

COMMON COUNCIL
Special Meeting
Joint LOIT Public Hearing

September 17, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by Councilman Vaughn Reid.

Prayer was given by County Councilman Clay Morgan

City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Greg York.

ROLL CALL:

Sandy Bertram	Present
Jeff Hancock	Present
Jimmy Kidd	Present
Mary Malone	Present
Mark Koger	Present
Vaughn Reid III	Present
Rex Peckinpugh	Present

Jason Semler of Umbaugh gave a presentation to all in attendance of LOIT and its effect on government and tax payers of Henry County.

Nate LaMar, President of the Henry County Council and Mark Koger, President of the City Council opened the joint Public Hearing for LOIT at 8:32 p.m. The following citizens appeared before the Council's;

- Steve Peckinpugh, Henry County resident was opposed to the tax stating it was regression.
- Chad Malicoat, Henry County resident stated he understood the need but suggested a plan be developed for use of the income and that it not be used as a band-aid.
- Richard Swimm, Henry County resident was opposed stating he had never seen a tax go down or go away.
- Rob Davis, Henry County resident was opposed suggesting making the tax a 1 time tax for the repairs and equipment needed.
- Jeremiah Moore, Henry County resident challenged the Council's to find another way.
- Jay Davis, Henry County resident and employee stated LOIT is a State remedy to counter property tax caps, it has been discussed for several years and supported the tax noting cuts have been made until there are no more cuts to be made.
- Lee Walker, Henry County resident and city employee spoke in support stating it must be passed to continue current services.
- Steve Batchfield, Henry County resident opposed stating it was a burden on the tax payers of Henry County and the shortfalls should have been dealt with as they came.
- Kim Cronk, Henry County Commissioner commended all elected officials in the decision they had to make and gave a history of the last 7 years of cuts and their effect.
- Russ Cheeseman, Henry County resident opposed tax stating there was no planning and it wasn't beneficial.
- Doug Cheeseman, Henry County resident opposed noting the denial of the Asphalt Plant was a denial of jobs and income.
- Corey Murphy, NCHCEDC Director spoke in support of the LOIT tax and how he felt it would make the City and County more marketable.
- Mayor Greg York commended all emergency services for their dedication, noting that the city would develop a committee to determine the property use noting the city emergency services were short staffed, underpaid, equipment was dangerous and services like SWAT would be reviewed for improvement.

The presidents of the Henry County Council and New Castle City Council closed the public hearing at 9:40 p.m.

- The 7 County Council members each spoke as to their reasons for support.
- The 7 City Council members each spoke;
 - President Mark Koger noted the City was fortunate to have a balanced budget for the last 3 years, noting no borrowing had occurred, but at a cost. He noted the average cost to tax payers in Henry County was \$1.62 weekly.
 - Councilman Jeff Hancock stated the city had made all the cuts they could without it being a detriment to services, without this tax services would be next, and they are not worth losing.
 - Councilman Rex Peckinpaugh noted the State wants to look good with a surplus so they have put the burden on local government, stating economy will not grow without public safety.
 - Councilman Vaughn Reid noted he agreed this was a regressive tax, but changes in legislature no longer allows for anything but income tax. Quality service is paramount, we must invest to benefit
 - Council-lady Mary Malone stated she was in favor of the tax to continue quality service.
 - Council-lady Sandra Bertram stated the number one priority is the provide public service. Henry County and New Castle residents are fortunate to have the best service in Indiana, noting it is unfortunate that some residents expect the same service but don't want to pay for it. She stated if it costs a combo meal once a month it is worth it, they are always there when someone calls.
 - Councilman Kidd stated it was the right thing to do.

Presentation of the Henry County resolution to present their vote regarding the adoption was presented by President Nate Lamar. Vote was 7-0 in support of LOIT.

RES. #09172015-1 – CASTING THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE VOTES FOR LOIT

President Koger of City Council read and moved to approve Resolution #09172015-1.


Councilman Hancock seconded. Motion carried 7-0

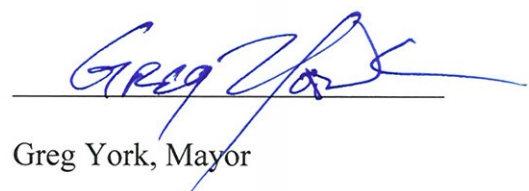
Sandy Bertram	Jeff Hancock	Jimmy Kidd	Mary Malone	Mark Koger	Vaughn Reid	Rex Peckinpaugh
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- Councilman Peckinpaugh moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilman Reid seconded. Motion carried 7-0


Christy York, Clerk Treasurer

Approved by me this 17th day of September 2015.


Presiding Officer of the Common Council


Greg York, Mayor