

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2022

6:30 P.M.

Commissioner's Court, 2nd Floor Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Council convened in a regular meeting on January 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Ashley James, William Rennels, Rick Weir, Kelly Summerville, William Brent Bush, Randy Dreher, Martin Brown, Auditor Brenda Furry, Deputy Auditor Annie Wickens, and County Council Attorney, Donald J. Bonomo.
- IV. **Selection of Officers-**A motion was made by Summerville to appoint Ashley James as President of the Council for the year 2022 and was seconded by Bush. All in favor, motion carried. A motion was made by Summerville to appoint Rick Weir as Vice President of the Council for the year 2022 and was seconded by Dreher. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from December 16, 2021 by Weir and seconded by Bush. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Treasurer's Report.** President, James acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- VII. **Comp Time Report.** President, James acknowledged receipt of the Comp Time Report.
- VIII. **No Transfers or Additional Appropriations for the Month of January 2022.**
 - James welcomed William (Bill) Rennels to the Council. Rennels was appointed to Neil Costello's position, due Costello had moved out of the district.
- IX. **New Business**
 - a. Economic Development Council (incentive for Spec Building at the Rise-Doug Hess and Bob Grewe spoke to the Council about an incentive that they could have available to a prospective buyer for the Spec Building at the Vermillion Rise Mega Park. The VCEDC council unanimously voted to offer a \$300,00.00 interest free loan as part of the incentive package. VCEDC would like to recommend that \$1 million of the \$1.5 million payback from the sale of the Spec Building could be added to the incentive package as a loan with a 1% interest rate. With low interest rates, would be additional income for the County. VCEDC is also looking at other entities that would be willing to add to the incentive package. The VCEDC would like to work with the County to make this a good incentive tool. James asked how long of a term was they looking at. Grewe stated up to ten (10) years but depending on what potential buyer wanted it could be less but use ten (10) years as a maximum. Dreher asked when the \$1.5 million is due back to the County. Grewe stated it would be at the time of sale (knock on wood) or when the 10 years expire. Dreher asked what year are we in now. Grewe stated we are in year 5 of the agreement. Brown wanted to clarify that the county would make 1.% interest off of the incentive money if the Council agreed. Hess stated yes that is correct. James stated that 1% rate is more than what we are earning

in any of the other accounts we have right now. Grewe stated there was a process that would have to be followed. James stated who would be in charge of the process of the Council agrees to this? Hess stated that Economic Development would be in charge of the process. James questioned whether they had a set of standard process and procedures that they went by. Hess stated that they do for the smaller business and that they haven't done anything like this yet but would definitely have process and procedures in place if and when this should happen. Weir questioned that this was just for the Spec Building only, nothing else. Hess stated yes only for the Spec Building. James asked if there were requirements on how the money was to be used. Grewe stated it would need to be in the guidelines on how it was to be used. For instance, for paying for the building or equipment going into the building. Grewe stated that was an excellent question. James asked if they knew if other Counties have ever done this? Grewe stated he thinks everyone is looking into ways to attract business, and this would be a great incentive. Hess stated that they would putting certain stipulations in the contracts. Hess also stated they are still working on the details. James stated that the Council would have to vote on this and would like all of the Council to go over the details that was provided and then discuss and ask questions at the next meeting and if possible, decide on what would work. Weir stated that he thought this would definitely be an important tool for the EDC and the Rise. Council to discuss and decide at the February 14, 2022 meeting.

