

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL
May 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Council was called to order at 6:02 p.m., on May 9, 2018, by the President, Rafael Morton, in the Council Chambers, fourth floor, County-City Building, South Bend, Indiana.

Members in attendance were:

Mr. Robert L. Kruszynski
Mr. Corey Noland
Ms. Diana Hess
Mr. Rafael Morton
Mr. Mark P. Telloyan
Mr. Mark A. Catanzarite
Mr. Robert J. McCahill
Mr. Mark Root

Present from the Auditor's office was Michael J. Hamann, Auditor.
Council staff present was Ms. Brandie Ecker on behalf of Mr. Michael Trippel, Attorney and Ms. Jennifer Prawat, Executive Secretary.

Petitions, Communications & Miscellaneous Matters:

Mr. Noland made the motion to reappoint John Ferretie and Rafael Morton to the Early Intervention Board and Mark Root – MACOG Policy Board by Mr. Catanzarite, the motion passed by a voice vote; 8-0.

Mr. Noland made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2018 meeting and was seconded by Ms. Hess the motion was passed by a voice vote; 8-0.

No report from the County Auditor
No Report from the County Commissioner
No report from Council Special Committee

First Readings:

BILL NO. 37-18: AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PUBLIC WAY OF PUBLIC PLACE LOCATED WHOLLY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED PORTION OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, TO WIT:
PETITIONER(S): PATRICK AND KATHLEEN KOWALSKI AND ALEX KOWALSKI, JR.
Assigned to the Land Use Planning Committee

Resolution(s):

BILL NO. 35-18: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING AN AGREEMENT EXTENDING THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY HOUSING CONSORTIUM AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION THEREOF PETITIONER(S): CITY OF SOUTH BEND

Lori Timmer, City of South Bend's Department of Community of Investment, this resolution would authorized President Kostielney to execute documents to renew the St. Joseph County Housing Consortium under an inter local agreement among the three jurisdictions of St. Joseph County, the City of South Bend and the City of Mishawaka.

Motion to pass Bill No. 35-18 was made by Mr. Noland and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill No. 35-18 was passed to-wit; 8-0

**BILL NO. 36-18: RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. JOSEPH COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND REGARDING SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS
PETITIONER(S): ST. JOSEPH COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

Ken Cotter, St. Joseph County Prosecutor, this inner local agreement allows us to fund three investigators with the Homicide Units/Special Victims Unit/Drug Investigation Unit, it is paid for by the City of South Bend, they have already approved that. It covers their salary but all the benefits along with a vehicle and the ability to properly investigate these cases.

Motion to pass Bill No. 36-18 was made by Mr. McCahill and seconded by Mr. Noland. Bill No. 36-18 was passed to-wit; 8-0

Salary Amendment(s):

BILL NO. 28-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 60-17, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2018 (Dept. 0002 AUDITOR)

Ms. Hess reported that Bill No. 28-18 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Mr. Hamann, St. Joseph County Auditor, Bills 28-18, 29-18 and 30-18 all go together. Our Budget Director is retiring, we are not replacing her. We are asking some other folks to take up additional responsibilities and in the course of that action, we are agreeing to pay them a little bit extra. We are eliminating a position, bumping up the pay of two full time worker and then hiring two folks part time.

BILL NO. 29-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 60-17, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2018 (Dept. 0002 AUDITOR)

BILL NO. 30-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 60-17, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2018 (Dept. 0002 AUDITOR)

Motion to pass Bill No. 28-18, 29-18 and 30-18 was made by Mr. Noland and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill's No. 28-18, 29-18 and 30-18 was passed to-wit; 8-0

BILL NO. 31-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 60-17, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2018 (Dept. 0018 PROSECUTOR)

Mr. McCahill reported that Bill No. 31-18 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Ken Cotter, St. Joseph County Prosecutor, the Auditor has already established a fund. This ordinance will allow me to hire those three people.

