

MCPHERSON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
August 9, 2021

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9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

All Present

1:00 p.m. Meeting with Representatives of Cities within McPherson County

All Present

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

During Public Input at 9:02 a.m., Sheriff Jerry Montagne joined the meeting and updated Commissioners on the current jail counts and recent department activities.

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the minutes for August 2, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:02 a.m., Under Sheriff Skyler Christians joined the meeting to request approval of a Personnel Change Notice (PCN) to end the introductory period for Captain James Bergstrom. Commissioner Kueser made a motion for the Chairman to sign the PCN as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:08 a.m., Captain Arlo Blevins joined the meeting to request approval of a PCN to hire Drake Langshaw as a new Correctional Officer, to fill a vacancy effective August 10, 2021. Commissioner Kueser made a motion to go into executive session for five (5) minutes, including Rick Witte, County Administrator/Financial Manager, Under Sheriff Christians, and Captain Blevins to discuss non-elected personnel. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye. No action was taken in executive session.** Commissioner Kueser made a motion for the Chairman to sign the PCN as presented. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:15 a.m., John Hawk, General Manager for MASWU, joined the meeting to request approval of the County and Regional 2021, 5-year Solid Waste Management Plans. Following discussion, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve checks and claims, and encumbrances for August 9, 2021, as well as payroll for pay period ending August 7, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:30 a.m., John Verssue, Planning/Zoning/Environment (PZE) Administrator, joined the meeting with three (3) items:

- A. Special Use Case: Chairman Becker began the public hearing for Special Use Case # SU2021-07. Applicants Marvin and Terri Voth are requesting approval for a second residential structure on an existing residential property for residential use at 957 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Canton, KS in the A-1 Agriculture District. Chairman Becker asked Mr. Verssue to present a background report including conditions and factors of findings. The case was unanimously approved by the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals (BOPZA) at their regular meeting on July 19, 2021. Chairman Becker closed the public hearing and reviewed the options for action. Following discussion, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the BOPZA by approving Case #SU2021-07 and signing Resolution #2021-21. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **Chairman Becker voted aye. Commissioner Kueser voted aye. Commissioner O'Dell voted aye.**
- B. Zoning Amendment Case: Chairman Becker began the public hearing for Zoning Amendment Case #ZA2021-02. Applicant Homer Krehbiel is requesting approval to change the zoning district classification on an existing parcel from A-2, Agriculture Transition/M-2 Heavy Industrial to B-2 Highway Business, at an unaddressed location. Chairman Becker asked Mr. Verssue to present a background

report including conditions and factors of findings. The case was unanimously approved by the BOPZA at their regular meeting on July 19, 2021. Chairman Becker closed the public hearing and reviewed the options for action. Following discussion, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the BOPZA by approving Case #ZA2021-02 and signing Resolution #2021-22. **Chairman Becker voted aye. Commissioner Kueser voted aye. Commissioner O'Dell voted aye.**

- C. Non-elected Personnel: A notification that Jared Curtis, staff intern for PZE and Public Works, will be ending his employment with McPherson County. His final day will be September 10, 2021. Mr. Verssue also notified Commissioners that he will be ending his employment with McPherson County. His final day will be August 27, 2021.

Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve adds and abates for August 6, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 9:55 a.m., Tom Kramer, Public Works Director, joined the meeting with two (2) items:

- A. A request to purchase a total of 34 tires for semi-trucks and trailers. Following a review of bids, Commissioner Kueser made a motion to approve the low bid from Rod's Tire for a total amount not to exceed \$9,115.50. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**
- B. A request to consider the purchase of portable radios for Public Works staff. Following discussion, Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to purchase 40 radios and related accessories from KA-COMM, Inc. for a total amount not to exceed \$77,467.50 to be funded through ARPA dollars as public safety/public health items if eligible, or otherwise funded through capital outlay dollars. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 10:15 a.m., Greg Benefiel, County Attorney, joined the meeting as Public Input, to notify Commissioners of a recent Trial Assistant vacancy in his department, and to review July case filings and filings to date through August 2021.

At 10:50 a.m., Mr. Witte requested approval to publish the McPherson County 2022 Notice of Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and the Budget Hearing. The hearing will take place during the regular McPherson County Commission meeting on August 30, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. County Fire District Budgets will also be included. Commissioner O'Dell made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Kueser seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Kueser made a motion to recess and reconvene at 12:45 a.m. in the Commission Meeting Room for a 1:00 p.m. meeting with City Representatives from McPherson County to discuss American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. Commissioner O'Dell seconded. **All voted aye.**

At 1:00 p.m., Chairman Becker initiated the ARPA Funds meeting by asking City Representatives to introduce themselves, followed by open discussion regarding ideas for ARPA eligible expenditures. The following cities were represented: Canton, Inman, Lindsborg, McPherson, Moundridge, and Windom. Some ideas that were presented included: mental health initiatives, expansion of childcare facilities, low-income housing, EMS, transportation systems, drainage issues, public safety providers, vaccine incentives, water infrastructure/wells, and portable police radios for officers.

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

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Keith Becker, Chairman

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David O'Dell, Vice Chairman

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Thomas L. Kueser, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Hollie D. Melroy, County Clerk