

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
March 29, 2021

March 29, 2021  
9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting  
All Present

At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Becker opened the regular meeting. One item was added to the agenda for March 29, 2021: Commissioners' tour of the County Building. Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. 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 9:03 a.m., Sheriff Montagne requested approval of a Personnel Change Notice (PCN) for a Step Increase/Job Title Change for Jordan Baxter, Deputy Detective/Drug Task Force, as well as a new job description for the position. Following discussion, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the new job description as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.** Commissioner O'Dell also made a motion for the Chairman to sign the PCN as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:10 a.m., Kasi Morales, Executive Director for MIDC, joined the meeting to present the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report. Ms. Morales reviewed details regarding the following areas of industry in McPherson County: labor update/unemployment; industry expansions and future expansion plans; prospective industries/companies relocating to McPherson County; Go McPherson marketing Plan; and industrial recruitment.

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the minutes for March 22, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve adds and abates for March 26, 2021 as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:25 a.m., Chris Goodson, McPherson County Housing Coalition, and Karolyn Moore, Case Manager for Programs, joined the meeting to present a Housing Coalition update and information. Ms. Goodson and Ms. Moore reviewed details and projects regarding the following: housing development and rehabilitation, including funding sources; poverty and housing statistics within the County; special use housing and homeless prevention; and an overview of Oak Harbor Cottages.

At 9:55 a.m. Kim Romero, County Appraiser, joined the meeting to request approval of a PCN to hire Carlee Parker as an Office/Field Assistant effective March 30, 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.**

At 10:00 a.m. Tom Kramer, Public Works Director, joined the meeting with two (2) items:

- A. A request to award bids for the 2021 Roadway Maintenance Materials (asphalt oils). Following a review of bids and discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to award chipseal oils to Ergon, tack Oil to Ergon, and PG64-22 oil to Valero as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- B. A request for five (5) minutes of executive session including Rick Witte, County Administrator/Financial Manager, to discuss non-elected personnel. Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to go into executive session as requested. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**  
**No action was taken in executive session.**

At 10:10 a.m., John Verssue, County Planning/Zoning/Environment Director, joined the meeting along with area utility industry leaders, Tim Meier, GM of McPherson BPU, Jackie Holmberg, GM of Ark Valley Electrical

Co-op, and Mike Olberding Operations Mgr. of DS&O, to discuss commercial solar energy projects related to pending zoning regulations amendment Case #ZA2020-03. The case addresses amending zoning regulations to include commercial solar energy projects to Article 4 of the current McPherson County Zoning Regulations. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to table the item for a period of 60 days and to address the case at 10:30 a.m. on April 12, 2021 during the regular Commission meeting. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

The 10:40 a.m. agenda item on the Mask Mandate will be postponed until the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular Commission Meeting.

At 10:45 a.m., Commissioners toured the County Building.

At 12:00 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