Motion to pass Bill No. 31-18 was made by Mr. Catanzarite and seconded by Mr. McCahill. Bill No. 31-18 was passed to-wit; 8-0

BILL NO. 32-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 60-17, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2018 (Dept. 0019 CIRCUIT COURT)

Mr. McCahill reported that Bill No. 32-18 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Lisa Plencner, Circuit Court Administrator, the Circuit Court is requesting permission to hire a part time assistant.

Motion to pass Bill No. 32-18 was made by Mr. McCahill and seconded by Mr. Hess. Bill No. 32-18 was passed to-wit; 8-0

BILL NO. 34-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 60-17, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2018 (Dept. 0036 PUBLIC DEFENDER)

Petitioner was not present.

Mr. Catanzarite made motion to return to committee and was seconded by Ms. Hess, the motion passed by a voice vote 8-0.

Public Hearing/Public Comment:

BILL NO. 27-18: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

TRANSFERS:

A. PSAP

Dispatch Capital Non Reverting Fund

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| FROM: | 4931-41070-000-0013 | 911 Technology Reserve | \$22,751.00 |
| TO: | 4931-42010-000-00113 | Buildings And Structures | 22,751.00 |
| | | <u>TOTAL:</u> | <u>22,751.00</u> |

APPROPRIATE:

B. Recorder

Recorder Perpetuation

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1189-14800-000-0004 | FICA | \$1,000.00 |
| 1189-14810-000-0004 | PERF | 1,000.00 |
| | <u>TOTAL:</u> | <u>\$2,000.00</u> |

C. Auditor

Ineligible Deduction Fund

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1216-11603-000-0002 | Property Tax Supervisor | \$1,962.00 |
| | <u>TOTAL:</u> | <u>1,962.00</u> |

D. Auditor

Ineligible Deduction 2013

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1300-11660-000-0002 | Accounts Payable Clerk | \$1,962.00 |
| | <u>TOTAL:</u> | <u>1,962.00</u> |

E. Auditor

General Fund

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1000-11083-000-0002 | County Budget Administrator | (\$22,700.00) |
| 1000-11971-000-0002 | PT Accounting Assistant | 5,800.00 |
| 1000-11972-000-0002 | PT Budgeting Assistant | 4,800.00 |
| | <u>TOTAL:</u> | <u>12,100.00</u> |

F. Prosecutor
 General Fund
 1000-22402-000-0018 Investigative Supplies \$3,500.00
TOTAL: \$3,500.00

G. Prosecutor
 Investigator Interlocal Fund
 4935-11355-000-0018 Investigator (3@\$61,600.00) \$184,800.00
 4935-11571-000-0018 Overtime 19,200.00
 4935-14800-000-0018 FICA Contribution 15,606.00
 4935-14810-000-0018 PERF 22,848.00
 4935-14840-000-0018 Group Insurance 50,073.00
 4935-22010-000-0018 Gas Oil Lubricant 4,500.00
 4935-32200-000-0018 Telephone 3,223.00
 4935-44600-000-0018 Special Equipment 8,250.00
TOTAL: 308,500.00

H. Circuit Court
 Title IV-D Incentive Fund
 8895-11950-000-0019 Part Time \$3,500.00
 8895-14800-000-0019 FICA 267.75
TOTAL: 3,767.75

I. Circuit Court
 County Drug Free Fund
 1148-39205-000-0019 Community Grants \$46,000.00
TOTAL: \$46,000.00

J. Circuit Court
 Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund
 4901-31070-000-0054 Other Contractual Services \$19,500.00
TOTAL: \$19,500.00

K. Juvenile Justice Center
 Discretionary Grant From IDOC
 9148-31070-000-0025 Other Contractual Services \$795.00
 9148-32020-000-0025 Travel 3,575.00
 9148-32050-000-0025 Instruction and Traveling 4,832.00
 9148-43033-000-0025 Unity Garden Materials 3,187.00
TOTAL: \$12,386.00

Motion to pass Bill No. 27-18 was made by Mr. Noland and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill No. 27-18 was passed to-wit; 8-0

Miscellaneous:

BILL NO. 33-18: Scrivener's Error Budget Book 2018
 Dept. 0049 Juvenile Justice Center

Mr. McCahill reported that Bill No. 33-18 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Cheryl Rush, Controller, Juvenile Justice Center, there was an error on the Special Deputy line. The budget total was correct.

