

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2021

January 11, 2021

9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

All Present

10:30 a.m. Work Session at Public Works

All Present

At 9:00 a.m., Hollie Melroy, County Clerk, swore in David O'Dell, newly elected District #3 Commissioner, and Tom Kueser, re-elected Commissioner for District #2.

Chairman Becker opened the regular meeting at 9:05 a.m. One item was added to the agenda for January 11, 2021: Commissioner O'Dell, Public Input. Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner Kueser made a motion for Chairman Becker to remain in his position as the 2021 Board Chairman, and for Commissioner O'Dell to be appointed as the 2021 Vice Chairman. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:08 a.m. during Public Input, Commissioner O'Dell presented the following speech:

Peace and moving forward:

People in this nation who will emerge from the turmoil of these last several weeks wracked with fear and anxiety. "He changes times and seasons," Daniel 2:21 tells us. "He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."

To quote our dear friend and writer, Kerri Snell, in her recent blog entry titled "Peace":

Peace doesn't have to be simple, but it can be.

Peace can be a self-acceptance that we extend like to a grace-garland to others.

Peace can be a place where we finally name ourselves "Who-I-Am-in-Christ".

Peace can be movement or still-life.

Needing less. Doing less. Filled. Vessels without our own agendas.

Lingering for a Christmas moment on the precipice of obedience.

Not someone else's formula for me and not my own.

Peace can be walking while listening. Harnessing that power.

To the citizens:

As we keep the positive momentum moving forward for our wonderful county please when you disagree with us, I urge you to provide 2 (maybe 3) possible better alternatives. Include support (website links, studies, etc.) so we may study your perspectives and possible alternative solutions. In other words, if you are upset or don't agree with issues offer possible, viable solutions.

I have witnessed this commission work for almost 11 months. When they make a decision, rest assured they have listened to you, studied it and decided what is best for the county.

In conclusion,

Philippians 4:6-8

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

When I think about what is right, noble, true, etc....then I find peace. God's peace. That's what helps my heart and my mind. My heart to know peace to feel emotional peace. My mind-to have peace of mind to be able to think clearly about next steps. Then verse 6—because I have prayed, I do not need to feel anxious.

Moment of Silence to remember Bob Wise, statesman!

Also, during Public Input, Sheriff Montagne updated Commissioners on current jail counts and recent department activities. He then presented a request for a wage adjustment for all hourly Correctional Officers, advancing them one Grade on the County pay scale, effective January 10, 2021. This was previously agreed upon during the 2021 budget sessions. Following discussion and input by Jail Captain, Arlo Blevins, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the request, and for the Chairman to sign the thirteen (13) amended Personnel Change Notices, reflecting the change in Grade. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the minutes for January 4, 2021, and that Chairman Becker sign the minutes as presented. Chairman Becker seconded. **Chairman Becker voted aye. Commissioner O'Dell abstained as he was not yet serving on the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Kueser abstained due to his absence at the January 4, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Loomis was present at the January 4, 2021 meeting, but was not available to sign, as he has retired from the Board.**

At 9:15 a.m., John Verssue, Planning/Zoning/Environment Administrator, joined the meeting with two (2) items:

- A. Planning & Zoning Board of Appeals appointment. Commissioner Kueser made a motion to appoint Jason Wright to serve a 3-year term to represent District #2 on the County Planning & Zoning Board of Appeals. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- B. Request for approval of Zoning Amendment #ZA2020-05, to change the zoning district classification on an existing parcel from A-1, Agriculture to M-1 Light Industrial to correspond with previously approved case #CU2020-05. The applicant is DS&O Rural Electric Coop Association Inc. which is seeking to purchase the parcel from Daryl and Marie Shields, current owners. Chairman Becker opened the public hearing and asked Mr. Verssue to review the case including the findings, factors and conditions. The case was approved by the Planning Board at their December 21, 2020 meeting. Following discussion, Chairman Becker reviewed options for action. Commissioner Kueser made a motion to accept the decision of the Planning Board and approve #ZA2020-05 and sign Resolution 2021-03 as requested. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **Chairman Becker voted aye. Commissioner Kueser voted aye. Commissioner O'Dell voted aye.** Commissioners then signed the subdivision preliminary and final plats for the DS&O Commercial Solar Energy Project, Case #SD2020-05, which was also previously approved by the Planning Board.
- C. Review of P/Z/E Department Annual Report. No action was taken.

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve minutes for December 14, 2020 and December 28, 2020. Chairman Becker seconded. Chairman Becker and Commissioner Kueser voted aye. Commissioner O'Dell

abstained as he was not yet serving on the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Loomis was absent from both meetings.

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve accounts payable, COVID-19 payments, and encumbrances for January 11, 2021, and payroll for pay period ending January 9, 2021. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve adds and abates for January 8, 2021. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:45 a.m. Tom Kramer, Public Works Director, joined the meeting with three (3) items:

- A. A request to approve a Personnel Change Notice (PCN) to end the introductory period for Stephanie Kieffer, Administrative Secretary, effective January 10, 2021. Commissioner Kueser made a motion for the Chairman to sign the PCN as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- B. A request to purchase crack sealant materials. Following a review of bids, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the purchase from CRAFCO Inc. for a total amount not to exceed \$18,900.00. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**
- C. A request to approve the 2021 budget for Asphalt Plant Maintenance (equipment and supplies). Following discussion on the itemized maintenance equipment and materials costs from various vendors, as well as system inspection technician fees, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve maintenance equipment and supplies purchases as presented for a total amount not to exceed \$38,843.90, and to approve technician fees for an amount not to exceed \$5,429.12 as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 10:15 a.m., Commissioner Kueser made a motion to recess and directly reconvene at Public Works for a work session. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.** At 3:35 p.m., Chairman Becker adjourned the meeting.

Minutes recorded by Abbey Heidebrecht.

Keith Becker, Chairman

David O'Dell, Vice Chairman

Thomas L. Kueser, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Hollie D. Melroy, County Clerk