

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Reorganization Meeting
January 5, 2021**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mr. Rivas called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Andy Bozak, Council Member Mike Brickner, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Bob Poparad, and Council Member Greg Simms. Also present was, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing Council Attorney Harold Harper and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Council minutes for October 20th, 2020, November 17th, 2020 and Budget minutes for Final Reading October 15th, 2020.

Mr. Rivas, Alright new faces, same place. We have approval of regular Council minutes for October 20th, 2020, November 17th, 2020 and budget minutes Final Reading October 15th, 2020.

Mr. Poparad, Motion to approve.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and second on the floor, any discussion? All in favor of the minutes signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Election of Officers

Mr. Rivas, Election of Officers.

Mr. Poparad, Harold?

Mr. Rivas, What's that? Is he supposed to run it?

Mr. Poparad, I thought he did...oh ok.

Attorney Harold Harper, I don't think it's necessary, but I would be happy to

Mr. Rivas, No I think we are good.

Mr. Poparad, Ok I'll nominate Jeremy Rivas to be President and Mike Jessen to be Vice President.

Ms. Graham, Second.

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, Who is Mike Jensen?

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, Alright, there is a motion on the floor for President and Vice President, we can do them simultaneously if you want that's fine.

Mr. Poparad, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Is there any other nominations for President and Vice President? Any other nominations anyone? Alright we will close that off. Do we need to do a voice vote on that?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I would do a roll call.

Mr. Rivas, Alright can we do a roll call for President and Vice President.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Thank you for your confidence Greg.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, Thank you guys for your confidence for another year. I know that 2020 was challenging but we got through it. So we need to try to stay on the same path, communicating as much as I can and if you have anything just let me know...please.

Attorney Contract

Mr. Rivas, Alright so let's get right in to all the other appointments. I think you guys have your list in front of you.

Mr. Poparad, Are we going to appoint an attorney or are we going to advertise it?

Mr. Rivas, Do you want to do the attorney right now?

Mr. Poparad, Well I thought we would advertise.

Mr. Rivas, I don't care, do you guys want to do attorney contracts? (Inaudible) let's do the attorney contract.

Mr. Poparad, I'll make the motion to retain Harold.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor to retain Harold through this contract. Any questions on it? No...any other options? Dan Whitten or Scott McClure? Alright let's get a roll call on approving this contract for Harold Harper. The rate this the same, correct?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, It is the same that has been for the last four (4) or five (5) years at least.

Mr. Bozak, We should get a discount now that I'm back.

Mr. Rivas, It's on the second page there and you guys can see it. Let's get a roll call on the approval?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Thank you all.

Surveyor Agreement

Mr. Rivas, Surveyor's Agreement.

Mr. Poparad, I make the motion to approve Kevin's agreement.

Mr. Jessen, Second

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor to approve this agreement for the Surveyor. Questions?

Ms. Graham, We do this yearly?

Mr. Rivas, What's that?

Ms. Graham, It's a yearly process.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, Can we say no to the agreement?

Ms. Graham, No...

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a roll call on this for the Surveyor agreement?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Citizen Appointments

Mr. Rivas, Alright now we can get to the Citizen Appointments.

Porter County Redevelopment Commission

Mr. Rivas, So the first one we have is the Porter County Redevelopment Commission. So I think that you guys got this paper, so the yellow highlighted are the ones that served in 2020 our current appointments that have reapplied it says so at the side

Ms. Graham, I make a motion to reappoint Don Ensign.

Mr. Jessen, I second that motion

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor to nominate Don Ensign for the Porter County Redevelopment Commission. Is there any other nominations? Can we get a roll call Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Ms. Graham moved to nominate Donald Ensign to the PC Redevelopment Commission 1 year term to expire December 31, 2021. Mr. Jessen seconded.

Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Mr. Rivas, Alcoholic Beverage Commission...ABC Board

Mr. Bozak, I move that we accept Thomas Swihart as the ABC representative.

Mr. Jessen, I second that motion.

Mr. Rivas, We have a motion and a second for Thomas Swihart and there are no other applicants for that. I believe that is for an annual appointment, can we get a roll call on Thomas Swihart?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Mr. Bozak moved to nominate Tom Swihart to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2021. Mr. Jessen seconded.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Mr. Rivas, Alright BZA, I think we just have two (2) applicants, Mike Young did not reapply he was our current appointment. So there is a Harris Peterson and a Steven Claussen.

Ms. Graham, I'll nominate Steve Claussen.

Mr. Poparad, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a nomination on the floor for Steven Claussen for the BZA.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Jeremy...and I should know the answer to this but I don't but he is not a member of the Plan Commission...because the statute requires that it can't be someone that's on the Plan Commission.