Motion to pass Bill No. 33-18 was made by Mr. Noland and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill No. 33-18 was passed to-wit; 8-0

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Privilege of the Floor:

Laura Senff and Andrew Senff, 28870 Magnolia Rd. South Bend, we are disputing the definition or a classification of our animal as a dangerous dog as well as a controlled animal. The ordinance is unclear and the information packet we received from Animal Control is not listed in the ordinance and it references state ordinances inaccurately.

Andrew Senff: Also, there is no provisions for any kind of visitors, we are not technically residents of Indiana, we split our time between Arizona and Indiana. The animal officer that came to my house claimed that my animal is considered a hybrid, between a wolf and a dog based off of the vaccination that we had from Arizona, however, our tags out of Arizona clearly state otherwise, he is German Shephard mix, so that is where we are having a problem.

Laura Senff: I would like to add that the investigation that deemed him a dangerous animal was incomplete and the Animal Control Officer did not fully investigate the matter, they took the word of a witness and the story from the witness changed.

Mr. Morton: As we all know, we were hoping to take care of this matter at our committee meeting, I felt it was pretty serious after looking at the photos, how do you want to proceed from here, I am asking everyone for input.

Mr. Noland: I don't see that's going to be a conclusion tonight, it's privilege of the floor, if the Humane Society would like to take three minutes, I think they certainly have every right to.

Genny Carlson, St. Joseph County Humane Society, the rabies vaccination, which is state official certificate that is given when a rabies vaccination is given to an animal by a veterinarian did list the male dog as a Timber Wolf and also in the owners Facebook post about the animals missing while running at large when the bite incident took place, they did describe the animal as a fifteen-week-old wolf puppy hybrid. The animal control ordinance does define what a controlled animal is. Because a male dog did bite another dog while off his own property and he was not provoked in that manner to our belief, that's why the male dog was deemed a dangerous animal on top of being a controlled animal.

Mr. Noland: What is the current status of the appeal?

Ms. Carlson: We are still waiting for a hearing date to be set.

Mr. Noland: In the meantime, they are at home?

Mr. Carlson: Currently, that is the state.

Mr. Morton: Any anticipation on the time of the hearing?

Ms. Carlson: I don't set those dates.

Mr. Morton: At this point, if you can keep us informed on the appeal hearing.

Jennifer Betz, 23150 Roosevelt Road, South Bend, I am a member of the Environmental Network of Northern Indiana. How do we plan for flourishing? That is the question I would like the council members to consider this evening. My hope is that here, in St. Joseph County, we will have a healthy, thriving, diverse and bio-diverse place for all of us to flourish together. It's hard to talk about that kind of flourishing when we are talking about fifteen thousand acres of an industrial mega plex development which encompasses New Carlisle, Lydick, the toll road, Route 2 from Route 20 west to LaPorte County. In the recently released Industrial Logistics Center Project Summary dated May 4th, I was so glad to see the goals of the economic development area are. Environmental conservation, livable communities and full transparency. Fifteen thousand acres is an enormous amount of land. How do we create a place where all can flourish?

