

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL  
Reorganization Meeting  
January 3, 2023**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 5:30 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.

Mr. Rivas, Alright here we are 2023. Welcome to our new Auditor Karen Martin and her Chief Deputy Ryan Kubal...is that right?

Chief Deputy Ryan Kubal, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Welcome and can I get a roll call from you Madam Auditor that would be great.

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Andy Bozak, Council Member Mike Brickner, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Greg Simms, and Council Member Red Stone. Also present was, Auditor Karen Martin, Auditor Chief Deputy Ryan Kubal, Council Attorney Harold Harper and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Mr. Rivas, We've got a quorum.

**Election of Officers**

Mr. Rivas, So we will go right election of officers. We will start with President and Vice President, so I will open up the floor.

Ms. Graham, I'd like to nominate Jeremy Rivas as Council President for 2023.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion on the floor and a second on the floor for myself Jeremy Rivas to stay president. Are there any other motions?

Mr. Bozak, I (inaudible – technical problems with microphone)

Mr. Stone, I'd like to nominate Andy Bozak and Jeremy Rivas. Andy Bozak for President and Jeremy Rivas for Vice President.

Mr. Rivas, Let's go one at a time...

Mr. Stone, Okay for president

Mr. Rivas, So President, there is a motion on the floor for Andy Bozak as President. Any other motions? Alright so we will have a little election here then, so Madame Auditor can we do a roll call and then each person will say who they are voting for President. As we go down the line can you just state whom you will be voting for as President.

**Motion carried on the following roll call vote for President:**

Mr. Stone	-	Andy Bozak
Mr. Simms	-	Jeremy Rivas
Ms. Graham	-	Jeremy Rivas
Mr. Brickner	-	Jeremy Rivas
Mr. Bozak	-	Andy Bozak
Mr. Jessen	-	Jeremy Rivas
Mr. Rivas	-	Jeremy Rivas

Auditor Karen Martin, President 5 – 2

Mr. Rivas, Alright I will stay here I guess. Let's open the floor then for Vice President of the for Council 2023. Any nominations for Vice President?

Mr. Bozak, I nominate Red Stone.

Ms. Graham, I'll second that.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second for Red Stone for Vice President. Any other nominations?

Mr. Simms, I nominate Andy Bozak.

Mr. Rivas, There is a nomination for Andy Bozak for Vice President. Is there any other nominations? Seeing none we'll do the same thing.

Ms. Graham, Do you need a second?

Mr. Rivas, No we never really required a second. So Madame Auditor if you could just go down the row again and state who you are voting for.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote for Vice-President:

Mr. Brickner	-	Andy Bozak
Mr. Bozak	-	Red Stone
Mr. Jessen	-	Red Stone
Mr. Rivas	-	Red Stone
Ms. Graham	-	Red Stone
Mr. Simms	-	Andy Bozak
Mr. Stone	-	Red Stone

Auditor Karen Martin, Vice -President 5 – 2 Red Stone

Mr. Rivas, Alright so there we go, we've got some officers here for the year

### **Attorney Contract**

Mr. Rivas, Let's roll right into the Attorney's Contract, you guys received this a little earlier today.

Mr. Bozak, This microphone has really bad feedback.

(Microphone was removed)

Mr. Rivas, So you guys we had a conversation with Harold to continue on. Harold I don't know how long it's been, two years?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Seven years

Mr. Rivas, Seven years. Well, Vice-President Jessen had requested the information going back some time on what he bills beyond his retainer and Mike and I talked and average it out to see so that he doesn't have to bill monthly. We have all kind of asked him to do things there and there. I don't know if that is here, but we just kind of took the average monthly instead of billing as we request him to do things, we just put the average cost in it. So basically per month and for the entire year and if you look at page two (2) the contract would be \$19,800 dollars and we can make him work and we should make him work as hard as he can every time since he is not going to bill us hourly now.

Ms. Graham, So that's for those, any other costs?