Ms. Graham, Is that a problem?

Mr. Rivas, Nope. So there is a nomination on the floor, is there any other nominations for the BZA? Let's get a roll call for Steven Claussen.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Ms. Graham moved to nominate Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) 4 year term would expire December 31, 2024. Mr. Poparad seconded.

Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA)

Mr. Rivas, Alright PTABOA the Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals.

Mr. Bozak, I would like to nominate the only applicant Scott Williams.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, We have a motion and a second on the floor for Scott Williams who is our current appointment, I believe he has been on there for a number of years.

Ms. Graham, Scott is a good guy.

Mr. Rivas, Can I get a roll call for PTABOA for Scott Williams?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes

Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Poparad - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Mr. Bozak moved to nominate Scott Williams to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2021. Ms. Graham seconded.

Chesterton EDC

Mr. Rivas, Chesterton EDC

Mr. Poparad, I'll nominate Nick Walding.

Mr. Rivas, Nick Walding.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, and nobody else applied. Let's get a roll call to approve that.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bozak - Yes
Mr. Brickner - Yes
Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Poparad - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes
Mr. Rivas - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Mr. Poparad moved to nominate Nick Walding to the Chesterton EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2021. Mr. Poparad seconded.

Valparaiso EDC

Mr. Rivas, Valparaiso EDC, I believe that there is two, the current position has been filled by Pat McGinley.

Mr. Jessen, I move that we approve Patrick McGinley for reappointment.

Mr. Poparad, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor, any other nominations? Can I get a roll call to reappoint Patrick McGinley to Valparaiso EDC?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner - Yes
Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Poparad - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes

Mr. Rivas - Yes
Mr. Bozak - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Mr. Jessen moved to reappoint Patrick McGinley to the Valparaiso EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2021. Mr. Poparad seconded.

Mr. Rivas, Alright that goes to our Citizens appointments. There was another one on there that I had Joy take off so we can look into it...that was the Porter EDC, we actually didn't appoint it until February, so we are going to reach out.

Mr. Poparad, Do you want me to reach out to them?

Mr. Rivas, Yes and there is...

Mr. Poparad, Isn't that the guy we just put on last year so that they could have a meeting?

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, Alright.

Mr. Rivas, But he didn't reapply and then our letter was kind of weird from them saying that the first year is one (1) year and then it becomes four (4) years. But I think as the reporting authority wouldn't we be able to determine the length of the appointment?

Mr. Poparad, I think that's set by statute.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, That is set by statute or ordinance...yes.

Mr. Poparad, Yes it's however they set it up.

Mr. Rivas, All of the other ones are one (1) year...

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I would have to check, I would assume that it's one (1) year as well but I would have to check. I would be happy do that?

Mr. Rivas, Yes I if you could check into that...if you want to reach out then we could take it up at the either at the end of the month or February. Thank you.

Council Appointments

Mr. Rivas, Ok moving on so we now have the Council Appointments. Community Corrections Advisory Board.

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Mr. Rivas, Alright so we have Community Corrections Advisory Board and that is Graham and Harper, I'm not sure if that was active...

Ms. Graham, Which one?

Mr. Rivas, Community Corrections Advisory Board. I'm going to guess by your reaction that is no...

(Laughter)

Mr. Brickner, So how does this work? Is this for anybody?

Mr. Rivas, This is for us, these are Council Appointments so if you are interested?

Ms. Graham, I think I was...yes I was on it.

Mr. Brickner, Since I worked for the Department of Community Corrections in Lake County

Mr. Poparad, Ooh I see that as a good fit there buddy.

(Laughter)

Mr. Poparad, I nominate Mike.

Mr. Bozak, I second that nomination.

Mr. Poparad, There you go. Is it just going to be Mike or is Harold going to do it too? (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, Well I think we included Harold on it too.

Mr. Poparad, (Inaudible).

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I don't need to be on that board I am happy to serve if requested but I absolutely need to be...

Mr. Rivas, Why don't you decide Mike? If it is an active board.

Mr. Poparad, Make sure Sylvia doesn't want to be on it.

Ms. Graham, No that's alright with me.

Mr. Rivas, Are you ok with that?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Alright Mike we will put you on there.

Ms. Graham, What about Harold?

Mr. Rivas, Yes, if Mike reaches out and see's that they are meeting or they are going to start to meet and we feel the need to have Harold go with you, I he said he would be more than welcome too. Yes alright.

Mr. Jessen, I think to Jeremy's question have they been active this year...this past year?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Not recently but presumably because of COVID, but I do believe they are still active.