Darcia Narvalz, 52633 Brookdale Dr., 46637, I'd like to speak to several of the goals of the 2002 comprehensive plan which is the grounding for the master plan under consideration now. Goal one was to alleviate and minimize the loss of agricultural land by maintaining twenty-acre residential lot sizes, implementing farm preservation programs and directing public utility investment away from areas of high agricultural importance. Given that the master plan today includes revisions to residential patterns in rural areas and is converting large areas of active farm land into industrial sites. How is the plan consistent with goal number one? If this producing land, formally Prairie, is not regarded as being of high agricultural importance, is that an accurate evaluation? Goal two was to ensure that suitable areas are available for future industrial development. Given that the plan calls for two areas of twelve hundred to two thousand acres for heavy industry and three areas of two hundred to sixteen hundred acres for light industry. How is a fifteen thousand acer mega plex sketched in the current plan consistent with this goal? Given that the 2002 plan prioritizes Brownfield redevelopment for light industry, how is the current plan for extensive Greenfield development consistent goal two? Goal four is to preserve and protect the natural environment by discouraging development in environmentally sensitive areas and by conserving open space and protecting natural and scenic resources. Given that the current plan seeks to replace open space with industrial sites and that it's development area includes extensive wetlands and two ecologically and culturally significant county parks, how is the current consistent with goal four? Has the sensitivity of the areas aquifer been sufficiently accounted for? Has the impact of transfer of water from the Kankakee to the St. Joseph water sheds by sewage dumping been assessed? Goal five is to provide utility services to support both existing and future residents and businesses by encouraging development in areas where infrastructure in urban surfaces are available.

Rachel Mazzini, 367 Cavanaugh Hall, Notre Dame, 46556, I am speaking on behalf of Krista Bailey, 945 21st St. South Bend, we want a resilient county that supports a health world, health environment, health economy and a thriving culture. Real improvements cannot occur unless strategies which are being formulated and implemented are ecologically sustainable over the long term are consistent with the social values and institutions and encourage grass roots participation in the development process. There are professionals and concerned citizens in this county willing and able to assist if given the opportunity.

Connor Delaney, 135 Fisher Hall, Notre Dame, 46556, I am engineering student and I am speaking today because I am concerned with sustainable development and how that applies to this plan. The land in question is on a sensitive aquifer and this can be a basis for a healthy ecosystem. I would encourage the council to know more about how the aquifer could relate to the greater ecosystem. We have seen how development can disrupt our ecosystem in the case of Juday Creek where the development on Grape Road interrupted the temperature and the fish population of the creek.

Stephanie Storer, 2501 Miami St., South Bend, I am a ground water engineer and an also a local business organizer/common goods cooperative grocery and in light of that, I'd like to express concern for the development of this project in terms of the sensitivity of the ground water aquifer and the local flora and fauna that would be in question here. I would like to see a sustainable development program and that this would be both the long-term effects of the aquifer would be taken into account as well as any extreme events that could happen in terms of what is going on in this industrial complex be taken into account.

Elizabeth Capdeville, 511 Marquette Ave., 46617, the issue of environmentally sustainable development is vitally important to my family. Caring about the environment is a sign to people outside of our community that this place is worth being in. I am here to remind everyone that this is something we must keep as an asset that people have worked so hard to develop.

Becca Mendez, 329 N. Frances St., I was formally an environmental conservation volunteer in Paraguay and I worked in a community who was trying to balance important wetlands and water sources with the need of economic development. The St. Joseph County Health Department has prepared and posted to the county website a document called Wellhead Protection Areas: What Business Owners Need to Know. It states "Everyone in St. Joseph County obtains their drinking water from the abundance supplies of ground water. The ground water has historically been of very good quality however, the decades of industrial and residential development that have allowed our community to prosper are challenging our ability to maintain the quality of our drinking water. New ground water quality issues arise each year. All of the drinking water supplies in the county are susceptible to ground water contamination and it is critical to prevent them all. The northeastern part of the county is particularly susceptible to ground water contamination. It contains the St. Joseph sole source aquifer which the US EPA provides with a special level of protection. This is the only area in Indiana that receives that level of protection." Please note, that it appears that at least some portion of eastern extent of the NWILC project boundary map overlaps with our sole source aquifer. The county has previously adopted a wellhead protection ordinance. This indicates an intention to preserve and protect aquifer recharge zones and to focus on water conservation strategies, however, when considering the scale of this proposed multi industrial complex, is that enough? How will these risks be minimized?

Judith Rubleske, 515 S. Meade St., South Bend, 46619, ecological growers in our county need tax abatements to help them afford the growing practices through regenerating the soil to improve the percentage of organic matter in soil which is part of maintaining good water cycle.

