindy Shelton, Auditor
