

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2021

April 12, 2021

9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

All Present

10:45 a.m. Work Session at Public Works

All Present

At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Becker opened the regular meeting. One item was added to the agenda for April 12, 2021: County Financial Audit for 2019. 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.

Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the minutes for April 5, 2021 as corrected. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:10 a.m., Austin Regier, Executive Director of Steps to End Poverty McPherson County (STEPMC), reported on positive client outcomes who have increased their personal income through participation in the STEPNC Program. Mr. Regier shared current supporting data and statistics as well as personal experiences and testimonials from clients on their success in overcoming obstacles and gaining financial independence.

At 9:18 a.m., Julie McClure, County Director of Emergency Management/Communications joined the meeting to proclaim that April 11th through April 17, 2021 has been declared National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Ms. McClure read the Proclamation aloud and requested the Chairman's signature. Commissioner Kueser made a motion for the Chairman to sign the document as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:22 a.m., Laurie Wizarde, Register of Deeds, joined the meeting to request approval of a Personnel Change Notice (PCN) to promote Rachel Hoffman to a Clerk II, effective April 18, 2021. Commissioner O'Dell made a motion for the Chairman to sign the PCN as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:25 a.m., Tom Kramer, Public Works Director, joined the meeting to request approval and signature on a contract with Kirkham Michael for the engineering study at 14th Avenue and Mohawk. Mr. Kramer reviewed specific details of services covered in the contract. Following discussion Commissioner O'Dell made a motion for the Chairman to sign the contract for services by Kirkham Michael totaling an amount not to exceed \$7,000. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Rick Witte, County Administrator/Financial Manager, reported on the completion of the McPherson County Financial Audit ending December 31, 2019. Following discussion, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:35 a.m., Mr. Witte requested ten (10) minutes in executive session, including himself, to discuss non-elected personnel in the Planning/Zoning/Environment Department. 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 9:45 a.m., Chairman Becker opened discussion regarding the proposed request to amend County Zoning Regulations to include the addition of Commercial Solar Projects (Case ZA2020-03). Several members of the public expressed their concerns and posed questions to Commissioners and John Verssue, Planning/Zoning/Environment Administrator, who was also present. Following discussion, it was a consensus among Commissioners that there will be official action regarding the request at the next regular Commission meeting at 9:30 a.m. on April 19, 2021.

At 10:25 a.m., Commissioners recessed and directly reconvened at the Public Works Office for a work session. At 2:15 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