Dean Alvis, 1411 Sunnymede, South Bend, I am along time South Bend, St. Joseph County resident and I come as a member of Indivisible Indiana Environmental Team. Clean air, clean water and healthy soil are essential for all human health and nutrition. A thriving community also needs resilience which comes from a diversified and inner connected economy. St. Joseph County knows from its history the danger of excessive dependence on large industries that seem like permanent fixtures but are in fact transitory. Fifty years after the collapse of Studebaker South Bend is still here and we are still dealing with the empty industrial building in Brownfield awaiting redevelopment. Fifty years into the future will we again see huge empty factories, Brownfields that are difficult to restore to productive landscape? Instead, we could retain current farm land that if well managed, would still be providing food one hundred years from today. Will this facility be of any use to society as we move towards powering by wind and solar?

Carolina Serrano, 729 Cottage Grove, we are pleased to read in the May 4th NWILC Project Summary about the boundary adjustments to the core development area which are intended to avoid much of the hundred year floodplain of the Kankakee River. We look forward to hearing from the project team about the full extent of future development within the proposed project boundary and how flood hazards will be mitigated going forward. Our impression is that significant portions of the full project area, especially those portions that may eventually extend all the way east towards the St. Joe Valley Parkway will overlap floodplain areas designated by FEMA as some of the most volatile areas. Areas where flood insurance is mandatory and where flooding is likely to become a more common. A recent study out of Purdue University and a collaborative team of scientist including faculty at the University of Notre Dame reported that since 1895 average annual precipitation in our region has increased by about ten percent. This trend is expected to increase. Since 1900 the number of days per year with extreme rain that is more than .86 inches a day has been increasing at a rate of about .4 days per decade in the northwest part of Indiana. This is the fastest rate of increase in extreme rain events for any region in the state. We hope that future development proceeds in a cautious and a careful manner.

Andrew Tucker, 127 S. 34th St., South Bend, I work for a non-profit nature conservancy so the natural environment is how I often see my community. I would like you to hear what the wetlands have to say: Mr. Tucker plays a recording of the wetlands. Supporting biodiversity is just one of the services that wetlands provide. They also store and filter nutrients in sediments which keeps our surface waters clean. They also protect our homes and business from floods by soaking up waters and then slowly releasing them back into the natural environment. The Indiana DNR estimates that 85% of our wetlands have been lost in this state. I ask you to remember wetlands, to keep wetlands at the center of the decisions that you make.

Chuck Bueter, 15893 Ashville Land, please recognize there are significant implications for the night sky. I am here to encourage sufficient but sensible light levels. I ask you to insist that all outdoor lighting be fully shielded with no glare. The outdoor LED fixtures have a color correlated temperature (CCT) below three thousand K and that up lighting be prohibited. Half of your life occurs from sunset to sunrise. Science recognizes that reckless lighting

while seemingly innocuous impinges on the wellbeing of humans and the entire natural kingdom. St. Joseph County already leads the region in installing fully shielded street lights, such as at the new roundabout's like Fir Road and Brick Road. A job well done, thanks go to County Engineer Jessica Clark and her colleagues for choosing street lights that are dark sky friendly and best for the driver. I suggest you give the same high level of thought to the communities that will evolve in the new project area. Please mandate quality outdoor lighting. These comments and supporting details can be found on my website Nightwise.org under the blog post Three Minutes of Floor Time.

Debra DuRall, 21677 Auten Road, I moved here in 1990, I have stayed because this is a beautiful area. I like the wildlife, I like hearing the insects and the frogs and I like seeing the stars at night and for me, that is a quality life and that has become as important as my employment because this is what makes me happy. I am concerned that we are at a critical turning point of eradicating some of that space that allows all of those things to exist. Building industry and concrete one after another over and over again takes up that elbow room.