Mr. Rivas, So instead of having a retainer for just normal monthly stuff and then he would bill outside of that retainer for things that were outside of the normal scope, we're just going to include it all. So we looked back at his average bills over the

last couple of years. We didn't include this one because it's been way down, but this has kind of been what we've been paying him. The thought I think would be then if there's anything really, really, crazy that he's got to dig into, then maybe we can have that discussion with him if he things that should be billed out. But with this hopefully he doesn't have to bill and it cut our cost.

Ms. Graham, I'll make the motion to approve the contract.

Mr. Jessen, I second the motion.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor, any discussion?

Mr. Stone, So is this the contract that we was sent? Is that why you're explaining that?

Mr. Rivas, Yeah.

Mr. Stone, Okay, because I know I saw kind of a low retainer and low hourly fee. So I was kind of like wow...that's...

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Originally the contract has been since I've been here, and I think five (5) to seven (7) years before that it was always a flat fee of \$1000 dollars a month, and then for anything over and above the ordinary course and scope. It would be billed at \$120 dollars, which is very low.

Mr. Stone, Yes.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, But truth be told, none of us get into public service for the money obviously, and I enjoy the position and I enjoy working with everyone and I think it's important. I'm on board with the change, it is essentially equivalent to what has been paid previously.

Mr. Stone, Previously...I understand.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, It's just this way I won't have to keep track of every...I don't have to hourly bill. I can just do a flat fee every month, I think it'll be easier for the county, there's more certainty in terms of...unless there's anything extraordinary that comes through, so for those reasons...

Mr. Stone, That makes sense, I was just more wanting details, my question was answered.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions? This is a contract, can we get a roll call Madame Auditor for Attorney contract for Harold Harper? We'll get you used to us a little bit, we'll call on you a few times thank you.

Auditor Karen Martin, Ok.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Rivas, 7 - 0 in favor of new contract.

**Surveyor Agreement**

Mr. Rivas, The next one up is the County Surveyor’s Kevin Breitzke agreement. So Kevin’s agreement, the Surveyor’s agreement which I think Kevin might have been the original Surveyor of the County when it was done.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, I don’t think so.

Mr. Rivas, No?

(Laughter)

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, It was the first one that agreed not to practice privately and have the conflicts of interest that affected all of us in the past. I might be the only one in the State of Indiana.

Mr. Rivas, Really?

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, I don’t know of many that would be willing to do it. Because as Harold said, we don’t do this to make money, we shouldn’t.

Mr. Rivas, So this is, we get Kevin all to ourselves. He doesn’t go out and take half the day to go survey a personal business. So this is what he has been bringing to us for quite some time, again...

Ms. Graham, I make the motion that we accept the Surveyor’s Agreement.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor. Any discussion, questions or comments? Can we get a roll call for this agreement Madame Auditor?

Auditor Karen Martin, Ok.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Rivas, Alright 7 - 0 in favor of new contract.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you for your service.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

**Council Appointments**

Mr. Rivas, Ok moving on so then we now have our Council Appointments within ourselves appointing to a couple of Boards here.

**Community Corrections Advisory Board**

Mr. Rivas, Alright, let’s jump into our appointment. Here let me put this in order. Sorry, so looks like we’ve got Community Corrections, and I think that these are our appointments in front of you guys...these are our own appointments. Right now I

think we've got have one person on it Mike Brickner and I think we said Harold if you wanted to go. There's Community Corrections is anybody else interested in that...as our appointment to that board? Seeing none we are going to stick with Mike. Mike are you good with that?

Mr. Brickner, Yes.

Council moved to reappoint Mike Brickner to the Community Corrections Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2023.

### **NIRPC**

Mr. Rivas, NIRPC, it looks like Mr. Jessen is on that.

Mr. Jessen, I've been on NIRPC but if there is someone that would like to step into that role instead that would be fine with me.

Mr. Rivas, Mike I'm not sure anybody's volunteering.

Mr. Stone, When do they meet?

Mr. Jessen, It's during the day...

Mr. Stone, During the day?

Mr. Jessen, Yes, usually in the morning.

Mr. Stone, I don't have a problem with any boards that need to meet during the day or in the morning.

Mr. Jessen, I would suggest that would be a good role for you Red.

Mr. Rivas, So did I here that right, Red are you going to take over NIRPC?