Mr. Rivas, Fair enough ok so dive in Mike and see where it goes.

Mr. Brickner, Ok.

Mr. Poparad moved to appoint Mike Brickner to the Community Corrections Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Bozak.

NIRPC

Mr. Rivas, NIRPC.

Ms. Graham, There is a good one Mike.

(Laughter)

Mr. Bozak, I have a full-time day time job so I couldn't because they usually meet during the day.

Mr. Rivas, Yes that's one that meets during the day and I think that those are long meetings.

Ms. Graham, Yes very long meetings.

Mr. Rivas, A lot of people?

Ms. Graham, Four (4) hours.

Mr. Rivas, Bob you are now retired?

Mr. Jessen, There you go.

(Laughter)

Mr. Poparad, (Inaudible)

Ms. Graham, Yes (inaudible)

Mr. Poparad, You have the time Sylvia.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, Alright, so Bob?

Mr. Poparad, Yes I will do it.

Ms. Graham, Good.

Mr. Rivas, Anybody else?

Mr. Poparad, You know that's four (4) hours of my life that I will never get back.

(Laughter)

The Board moved to appoint Bob Poparad to NIPRC Board, term to expire December 31, 2021.

Plan Commission

Mr. Rivas, Plan Commission.

Ms. Graham, I'll nominate for Bob Poparad.

Mr. Poparad, I'd like to stay on it.

Mr. Bozak, I'll second it if you need a motion.

Mr. Rivas, I think we can just do a motion and vote on these when we are done because they are our appointments.

Ms. Graham, Ok

Mr. Rivas, Anybody else? So it's alright with you Bob Poparad with staying on there?

Mr. Poparad, Yes I will stay on there.

Ms. Graham moved to appoint Bob Poparad to the Plan Commission, term to expire December 31, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Bozak.

Recycling & Waste District

Mr. Rivas, Recycling and Waste District.

Ms. Graham, I'd like stay on that.

Mr. Poparad, Sylvia was on that, I'll nominate Sylvia Graham.

Mr. Rivas, Is everybody alright with that?

The Board moved to appoint Sylvia Graham to the Recycling & Waste District Board, term to expire December 31, 2021.

EMA

Mr. Rivas, EMA we have Graham and Simms.

Mr. Simms, I'd like to stay on that one.

Mr. Brickner, I could do that?

Mr. Rivas, Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, I've always been on it.

Mr. Rivas, Do you want to stay? As long as we stay underneath a quorum when you guys are going out there.

Ms. Graham, Actually yes anybody can go.

Mr. Bozak, It could be you Greg and Mike?

Mr. Rivas, I don't have a problem extending it out to three out there. So yes Mike that fits in.

Mr. Jessen, I don't know what that two (2) means right there? Is that restricted to two?

Mr. Rivas, I don't know

Mr. Bozak, Maybe Joy put that in by mistake?

Mr. Rivas, Joy...It's not a board right Greg?

Mr. Simms, No, we meet at the EMA building and there is a whole bunch of people from...

Ms. Graham, Right.

Mr. Simms, various entities of the Community and even from the Indiana Department of Transportation comes in there. So there is about twenty-five (25) people.

Ms. Graham, Fire Departments.

Mr. Jessen, Oh.

Mr. Rivas, How often do you meet?

Mr. Simms, Every three (3) months.

Mr. Rivas, I don't see why the three (3) of you couldn't do it.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Does the board vote?

Mr. Simms, It's like all those in favor and it's very rare that there is any opposition. It's just not set up that way.

Ms. Graham, It isn't controversial.

Mr. Bozak, Yes because if you send three (3) people for two (2) voting seats.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Yes

Mr. Simms, It's not going to sway anything one way or the another.

Mr. Rivas, (Inaudible) Alright let's go with Greg, Sylvia and Mike.

The Board moved to appoint Greg Simms, Sylvia Graham and Mike Brickner to the Emergency Management Agency, term to expire December 31, 2021.

Porter County Council on Aging

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Council on Aging. Don't nobody say it.

Mr. Poparad, Sylvia do you want this?

Ms. Graham, I will stay on it.

Mr. Poparad, I'll nominate Sylvia Graham.

The Board moved to reappoint Sylvia Graham to the Council On Aging Agency Board, term to expire December 31, 2021.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

Mr. Rivas, Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, currently we have Graham and Jessen.

Mr. Jessen, I would like to stay on it.

Ms. Graham, I would too.