Charlotte Wolfe, 21439 Osborne Rd., Lakeville, I operate Prairie Winds Nature Farm, which is a non profit educational farm. My former life, I was a wetlands scientist so I understand a lot of the concerns that others have expressed about wetlands and protecting our aquifers. I would also like the Council to explore if there is any data available of how many farms are going to be affected. We estimate approximately twenty to thirty farms will be affected in the the NWILC project area. I would like some answers about that, I would also like to know how many jobs will be created by the development process and what those will costs the county. I wonder if the data is available to mention how many farmers will be displaced and what incomes will be lost from those that are displaced. I am also very concerned about the Council, whether or not we are following any comprehensive land ordinance which I understand there was one for the county developed in 2002, does the council know anything about that land ordinance and how the current plans for this large project affect that? The specific type of development for the area was mentioned in an article about commodity agriculture but I think the same concept could be applied to a large industrial development and that is, if you can fail to imagine a new way forward for farmers that's a big problem because we need to have, restore our fertility, industrial agriculture has impacted our fertility in many areas, we need to use cover crops and could the council consider investing the same amount of money that is going to be invested in this industrial complex to reestablishment of sustainable agriculture, new areas of orchards, perennial crops, season extension, growing hoop houses for annual vegetables, organic meat production, grass fed meat production.

Larry Neiswender, 518 S. 24th St., South Bend, we need farm land. Today, May 9, 2018, the American Farmland Trust released a major report: Farms Under Threat – The State of America's Farmland, the most comprehensive ever undertaking of America's agricultural lands, this report shows that between 1992 and 2012, the United States lost nearly thirty-one million acres of farmland, that's a hundred and seventy-five acres an hour or three acres every single minute. Eleven million of those acres were among the best farmland in the nation, classified as the most productive, most versatile and most resilient land. In twenty years, 3 ½ % of that total agricultural land was lost, development is occurring disproportionately on agricultural lands with 62% of all development occurring on farmland. St. Joseph County, like much of Indiana is blessed with large expanses of highly productive farmland. That long-standing priority was formalized in the 2002 comprehensive plan. We are losing farmland at a much faster rate than the national average.

Tom Purekal, 406 Parkovash Ave., South Bend, I have been here for sixteen months, I was living over seas for about fifteen years, proud to call South Bend home. I work areas such as food security, water sanitation, climate change adaptation and governance and learned that for development to contribute to sustainable communities, the benefits of development need to flow to those communities. Unfortunately, the economic arrangements for development often flow away from local communities to non-local business owners and shareholders so that the community does not share in the wealth it creates. We would like to bring questions about the ways in which tax abatements and TIF districts are being used. Are tax abatements being used appropriately for job creation? It was reported in the South Bend Tribune on February 1, 2018 that the natural gas electrical power plant recently constructed in the New Carlisle redevelopment area received a sixty-million-dollar tax abatement over fifteen years for creation of twenty one full time jobs. So about three million dollars per job, is this an effective use of county funds for job creation? Is this tax abatement consistent with the county's own tax abatement ordinance which sets the criteria that link eligibility for tax abatements to benefits that a business brings to the community? Since the ordinance specifies a maximum tax abatement period of ten years, the abatement seems not to be in conformity with this ordinance and maybe further out of conformity of the conditions that permit tax abatements to the extended up to ten years have

not been met. In conditions where local governments abilities to fund the essential services they provide are tightly constrained by property tax caps, careful consideration of how much revenue can be sacrificed before development becomes counterproductive, is necessary. Is the TIFF district for the New Carlisle redevelopment area creating difficulties for New Carlisle and should the use of TIFF district funds in New Carlisle be given greater consideration? Because the industrial development in a near New Carlisle is located in a TIFF district, New Carlisle gains no new tax revenues from development, even as New Carlisle is given responsibilities to invest public monies and infrastructure to support that development, for example, professional fire service. It was reported in the South Bend Tribune, February 1, 2018 that the power plant will bring about forty-three million dollars in property taxes over its thirty year life span which will benefit the TIFF district which will support other projects they want to do.

