

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 15, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED that a meeting of the White County Council was held at the White County Building in Monticello at 9:00 A.M. on March 15, 2021 for the purpose of discussing any business that might come before the membership.

Council President Kramer called the Council meeting to order in joint session with the Commissioners. The following members were present:

Dennis E Carter	Arthur A Anderson	Matthew A McKean
Kevin L Crabb	James G Annis	Janet Faker
Raymond L Kramer Jr		

Also, in attendance: Auditor Gayle Rogers, Randy Mitchell, Chad Hoerr, Loren Honegger, and Council Secretary Libby Billue

For contents of the joint session, see Commissioners' minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Kramer (presiding via GoToMeeting) opened the meeting with the Council reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Council minutes for the meeting held on 02/22/2021 were presented for approval. Councilor Anderson motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Annis seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

Aye: Anderson, Annis, Crabb, Carter, Faker, Kramer, McKean,

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

BIO TOWN AG INC – DECLARATORY RESOLUTION

Declaratory Resolution 2021-03-15-01 “for the designating of an Economic Revitalization Area in Honey Creek Township on Application by Bio Town Ag Inc” was reviewed and discussed. Bio Town Biogas CFO Chad Hoerr and Plant Manager Loren Honegger were present to answer questions, provide a general overview of the proposed project, and to seek approval of an ERA designation for the purpose of seeking 10-year personal property and real estate abatements.

This \$75 million project under the name of Bio Town Biogas Inc will include new real property improvements and personal property equipment to convert animal waste to natural gas using a completely sealed (odorless) system. The end product is planned to be directed into existing NIPSCO natural gas lines. An increase of at least 10 new employees and multiple contracts for trucking and other services will also be necessary.

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Councilor Anderson motioned to approve Declaratory Resolution 2021-03-15-01.
Councilor Crabb seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

Aye: Anderson, Annis, Crabb, Carter, Faker, Kramer, McKean,
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC MEETING RULES RESOLUTION

Council members held discussion regarding the usefulness and/or necessity of a “Resolution to Establish Policies and Procedures to Protect Decorum and Foster the Effective Administration of Public Meetings”. Following discussion, there was a general opinion that the suggested resolution did not meet the needs of the White County Council. Councilor Anderson motioned to table any further discussion and decisions regarding implementation of public meeting rules for Council meetings. Councilor Faker seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

Aye: Anderson, Annis, Crabb, Carter, Faker, Kramer, McKean,
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

TRANSFERS

Auditor Rogers requested approval to transfer the balance of E911 funds in the amount of \$1,185.15 from obsolete state fund #1210 *E-911 Wireless Surtax* to active fund #1222 *Statewide 911* in order to inactivate fund 1210. Councilor Annis motioned to approve the transfer as presented. Councilor Crabb seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

Aye: Anderson, Annis, Crabb, Carter, Faker, Kramer, McKean,
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Councilor Carter explained that the Valley Oaks Board has made changes to the maximum number of terms, limiting a member to 3 terms. This change requires Councilor Carter to step down from his seat on this board as he has exceeded these limits. Per Councilor Carter he nominated Antoinette Valle (at their most recent meeting) to serve in his place, and the Valley Oaks Board approved her nomination.

Since this appointment is not an elected official and does not attend Council meetings, it was requested that Ms. Valle make occasional reports regarding Valley Oaks Board activities and involvement. Valley Oaks does provide an Annual Report each year outlining their goals and accomplishments. Councilor Faker motioned to approve the Council’s appointment of

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Antoinette Valle to the Valley Oaks Board. Councilor Annis seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 7 - 0

Aye: Anderson, Annis, Crabb, Carter, Faker, Kramer, McKean,

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

PAYROLL REQUESTS

Auditor Rogers presented several payroll requests for approval. All payroll requests fell within the Council guidelines. Councilor Crabb motioned to approve the payroll requests.

Councilor McKean seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 7 - 0

Aye: Anderson, Annis, Crabb, Carter, Faker, Kramer, McKean,

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

REPORTS

Councilor Crabb noted that Rockland Flooring near Monon is expanding, partly due to the new nearby CIMC Reefer facility.

Auditor Rogers stated that Highway Supt Mike Kyburz has notified her that the new highway garage project is complete, and all related invoices have been processed. By her account the project came in \$635,558.44 under budget. These funds will remain in the Solid Waste Reserve Fund. She will remove the relevant, and now obsolete, line items for this project.

Council President Kramer stated he followed up on a NACO email forwarded by Auditor Rogers discussing the potential county award of \$4.6 million in relief funds which are proposed to be paid in two installments. The first installment would be issued within 60 days of passage of the bill, and the balance would be paid within 12 months following. At this time, restrictions for use of these funds are unknown.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Council, Councilor Crabb motioned to adjourn. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion.

The next meeting of the White County Council is Monday April 19, 2021.

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DENNIS E CARTER

JAMES G ANNIS

ARTHUR A ANDERSON

MATTHEW A MCKEAN

KEVIN L CRABB

RAYMOND L KRAMER JR
President

JANET J FAKER

Attest: _____
GAYLE E ROGERS, AUDITOR