

## COUNCIL MINUTES

April 19, 2021

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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 April 19, 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:

In Person:     Dennis E Carter     Arthur A Anderson     Matthew A McKean  
                  James G Annis     Raymond L Kramer Jr

Electronic:     Janet Faker             Kevin L Crabb

Also, in attendance in person: Auditor Gayle Rogers, Randy Mitchell, Chad Hoerr, Loren Honegger, Brian Pogue, George Loy, Leah Hull, and Council Secretary Libby Billue

By electronic attendance: Brian Paulsen

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Kramer opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MINUTES**

Council minutes for the meeting held on 03/15/2021 were presented for approval. Councilor Carter 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 – CONFIRMATORY RESOLUTION**

Council held a public hearing of Confirmatory Resolution 2021-04-19-01 establishing an ERA and tax abatement for Bio Town Ag in Honey Creek Township. There being no public comment or further discussion, Council President Kramer closed the floor for public comment.

Attorney George Loy provided a brief review of the project and the procedural requirements to be met before final approval of the ERA and property tax abatement. Councilor Anderson motioned to approve the Confirmatory Resolution 2021-04-19-01. Councilor Annis seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

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

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**Abstain:** 0

**Absent:** 0

### **ROCKLAND WOOD PRODUCTS – DECLARATORY RESOLUTION**

Attorney George Loy presented Declaratory Resolution 2021-04-19-02 designating an ERA in Monon Township for the purpose of real estate and personal property tax abatement for Rockland Wood Products. Brian Pogue and Brian Paulsen of Rockland Wood Products presented an expansion plan which includes construction of a new building and a second product line at their Monon Township location. They plan to hire an additional 50 employees and anticipate a start date in the first half of 2022. Economic Development Director Randy Mitchell also provided a brief overview of the SB-1. The White County Tax Abatement Board reviewed this request on 4/8/21 and made a positive recommendation.

Councilor Anderson motioned to approve the Declaratory Resolution 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

### **PULASKI-WHITE RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY – ABATEMENT COMPLIANCE**

Council members reviewed the CF-1/RE submitted by PWRTC and determined that they remain in compliance.

### **JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

HR Director Leah Hull presented a job description for Juvenile Probation Officer. She noted that the committee has met and has a positive recommendation for this description.

Councilor Anderson motioned to approve the job description. Councilor Crabb seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 7 - 0

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Absent:** 0

HR Director Leah Hull presented a new job description for IT Cybersecurity Director and a revised job description for IT Director. Both positions will report to the Commissioners but are within the IT Department budget. Councilor Annis motioned to approve both job descriptions.

Councilor Anderson seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 7 - 0

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

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**Absent:** 0

### **RESCHEDULING OF AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING & BUDGET HEARINGS**

The August meeting previously scheduled for 8/16/21 is now scheduled for 8/9/21 by Council request. Councilor Annis motioned to approve the schedule change. Councilor McKean seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Absent:** 0

Budget hearings that were previously scheduled for the week of 8/16/21 are now scheduled for the week of 8/9/21 by Council request. Councilor Annis motioned to approve the schedule change. Councilor McKean seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Absent:** 0

### **MONTICELLO-UNION TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Long time MUTPL Board appointee, Art Morgan, has resigned and a new appointment must be made. Council members discussed possible persons who might be a good fit for this appointment. After much discussion, Councilor Carter motioned to nominate Barry Haskins of Union Township. Councilor Faker seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Absent:** 0

Councilor Anderson motioned to close nominations, and Councilor Annis seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 7 - 0

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Absent:** 0

Council President Kramer will contact Barry Haskins to confirm his interest in this appointment.

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## REPORTS

Councilor Faker commented on changes regarding the White County Tourism Authority. They have approved the contract hire of digital marketing and administrative services firms and have eliminated their sole staff position of Digital Marketing Director.

Council also discussed appointing members to a committee to review and discuss the feasibility of working with Monticello Fire Department to establish a satellite station in Reynolds. During a presentation by the MFD at the joint Commissioner-Council meeting, it was estimated that this could be done with financial support from the County in the amount of \$596,640. Following discussion, Councilors Annis, Anderson, and Carter will serve on this Committee, and Councilors McKean and Kramer will serve as alternates. An initial meeting is planned for 5/4/21 at 6pm at the Monticello Fire Station.

Councilor Faker left the meeting at this point for a prior commitment.

## TRANSFERS

Auditor Rogers presented the following transfer request.

	<u>From</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>To</u>
<b>HWY</b>	1176-22200-000-0529 Ca & Salt	\$80,000	1176-32600-000-0529 Utilities
	1176-22200-000-0529 Ca & Salt	\$401	1176-40100-000-0531 New Eq

Although Council previously decided to deny all Highway Department fund transfers for 2021, other than those between 1176 and 1173, there are existing expenses that must be paid. Line items will need to be carefully reviewed for 2022. Councilor Annis motioned to make an exception for the transfers shown above and approve those transfers. Councilor Carter seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 5-1

**Aye:** Annis, Crabb, Carter, Kramer, McKean,

**Nay:** Anderson

**Abstain:** 0

**Absent:** Faker

## PAYROLL REQUESTS

Auditor Rogers presented payroll transfers for the Sheriff's Department (4 shift changes), Treasurer (1 part time position), Highway (1), IT Director (1), and the new IT Cybersecurity Director (1). Councilor Anderson motioned to approve all payroll requests as presented. Councilor Crabb seconded the motion. Motion Passed: 6-0

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

**Nay:** 0

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**Abstain:** 0  
**Absent:** Faker

Auditor Rogers also noted that the treasurer’s office is preparing for the hire of a new full-time employee, replacing Diana Nicholas who is retiring. The treasurer would like to hire the replacement two weeks prior to the current employee’s departure in order to allow for training. Councilor Anderson motioned to allow this request, and Councilor Carter seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 6-0

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

Auditor Rogers requested consideration of general approval by Council allowing department heads to schedule starting dates for new hires who replace existing full-time employees, up to two weeks prior to the vacancy, for the purpose of training. Councilor Anderson motioned to approve this general request with the requirement that the Auditor & Council are immediately notified, and the payroll request must still be brought before the Council for final approval. Councilor Annis seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 6-0

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

**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 May 17, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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