Ricky Klee, 2010 Hollywood Pl., South Bend, how do ensure that public monies go to the public? We have had TIFF as a financing mechanism for a couple of decades and I think we have learned that it can have some benefits but it also has some real problems. Just look locally, we have some of the highest rates infant mortality in the country, we have some of the highest rates of childhood lead poisoning in the country, we have a physician, last week who runs Beacon Health Child Health Services Program at Memorial Hospital, write that he's seen in a number of neighborhoods around town that he sees third world public health and yet we do have TIFF districts in the city and the county that have millions and tens of millions of dollars in them, just sitting there while these problems fester. Another potential problem with TIFF districts is the use of these public monies by well financed and well-connected businesses. We see this in South Bend. How did the Redevelopment Commission, which is meant to address public blights end up building luxury condos on Riverfront and East Bank and the old Studebaker building at the cost of over ten million dollars just in TIFF funding alone? I think you know as public servants how that might happen. This is concern in establishing a TIFF district with such a massive industrial complex in the county's west side. I am the owner and the player of the Grand Kankakee Wetlanders, a local baseball team, we beat Mike Hamann's team last season and I named this team because we don't have a whole lot of awareness about our wetlands here in this county, I grew up here, I never heard a word about them in school, yet if you look at our history, the area where this proposal is being located, is also the site of one of the world's largest wetlands eco systems, historically.

Sheila McCarthy, 519 S. Saint Joseph St., we are asking for greater transparencies so that we don't have another situation of the Kankakee Wetlands. Transparency is a foundational piece of democracy. It's only with transparency that citizens can hold elected officials and those they appoint accountable for actions taken that impact communities. The plan mega industrial complex seems to have more questions that need to be answered such as, what is going on? What is being planned? When was I going to learn about this and what would be my recourse? The questions that need to be answered are about how will we protect our aquifer; how will we keep our air clean? How will we protect the health of our citizens? A lot of the current county plans seem to be over lapping. What does this mega industrial complex have to do with what's happening at the airport? What does this have to do with the South Shore rerouting? We commend the monthly summaries for October through March of the consultant reports that were just posted this week, summaries that the South Bend International Airport Logistics project also posted as well as the St. Joseph County Rail Information posted, this information should have been made public as soon as it was available. County officials have a responsibility to us to connect the dots and help the public understand how all of this is related. How much money is each consulting firm being paid, what is the expected expense of this planning? Is that putting us into a bind where the planning process becomes too big to fail so the county feels forced into decisions that may not be best for people's health as well as our eco system. We look forward to increased transparency on these issues.

Carolyn Yvellez, 1434 Marigold Way #116, South Bend, we must commit ourselves to well-planned and sustainable development.

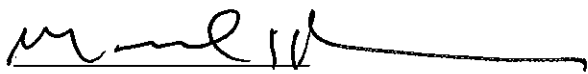
Garrett Blad, 925 N. Frances St., South Bend, I have traveled across the country speaking in university halls and high school classrooms about the real risk we face right now in this time in history. We can either turn our back on our children and continue to pollute our air, land and water and rob our children of the beautiful resources we have here or we can put our energy and investment into a sustainable, thriving, diverse economy.

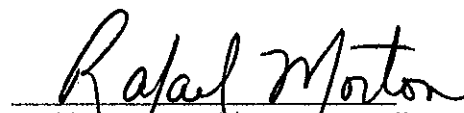
Garry Harrington, 30387 Dunhill Crossing, Elkhart, my suggestion would be to scrutinize this and know that we can have economic prosperity and be conscious of the environment.

Christopher Cobb, 215 E. Pokagon St. South Bend, we need to have a process that enables the consideration of multiple alternatives and not a process that enables somebody sees a benefit that's more or less for them selves but then can be rammed through quickly.

Dave Cherrone, Fire Marshall with Clay Fire, I wanted to apologize for failing to get that passed, once it was denied we are allowed to appeal so I appealed and then the appeal was denied and then I was informed that I didn't have the right to appeal. I received a call from Mr. Boyle, who is the director of the commission who said, it's not really going to change, if you rewrite that ordinance so that you don't include all those people you want to initially put and have it look like everyone else's that has come through here then we will reconsider that. I said well, I will be back, but it is not going to look like everyone else's. We want it to reach the most people we could.

Adjournment: Mr. Morton stated that the meeting was adjourned 7:46 p.m.


Auditor, St. Joseph County


President, St. Joseph County Council