

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
February 22, 2021

February 22, 2021  
9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting  
All Present

At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Becker opened the regular meeting. Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the agenda for February 22, 2021 as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

During Public Input at 9:00 a.m., Sheriff Jerry Montagne updated Commissioners on current jail counts and recent department activities.

At 9:05 a.m., Sheriff Montagne presented two (2) items:

- A. A request to approve a Personnel Change Notice (PCN) for the promotion of James Bergstrom to Captain, effective February 21, 2021, to fill a vacancy. 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 approve an MOU Agreement with the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. The purpose of the MOU is for the McPherson County Sheriff Office and the Hutchinson Correctional Facility to work cooperatively to assist one another should a critical incident occur. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to allow Sheriff Montagne to sign the agreement as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the minutes from February 8, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:10 a.m., Chairman Becker re-opened the public hearing which was tabled from the February 8, 2021 meeting with regard to the Planning/Zoning/Environment (PZE) Department's request for approval of Case SU2020-03, Elbert Subdivision. Chairman Becker asked John Verssue, PZE Administrator, to clarify information received since the prior meeting regarding concerns over possible water flow issues and maintenance of culverts. Following discussion, Chairman Becker reviewed options for Commission action. Commissioner Kueser made a motion to over-ride the decision of the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals, by approving the case and signing the final plat as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve checks and claims and encumbrances for February 22, 2021 and payroll for pay period ending February 20, 2021. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve adds and abates for February 19, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:35 a.m., Commissioners reviewed the status of the McPherson County Old Mill Museum and Park in Lindsborg, KS. Following discussion, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to proceed with the transfer of the Museum and Park to a 501(c)3 as recommended by the County Counselor to meet Kansas Statute Publications Guidelines. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:40 a.m., Julie McClure, Director of Emergency Management/Communications joined the meeting to request signatures on a "Proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency" for McPherson County regarding severe winter weather beginning on February 12, 2021. Ms. McClure read the Proclamation aloud. Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to sign the document as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.** Moundridge City Administrator, Murray McGee also joined the meeting to update the Commissioners on the impact of the increased natural gas prices on city industries and the Moundridge community. The Proclamation will allow cities to apply for FEMA assistance to help offset the costs.

At 9:55 a.m., Shalei Shea, County Health Department Director, joined the meeting to provide a COVID-19 case update and information regarding the vaccine distribution in McPherson County.

At 10:20 a.m., Ty Kauffman, McPherson City resident, joined the meeting to present a list of questions and share his concerns on the slow County response, method, and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines. Commissioners will contact and send the questions to Ms. Shea for her input and assistance.

At 10:48 a.m., Under Sheriff, Skyler Christians joined the meeting to request equipment purchases for four (4) new patrol vehicles. Following a review of quotes for two (2) DSR radar units, one single partition cage, and lighting, controls and sirens for all new vehicles, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the purchases for a total cost not to exceed \$15,210.19. Commissioner Kueser seconded. All voted aye.

At 11:05 a.m., Tom Kramer, Public Works Director, joined the meeting with four (4) items:

- A. A request to advertise for bids for 2021 Roadway Maintenance Materials (asphalt oils). Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- B. A request to award the bid for the two (2) 2021 Milling Projects. Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the bid from Coughlin in an amount not to exceed \$193,154.20. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**
- C. A request to approve the Revised Agreement with McPherson City regarding the Trail Sidewalk Crossing Project on Old 81 Highway and Northview. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- D. A request to approve a PCN for the promotion of James Henry to Maintenance Worker II, effective March 7, 2021. Commissioner O'Dell made a motion for the Chairman to sign the PCN as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioners reviewed the proposed estimate for the purchase and installation of new ADA door locks at the County Building. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the purchase of five (5) keypad locks and five (5) lever locks from Childs Lock & Key in an amount not to exceed \$1,468.70. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioners reviewed an addendum to the 2021 Indigent Defense Agreement. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to sign the agreement as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioners reviewed the County Paid Time Off (PTO) Policy regarding a specific situation. Following discussion, it was a consensus among Commissioners to continue the policy which requires employees to be responsible for managing their own PTO bank hours.

At 12:10 p.m., Commissioner Kueser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

Minutes recorded by Abbey Heidebrecht.

---

Keith Becker, Chairman

---

David O'Dell, Vice Chairman

---

Thomas L. Kueser, Commissioner

ATTEST:

---

Hollie D. Melroy, County Clerk