Mr. Bozak, Are they still meeting?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

The Board moved to appoint Sylvia Graham and Mike Jessen to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2021

Storm Water Advisory Board

Mr. Rivas, Storm Water Advisory Board. I've been on that a little while since it started I would like to stay unless somebody wants to jump in my way. Alright so we will keep it as it is.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the Storm Water Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2021.

Mr. Rivas, Let's just do a voice vote. All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Alright so they are all approved.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

E-911 Policy Board Policy Board

Mr. Rivas, E-911 Policy Board.

Mr. Bozak, It looks like it's you.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the E-911 Policy Board, term to expire December 31, 2021.

Porter County Redevelopment Commission

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Redevelopment Commission so that's the President of the Council. So I'll stay.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the Porter County Redevelopment Commission, term to expire December 31, 2021.

Mr. Rivas, So we are all done with our Council Appointments.

Council Liaison Appointments

Mr. Rivas, All right Liaisons.

Mr. Jessen, Can we go through and have existing folks say if they want any changes and for the new folks sign in for wherever they want.

Mr. Rivas, Alright, this is for as active as you want to be and it give folks someone to talk to if they have issues. Do you guys all have the existing ones? Mike do you have an existing one? Ok, so jump in you guys if you want to stay on there or Mike or Andy if you want to jump in.

Mr. Jessen, I would like to stay on all that I am and be included in the Prosecutor.

Mr. Rivas, Ok so let's go down the line.

Adult Probation

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Sylvia Graham

Airport

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Greg Simms

Animal Shelter

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Antabuse

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Assessor

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

Auditor

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

Circuit Court

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

General Courts

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Superior Court 1

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Superior Court 2

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Superior Court 3

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Superior Court 4

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Superior Court 6

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Clerk

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

Commissioners

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen, Bob Poparad and Jeremy Rivas

CRV - Tourism

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Coroner

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

E-911

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham, Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Election Board

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak, Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner, Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Expo Center

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Extension Office

Council Liaison is Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Facilities

Council Liaison is Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Family Youth & Services Bureau

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Jeremy Rivas

Health Department

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Highway

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham, Bob Poparad and Greg Simms

HR

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Mike Jessen

ITS

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak, Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

IV-D Court

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

Jail/Sheriff & Sheriff's Garage

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner, Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Juvenile Detention and Juvenile Probation

Council Liaison is Mike Brickner and Mike Jessen

Memorial Opera House

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Museum

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Opportunity Enterprises

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Parks

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner, Sylvia Graham and Mike Jessen

Plan Commission/Building Department

Council Liaisons are Bob Poparad and Greg Simms

Portage Township Assessor

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Jeremy Rivas

Porter Starke

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Print Shop

Council Liaison is Greg Simms

Prosecutor

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Jeremy Rivas

Public Defender

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Jeremy Rivas

Recorder

Council Liaisons is Andy Bozak and Greg Simms

Recycling and Waste Management

Council Liaison is Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Soil and Water

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Mike Jessen

Development and Storm Water Management

Council Liaison is Jeremy Rivas

Surveyor

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

Treasurer

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

Veterans

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Mike Jessen

Voters Registration

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak, Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

Mr. Rivas, Why don't we roll that into the Election Board. That would make sense just to combine those two.

Mr. Simms, Isn't Voters registration dealing with the two? The whole Voters Registration that deals with the Clerk versus the Election Board?

Council Secretary Joy Blakely, It's the same thing Bozak, Graham & Rivas.

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Alright we will just do that they are both the same.

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Weight and Measures

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Wildlife Management

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Ms. Graham, Does that even exist anymore?

Mr. Rivas, I thought it was Zona.

Mr. Simms, I thought it was too.

Council Secretary Joy Blakely, Yes that was put in with the Parks. So that would be Parks then.

Mr. Rivas, Alright let's just remove it then because that make more sense.

Mr. Bozak, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Is that it?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Alright if you could get us a fresh list Joy and get it out to us. You'll send a letter to everyone that we appointed?

Council Secretary Joy Blakely, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Alright that takes care of all of our Liaisons, Citizens Appointments and our Reorganization.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Attorney's report?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Nothing today, it's been quiet.

Mr. Rivas, Let's carry on the tradition as Dan would say that's money well spent.

Any other matter that may properly come before the Council

- **Porter County Auditor Vicki Urbanik – Approve 2020 Encumbrances**

Mr. Rivas, Alright so we have encumbrances. Do you guys have the list of the 2020 encumbrances? Vicki do you want to run over this real fast? If you want come up here.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Hello, ok this is a list of encumbrances that departments have submitted by our deadline in December. What this refers to are the appropriations that were not spent at the end of the year for which the departments received a contract or an invoice and they just couldn't pay it by the end of the year. Maybe because the invoice came in too late or for whatever reason. So they are asking for it to be carry forward into the new budget year.