- b. Sheriff's Commissary Fund-The Commissary Fund was presented to the Council for approval. A motion was made to approve the Commissary Fund By Weir and seconded by Brown. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. Board Appointments
 - i. **Alcohol Beverage Board (1-year term)**
Applicant-Cynthia Myers
A motion to appoint Cynthia Myers was made by Bush and seconded by Weir. All in favor, motion carried.
 - ii. **E911 Board (1-year term)**
Applicants- None
James to contact Paulina Young to see if she would like to serve
 - iii. **Park Board (4-year term)**
Applicants- Richard Zumwalt & Russell W Bush
A motion to appoint Richard Zumwalt and Russell W Bush to the park board was made by Brown and seconded by Dreher. All in favor, motion carried.
 - iv. **PTABPA (Property tax ad board of appeals 1-yr term)**
Applicants-Woodley Shane Watts
A motion was made to appoint Woodley Shane Watts by Bush and seconded by Weir. All in favor, motion carried.
 - v. **Redevelopment Comm (1-year term-2 positions available)**
Applicants-John Moore, Virginia (Ginger) Corado, Ashley James & Peggie Parsons-Palmer.
A motion was made to appoint John Moore by Bush and seconded by Brown. All in favor, motion carried.
A motion to appoint Ashley James was made by Summerville and seconded by Bush. All in favor, motion carried.

d. Joink-Joint Resolution- Josh Zwener from Joink went over the details on the Joink resolution allocating matching funds for next level connections broadband grant program. There are 108 addresses eligible that are covered in this grant application. Joink applied for every address that was eligible in the County. Some of the addresses were challenged by other providers, stating they can provide service to them. On the way to those 108 addresses Joink will be passing 263 addresses that are within 100 feet of the planned route, and 389 addresses that are within 300 feet of the planned route. This provides access to other addresses just not those 108 addresses in the application. The addresses not covered in the grant would have to pay an extra fee of \$250 if they are within 100 feet, further than 100 feet would have to pay by the foot and Joink is trying to bring that amount down to an affordable cost. Bush stated he is worried that this is not really fair to everyone. Only 108 people will get it for free and everyone else will have to pay. Zwerner stated that this is not a race that we will eventually get more and more on this project. He would like for the Council to really just focus on the 108 eligible addresses and see where we go from there. McKenzie Kumpf from RJL spoke to the Council about what role she is playing in this. Kumpf is writing the grant but is also looking for other opportunities for other possibilities for Joink to do more broadband funding for the future. RJL is a great asset and is looking for all opportunities they can find. The Commissioners have requested to appropriate \$700,000 to be applied as a match for the application submitted by Joink, LLC to the State of Indiana for its Next Level Connections Grant Program. Commissioner RJ Dunavan stated that the Commissioners adamantly support this. He believes this is a unique opportunity for the County. Joink will be putting in a trunk line up to I-74. Dunavan sees this as a great opportunity, because he doesn't know anywhere you can contribute \$700,00 and get \$4.8 million in return. Dunavan suggested the Council strongly consider approving this. This will be coming from the ARP money that the County has received. A motion was made by Weir to approve the Joint Resolution of Board of Commissioners and Council of Vermillion County, Indiana allocation matching funds for next level Connections Broadband Grant Program and seconded by Dreher. All in favor, motion carried.


X. **Public Comment**-Neil Costello addressed the Council on his resigning of Council seat. Costello stated that he and his family had purchased a home on Washington street which was just right down the road from his former residence. At the time he didn't know that moving to the new address would put him into another district, so when he found out that it was in another district he contacted the Council to let them know he would have to resign his Council seat (per state law). Costello stated he enjoyed being on the Council and serving the County. Dreher stated that Costello was an asset and he appreciated his input. The Council thanked him for his service.

XI. **Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn made by Weir and 2nd by Dreher. All in favor.
Meeting Adjourned.

AYE

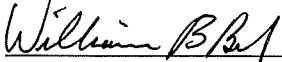
Nay



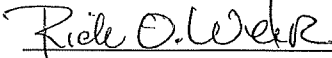
Ashley James



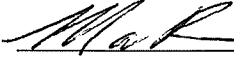
Randy Dreher



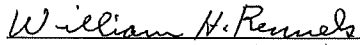
William Brent Bush




Rick Weir



Martin Brown

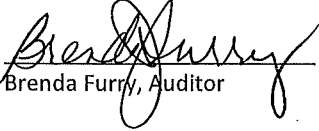


William Rennels



Kelly Summerville

Attest:



Brenda Furry, Auditor