SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL

MAY 22, 2020

The Scott County Board of Commissioners and Council met in Special Joint Session on May 22, 2020 at 9:30 am in the Commissioners Room, Suite 128, Courthouse. Commissioners present were Robert Tobias, John Lizenby, and Mike Jones. Council members present were Mike Zollman, Iva Gasaway, Raymond Jones, Robert Peacock, Donnie Richie, Rachael Hardin, and Ab Watts. Also present was Auditor Tammy Stout Johnson.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE AND EMERGENCY SICK LEAVE POLICIES

Auditor Johnson presented The Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Policy and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave policies based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The Wage and Hour Division of the Federal government set forth paid leave entitlements for absences related to COVID-19 medical and child care reasons.

Both policies have an effective dates of April 2, 2020 and expire on December 31, 2020.

MOTION: Commissioner Lizenby motioned to adopt the Wage and Hour Division's Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Policy and Emergency Paid Sick Leave policies to amend the County's standard policies to be in compliance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act from April 2, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Second provided by Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Peacock motioned to adopt the Wage and Hour Division's Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Policy and Emergency Paid Sick Leave policies to amend the County's standard policies to be in compliance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act from April 2, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Second provided by Watts. Motion carried unanimously.

PANDEMIC DISCUSSION

Commissioners reported that the County buildings would reopen to the general public beginning on June 1, 2020 at 8:30 am. Those seeking entrance, public and employees, will have a temperature screening and be asked to wear a face mask in common areas. Employees are instructed to report possible COVID-19 exposure or relevant symptoms to their immediate supervisors.

Councilman Zollman inquired about a policy or plan that would address future pandemic health emergencies. Zollman wanted to make sure Council was included for the financial aspect of any emergency policy. Tobias said he realized that only affordable actions should be taken. In reflection, Tobias wondered if the furlough option would not have been better for employees because of the additional unemployment compensation added by the federal government. Zollman said he would have preferred furlough rather than the paid "on call" status in the initial phase of the shutdown. Zollman said he had looked at the plan of other counties and then asked if Commissioners were going to create a similar document. Councilman Gasaway advised that employees should use their PTO wisely because it may be needed later in the year if another health emergency is declared by the State. Tobias said he was in favor of meeting again in joint session regarding a pandemic emergency policy.

Councilman Richie commented that he wanted any additional compensation, if granted for those that worked on-site during the first wave of the emergency, to be the same across all departments. Councilman Hardin explained that clerical can be given additional time without it being an additional payroll expenditure like hazard duty pay. Richie said he did not want to give compensation time because it was not fair compared to hazard duty pay.

Commissioner Jones stated he apologized if his impression was wrong regarding Council's actions, but he did not agree with any additional pay. Jones added that if any extra was to be given out, it should be to those in the EMS department. Commissioner Lizenby said it was the past and felt like Hazard Duty Pay would be limited to those in emergency services. Councilman Richie said some [clerical] had to come to work. Richie said give nothing or the same to everyone. Councilman Zollman reminded that Council does not have to act on any additional compensation and added he was very disappointed in the complaints. Councilman Raymond Jones said that this situation clearly demonstrated the need for a county manager or human resources manager.

Zollman spoke of predictions of reduced State funding of the Riverboat Shares, funding cuts to counties, and budget freezes over the next two years. Councilman Gasaway requested a letter be sent to department heads with directives to reduce spending in 2020. Commissioner Lizenby said that it was too risky to even hire new employees right now.

PARKING LOT ON EAST SIDE OF SQUARE

Commissioner Tobias informed the group that the City of Scottsburg might purchase the lots with the old Shoppers Mart storage cage and parking area. Tobias was asked if the County would have interest in paving the lot for the City. If so, then the parking lot would be available for Courthouse employee parking. Tobias thought it might create about thirty (30) parking spaces. Councilman Gasaway suggested the alley area be incorporated into the parking as well then pave building to building. All agreed that if the City purchased and the County paved the lot, it would have to be done with an Interlocal Agreement in place.

MOTION: Commissioner Jones motioned to reach an agreement with the City of Scottsburg for the use of the Eastside Square parking lot, if purchased by the City, with the County bearing the expense of paving the parking area, if funded by Council. Second provided by Lizenby. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Gasaway motioned to approve the funding for paving of the Eastside Square parking lot, if an Interlocal Agreement is reached with the City of Scottsburg. Second provided by Peacock. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Raymond Jones said he was pleased to see dialog between the City and County.

DIETRICH BUILDING

Commissioner Tobias opened by stating he wanted to keep the purchase of the Dietrich Building as an option for expansion. Tobias added that another option may become available soon. Whichever way, Tobias said he would be in favor of the most cost effective option. Commissioner Jones said he did not want the Dietrich building and would rather utilize currently owned property. Councilman Richie asked about moving the Veterans Service Office to the old Health Department location. Commissioner Jones asked if there would be space for the VA Office in the VA Clinic.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Lizenby motioned to adjourn the Commissioner portion of the May 22, 2020 Special Joint meeting. Second provided by Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no other business, Peacock motioned to adjourn the Council portion of the May 22, 2020 Special Joint meeting. Second provided by Watts. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners:

Robert Tobias, President

John Lizenby, Vice President

Mike Jones, Member

ATTEST: Tammy Stout Johnson

Tammy Stout Johnson, Auditor

Mike Zollman, President

Ab Watts, Member

Robert Peacock, Vice President

Rachael Hardin, Member

Iva Gasaway, Member

Raymond Jones, Member

Donnie Richie, Member

ATTEST: _____

Tammy Stout Johnson, Scott County Auditor