Mr. Poparad, Is this something new?

Mr. Rivas, No we did it last year.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, This is something that is relatively new that we learned through the State that you should be reviewing this every year. So I think we started it two (2) years ago bring it before you for your approval.

Mr. Bozak, Is that amount carried forward pretty normal for \$494,000 dollars?

Mr. Poparad, No that's the bills carried forward. What's our cash balance? That's all I care about, these are bills that are being paid.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, That depends on what fund you are talking about.

Mr. Poparad, What?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, The cash balances vary depending on the fund.

Mr. Poparad, I know. Just give me a ball park figure that's all?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, In the General fund?

Mr. Poparad, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Roughly \$6,000,000 dollars.

Mr. Poparad, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, And I talked to Vicki a little bit and she said that was down slightly from last year for the carryover.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Right.

Mr. Rivas, So here is the difference Bob is talking about the carryover of money for...

Mr. Poparad, Our cash balance.

Mr. Rivas, Yes, this is just money that was being spent by the departments at the end of the year when they don't have a bill for it or they just weren't able to pay the bill in time.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, That just secures that money without it reverting back to the General fund or whatever fund...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Right.

Mr. Rivas, This is just so they can pay these bills now with last year appropriations.

Mr. Jessen, Which effects the \$6,000,000 million dollar carryover.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes it does.

Mr. Rivas, Absolutely.

Mr. Bozak, So now it's \$5.5 million dollars?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well not all of these are from the General fund. It's any fund that had to...so any invoice from and fund that had to be encumbered and I do have a sheet for you to sign after it's approved.

Mr. Rivas, So are there any questions on this? And on the question that Andy asked it was last year and the year before when we starting doing this was this number crazy? Do you remember at all? If you don't that's fine.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes, I don't know off hand.

Mr. Bozak, So they are not billing quick enough? Because I see Harper and Harper on here why is that on here?

Council Secretary Joy Blakely, We have a cut off of a certain date.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Right.

Mr. Bozak, So should we tell these vendors so this doesn't happen next year that we want them to try to get these in on time? This is not a problem?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We could...

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Mine was in before the end of the year but I think there was a date...

Mr. Jessen, Cut off.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes we have a cut off for the processing of the invoices.

Mr. Bozak, I didn't mean to put you on (inaudible)...

Council Attorney Harold Harper, No, no, no that was for at least three months.

Mr. Rivas, It's a normal process to do this?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, It is, it happens every year. It's just that we are asking you to approve it because we were informed by the State that you should be reviewing this.

Mr. Rivas, Alright so can we motion on this...oh no we need a motion and a second.

Mr. Poparad, I'll make the motion.

Mr. Jessen, I'll second it.

Mr. Rivas, Motion on the floor and a second to approve the encumbrances as presented. Any further discussion? Could we get a Roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok, I'll just go...

Mr. Rivas, Just go down the line.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Alright motion carries. That's all we have on the agenda and Andy to your question I believe our next meeting is January 26th, 2021 I believe.

Council Secretary Joy Blakely, Yes the 26th.

Mr. Bozak, And just to clarify we are not doing a Foundation meeting that day are we?

Council Secretary Joy Blakely, I believe that is going to be in February.

Mr. Bozak, Ok thank you.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Joy what was that date again?

Council Secretary Joy Blakely, The 26th.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, The 26th.

Mr. Jessen, Is that the 4th Tuesday?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Anything else to come before the Council?

Ms. Graham, Well we have to welcome our new members.

Mr. Jessen, Yes we do.

Mr. Rivas, Mike brings a lot of experience to the board.

Ms. Graham, Welcome aboard.

Mr. Rivas, And Andy he's been here and he's back. I think we've had a good run up here and we are in good shape and now we have another two good members that will definitely add to this. So hopefully we can get past this COVID soon.

Ms. Graham, Here is hoping 2021 has got to be better than last year.

Mr. Rivas, It's got to be for sure Sylvia.

Mr. Jessen, Let's make it that way.

Mr. Rivas, Anything else? Mike are you good?

Mr. Brickner, I'm good thank you.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Rivas, I will entertain a motion?

Mr. Bozak, So moved.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, all in favor of adjourning signify by saying Aye? Opposed? Greg Simms.

Motion carries on a majority voice vote.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Jeremy Rivas

Mike Jessen

Sylvia Graham

Bob Poparad

Greg Simms

Andy Bozak

Mike Brickner

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor