

MINUTES OF A
SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
OF THE
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 14, 2020

The special public hearing meeting of the St. Joseph County Council was called to order at 6:02 p.m., on April 14, 2020 by the President, Rafael Morton, via WebEx.

Members in attendance were:

Mr. Robert L. Kruszynski
Mr. Corey Noland
Mr. Richard Pfeil
Ms. Diana Hess
Mr. Rafael Morton
Mr. Mark P. Telloyan
Mr. Mark A. Catanzarite
Mr. Joseph F. Canarecci
Mr. Mark Root

Present from the Auditor's office was Michael J. Hamann, Auditor and John Murphy, Chief Deputy Auditor. Council staff present was Mr. Michael Trippel, Attorney and Ms. Jennifer Prawat, Executive Secretary.

Mr. Morton: In order to act on the bills before us tonight, I need a motion to waive Council rules to not have first reading on these bills.

Mr. Catanzarite made a motion to waive first reading for the bills on tonight's agenda, it was seconded by Mr. Canarecci. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

BILL NO. 31-20: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL AMENDING ORDINANCE 80-19 (2020 SALARY ORDINANCE FOR APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE COUNTY) (QUARANTINE PAY DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY) PETITIONER: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Trippel, Council Attorney, before you is ordinance 31-20, the purpose of this ordinance is to allow the County to continue to pay an employee should that employee contract the Covid-19 virus or be exposed to it and be required to be quarantined, there is a need in order to pay these folks that we amend the salary ordinance, in it's simplest terms, that's what 31-20 does.

Motion to pass Bill No. 31-20 was made by Mr. Canarecci and seconded by Mr. Root. Bill No. 31-20 was passed to-wit; 8-0 Absent: Ms. Hess

Ms. Hess joined the meeting.

BILL NO. 32-20: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL AMENDING ORDINANCE 80-19 (2020 SALARY ORDINANCE FOR APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE COUNTY) (STAY HOME PAY DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY) PETITIONER: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Trippel, Bill No. 32-20 will allow the county to continue to pay employees or required to refrain to coming to their work stations in various departments due to the emergency that has been instituted by both the Executive Order of the Governor and of St. Joseph County Commissioners, this ordinance would allow payment to those employees in their usual capacity during the regularly scheduled non overtime work hours, it will allow folks to work from home who are non-essential, again, this will amend the previously approved salary ordinance for 2020.

Motion to pass Bill No. 32-20 was made by Mr. Noland and seconded by Mr. Canarecci. Bill No. 31-20 was passed to-wit; 9-0

BILL NO. 36-20: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL SUSPENDING DEADLINES CONTAINED IN LOCAL ORDINANCES REQUIRING NON-ESSENTIAL MEETINGS OF GOVERNING BODIES PETITIONER: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Trippel, Bill No. 36-20 will suspend deadlines that may occur in local ordinances by example the Governor in his Executive Order suspended all non-essential government meetings in St. Joseph and all other counties, he also suspended the various deadlines and time periods that are required by Indiana code but that does not necessarily suspend those deadlines for any local ordinances we have so in order to comply with the Governor's Order, I would recommend the passage of the delay and termination of local ordinances until we get back to regular meeting schedules.

Mr. Catanzarite: Mr. Trippel, non-essential business can be conducted until the Covid-19 crisis is over, correct, is that what I am understanding from this ordinance?

Mr. Trippel: That was the Governors last orders and that was extended to May 5 by his most recent executive order, correct.


Mr. Catanzarite: I guess the question would be, what determines something to be non-essential in terms of business we need to conduct, I've got a couple questions tonight I know that weren't advertised but it's questions more or less, for example, if I wanted to talk tonight about an issue regarding, are we applying for FEMA grants as a county, do we need to have a special meeting to talk about that or....

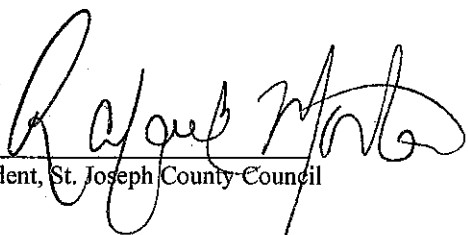
Mr. Trippel: Let me clarify this before you, the bill before you does not impact what is or is not essential, for purposes of County Council, this is more for other ordinances that exist in the county for instance, Historical Preservation has timelines by which, when they meet, their body has to act on things on petitions that are submitted to them or they're approved automatically, this will suspend those types of automatic approvals. What the Council deems essential, you will have to determine on your own, there's been no definition of that. I would suggest to you though if you want to discuss budgetary issues related to this crisis, that those would be essential issues that they should be noticed up for an appropriate meeting, like you would to discuss budgetary issues or any other topic.

Mr. Catanzarite: Thank you Mr. Trippel.

Motion to pass Bill No. 36-20 was made by Mr. Root and seconded by Mr. Kruszynski. Bill No. 36-20 was passed to-wit; 9-0

Adjournment: Mr. Morton stated that the meeting was adjourned 6:13 p.m.


Auditor, St. Joseph County


President, St. Joseph County Council