

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2004**

The Tippecanoe County Council held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at 12:30 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Connie Basham, Vice President Ronald L. Fruitt, David S. Byers, Jeffrey Kessler, and Betty J. Michael. Others present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Councilmembers Jeffrey A. Kemper was absent.)

Also present were City of Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski and City of West Lafayette Mayor Jan Mills.

President Basham called the meeting to order and announced that in recent years the County Council has met annually with the Mayors to keep the lines of communication open.

Mayor Roswarski outlined his immediate goals and vision:

- Deal with financial issues.
- Look at creating good paying jobs and economic development by bringing in new businesses.
- Thinks the City and County can cooperate on road and infrastructure projects.
- His appointments are people who are interested in working.
- He looks forward to working with everyone. His door will be open.

Councilmember Fruitt noted that during the recent campaign Mayor Roswarski talked about the living wage as it relates to tax abatements. Mayor Roswarski responded that the City of Lafayette will be looking at companies offering good paying jobs that are close to the County's manufacturing average wage with benefits.

Councilmember Byers asked the Mayors their stance on a Wheel Tax to pay for infrastructure. Mayor Roswarski responded he wouldn't shut the door. Mayor Mills said she is not opposed to a Wheel Tax because we have to look at funding avenues for street and road repairs.

Mayor Mills outlined some of her immediate goals:

- Find ways to bring in more participants in Purdue Research Foundation and Park.
- Prioritize Sagamore Parkway projects.
- Western Sewer Interceptor Project west of campus will be bid early this year.
- Upgrade the Digester at the Waste Water Plant.
- Coordinate their GIS with the County's GIS.
- Widen McCormick Road which is a gateway to Purdue's campus. They will want to discuss this with the County.
- Will work to keep their neighborhood schools. Find ways to prevent declining enrollment around campus.

Councilmember Byers asked about annexation. Mayor Mills responded they will have to consider the implications. Any annexation to the west will be out of City fire protection range.

Councilmember Fruitt asked about consolidating departments throughout the County. In Mayor Mills' opinion, not all consolidation saves money.

➔ Councilmember Kathy Vernon entered the meeting.

Councilmember Kessler pointed out that results of Vision 2020 advocated consolidating services. He suggested forming a committee from each entity to discuss the concept. Mayor Roswarski said he thinks there is merit to such a discussion.

Councilmember Basham asked the Mayors their stance on a Juvenile Detention Center. Both indicated their support. Mayor Roswarski said there is a need for a lock-down but with an educational approach. He thinks all will benefit in the long run.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed at 1:10 P.M.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Kathy Vernon  
Kathy Vernon, President

David S. Byers  
David S. Byers

Ronald L. Fruitt  
Ronald L. Fruitt, Vice President

Jeffrey A. Kemper  
Jeffrey A. Kemper

Connie Basham  
Connie Basham

Jeffrey Kessler  
Jeffrey Kessler

Attest: Robert A. Plantenga  
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

Betty J. Michael  
Betty J. Michael