Mr. Stone, Yes sir.

Mr. Rivas, All right.

Ms. Graham, That's good.

Mr. Rivas, There you go, anybody else? All right perfect.

The Board moved to appoint Red Stone to NIRPC, term to expire December 31, 2023

### **Plan Commission**

Mr. Rivas, Plan Commission. It looks like Greg is currently serving on that now.

Mr. Simms, Yes I'd like to stay if I can.

Mr. Rivas, Alright is anybody else interested?

The Board moved to appoint Greg Simms to the Plan Commission, term to expire December 31, 2023.

### **Recycling & Waste District**

Mr. Rivas, Recycling and Waste District. Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, I've been on that, yes I'll stay on that.

Mr. Rivas, Is anybody else interested in that?

Ms. Graham, If someone else wants it they can have it.

Mr. Rivas, No chance Sylvia.

The Board moved to appoint Sylvia Graham to the Recycling & Waste District Board, term to expire December 31, 2023.

### **EMA**

Mr. Rivas, EMA, we have two but it looks like we might have three on there Graham, Simms and Brickner.

Ms. Graham, Yes I want to pull myself off of that.

Mr. Rivas, Remove Graham.

Mr. Brickner, I'll stay on that.

Mr. Rivas, Okay, so you've got Mike and Simms.

Mr. Simms, I can stay on that.

Mr. Rivas, Simms is still interested. Anybody else?

The Board moved to appoint Mike Brickner and Greg Simms to the Emergency Management Agency, term to expire December 31, 2023.

### **Porter County Council on Aging**

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Council on Aging.

Ms. Graham, I'll stay on that.

Mr. Rivas, Our bulldog Sylvia Graham. Anybody else interested in that? That's a good one Sylvia brings back good information and keeps us up on that.

The Board moved to reappoint Sylvia Graham to the Council On Aging Agency Board, term to expire December 31, 2023.

### **Juvenile Justice Advisory Board**

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

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

Mr. Rivas, There's Graham and Jessen anybody else interested?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Graham and Jessen if I'm hearing correctly.

The Board moved to appoint Sylvia Graham and Mike Jessen to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2023

### **Storm Water Advisory Board**

Mr. Rivas, Storm Water Advisory Board, I've been on that since its inception.

Mr. Stone, Sounds like a yes then to me.

Mr. Rivas, If anybody wants it? It's a very exciting Board to be on. Do I hear anybody wanting to be on that? I mean change is always good.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the Storm Water Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2023.

Mr. Rivas, Alright so looks like the only changes we have is NIRPC. Red Stone is going to go on there and Graham took herself off EMA. If everybody is good with that, then all in favor of those...our Council Appointments signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Alright those are our one year Council Appointments.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

### **E-911 Policy Board Policy Board**

Mr. Rivas, E-911 Policy Board. You know I went to one or two of them, but if somebody else wants to jump on that and replace the president, it's fine with me.

Mr. Brickner, I'll do that.

Mr. Rivas, You can jump on that. E-911 Policy Board, I don't know if they need a letter from me or something as the President of the Council. Just let me know if you need something supporting you.

The Board moved to appoint Mike Brickner to the E-911 Policy Board, term to expire December 31, 2023.

### **Porter County Redevelopment Commission**

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Redevelopment Commission, again it's usually the President of the Council. And I think this is where we get into our Citizen Appointment the beginning of that. So just by virtue of office I'll sit on that.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the Porter County Redevelopment Commission, term to expire December 31, 2023.

### **Citizen Appointments**

#### **Porter County Redevelopment Commission**

Mr. Rivas, And then we do have a Citizen Appointment for Porter County Redevelopment Commission, currently it's Don Ensign on that. Looks like we had a couple other applicants: Julie Giorgi and Jake McEvoy.

Mr. Bozak, Our Park Director...Superintendent.

Mr. Rivas, So...

Ms. Graham, I do know that Don did contact me and he did say he wanted to remain on that if possible.

Mr. Rivas, It's a one (1) year appointment.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion that we use Jake McEvoy. I didn't say that right did I?

Park Superintendent Jake McEvoy, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion that we appoint Jake to the Porter County Redevelopment Commission.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion.

Ms. Graham, Wait, I'll also make a motion we do Don Ensign.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion for Jake and a motion for Don on the floor, any other motions on the Citizens Appointment to the Redevelopment Commission.

Mr. Simms, Is it driven by a party? Like does it have to be a Democrat or Republican?

Mr. Rivas, I don't believe so.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I checked the statute before the meeting today and I don't believe so for this particular appointment.

Mr. Rivas, I don't believe so either. Alright can we get a roll call Madame Auditor? Just say who you want to vote for.

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner	-	Jake McEvoy
Ms. Graham	-	Don Ensign
Mr. Simms	-	Don Ensign
Mr. Stone	-	Jake McEvoy
Mr. Bozak	-	Jake McEvoy
Mr. Jessen	-	Don Ensign
Mr. Rivas	-	Don Ensign

Auditor Karen Martin, 4 to 3 in favor of Don Ensign.

Ms. Graham moved to nominate Donald Ensign to the PC Redevelopment Commission 1 year term to expire December 31, 2023.

### **Alcoholic Beverage Commission**

Mr. Rivas, All right keep moving right along the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Commission)

Mr. Bozak, I'd like to make a motion for Thomas Swihart be reappointed to the Alcohol and Beverage Commission.

Mr. Rivas, Thomas Swihart is our current appointment and nobody else wanted it.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second to reappoint Thomas Swihart to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. All in favor of Thomas Swihart staying on the ABC Board signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bozak moved to nominate Tom Swihart to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2023. Mr. Jessen seconded.



Mr. Rivas, BZA that's not up so why is that...that's not up, so let's go through that.

**Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA)**

Mr. Rivas, So then PTABOA the Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals would be the next one.

Ms. Graham, I nominate Hannah Trueblood.

Mr. Bozak, I nominate David Ondrovich.

Mr. Rivas, Let me go down here, alright sorry guys. There's a nomination for Hannah and a nomination for David for PTABOA. Hannah is our current appointment. So are there any other nominations? No, we can't there is only two that applied. So Madam Auditor if you could run down it once again for us?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Stone	-	David Ondrovich
Mr. Simms	-	Hannah Trueblood
Ms. Graham	-	Hannah Trueblood
Mr. Brickner	-	David Ondrovich
Mr. Bozak	-	David Ondrovich
Mr. Jessen	-	David Ondrovich
Mr. Rivas	-	Hannah Trueblood

Auditor Karen Martin, 4 to 3 in favor of David Ondrovich.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Mr. President if I may?

Mr. Rivas, Yes sir.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, If I may the only caveat to that is the statute requires that our appointment be a certified appraiser. I just want to make sure that whoever...who we voted was a certified I believe that she is...or he is rather.

Ms. Graham, Is he certified?

Mr. Bozak, He's a CPA.

Mr. Rivas, Okay that stands for something else.

Mr. Bozak, That's what I'm asking...I don't know.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, The Council can vote to not have that requirement, but the statute does require it.

Mr. Rivas, I'm not sure that we've ever followed that requirement.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I...

Ms. Graham, Maybe not that we followed it, I wasn't aware of it.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah.

Mr. Simms, Well is Hannah a Certified Appraiser?

Ms. Graham, I believe she is...she is a Realtor.

Mr. Jessen, A license Real Estate Broker, but that's different. Sue can you shed some light on that by chance?

Assessor Sue Neff, Yes the PTABOA Board is a...

Ms. Graham, I cannot hear her.

Mr. Rivas, Can you come up front?

Mr. Bozak, It is required, so we need you on a mic...sorry.

Assessor Sue Neff, The PTABOA Board is a three-member board, one of which needs to be a Level II Appraiser Assessor. Currently that person is Nancy Kolasa who is appointed by the Commissioners.

Mr. Rivas, So you think that's alright?

Assessor Sue Neff, So we only need one member to be a Level II.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, As long as there is one I think we're fine.

Mr. Rivas, Okay.

Assessor Sue Neff, That's correct. I mean that meets the statue.

Mr. Rivas, Okay.

Mr. Jessen, Thanks Sue.

Mr. Rivas, Alright thank you.

### **Chesterton Economic Development Commission (EDC)**

Mr. Rivas, Alright let's carry on the next one is Chesterton EDC. I think this is the appointment we just did in December, because they wanted to reappoint Lloyd Kittredge. We just did this last month so I would just say that we reappoint for an entire year if you guys don't mind, this was the only applicant.

Ms. Graham, Do we need to vote on it.

Mr. Rivas, I would say so.

Mr. Stone, I'll make the motion to nominate Lloyd Kittredge.

Ms. Graham, Yes I second the motion.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second to reappoint Lloyd Kittredge for the entire 2023 year. All right, all in favor of appointing Lloyd Kittredge one year term to the Chesterton EDC signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stone moved to nominate Lloyd Kittredge to the Chesterton EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2023. Ms. Graham seconded.

### **Porter Economic Development Commission (EDC)**

Mr. Rivas, Porter EDC Margot Machnik. So weirdly and I don't know how that got it...the term end 2/1/2023. I don't think there's any reason for that, so if we can get a motion to reappoint her for the entire entirety of this year to get that back on schedule.

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve Margot Machnik.

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second to reappoint Margot Machnik for the entire 2023 year. All right, all in favor to reappoint Margot Machnik to a one year term to the Porter EDC signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Graham moved to nominate Margot Machnik to the Porter EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2023. Mr. Jessen seconded.

Mr. Bozak, But did you adjust the term end date? Did you want to change that to the normal one?

Mr. Rivas, Yes that's what we did...yes that's the point of the motion. For the beginning for the entirety of this year.

Mr. Bozak, Okay.

### **Valparaiso EDC**

Mr. Rivas, Valparaiso EDC.

Mr. Jessen, I make the motion to reappoint Patrick McGinley as the Valparaiso's representative to the Economic Development Corporation.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, So I have a motion and a second. All in favor of reappointing Patrick McGinley for one year term to the Valparaiso EDC signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Jessen moved to reappoint Patrick McGinley to the Valparaiso EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2023. Ms. Graham seconded.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect, yes those would be for the entirety of the year. Alright I think that's all of our Citizen Appointments. Joy can you get those letters out to our Citizen Appointments?

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Make certain that these EDC's I think that's what it's supposed to be on Chesterton, that it's for the entire year of 2023.

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Okay

Mr. Rivas, And then with Hannah can you send her a letter letting her know thank you for her service. And then make sure to send a letter to David him know about his appointment.

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Okay.

### **Council Liaison Appointments**

Mr. Rivas, So now we can go through our Council Liaisons.

Mr. Bozak, Oh so where is all of our old one?

Mr. Rivas, Are we missing anything?

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, No

Mr. Rivas, So here's the Liaison List you guys, the Liaison is as good as you guys make it so we'll go through this, I mean you guys see it here so I'll just read them off if somebody wants something...

Ms. Graham, I'm going to be off Adult Probation.

Mr. Rivas, I don't know if Erik ever got any of them, I see Poparad's name is still on here, God Bless his soul. I'll run through them, but I don't think we made the adjustments when Eric came on after Bob passed.

**Adult Probation**

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Greg Simms

**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 Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

**Auditor**

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham, Jeremy Rivas and Red Stone

**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 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 Mike Brickner and Sylvia Graham

**Election Board**

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak, Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

**Emergency Management Agency (EMA)**

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner and Greg Simms

**Expo Center**

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

**Extension Office**

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

**Facilities**

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

**Family Youth & Services Bureau**

Council Liaisons are Mike Jessen and Jeremy Rivas

**Health Department**

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham, Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

**Highway**

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Red Stone

**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, Greg Simms and Red Stone

**Juvenile Detention and Juvenile Probation**

Council Liaisons are 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, Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

**Plan Commission/Building Department**

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak 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 are Andy Bozak and Greg Simms

**Recycling and Waste Management**

Council Liaisons are 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 Mike Jessen and Greg Simms

**Voters Registration**

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak, Sylvia Graham and Jeremy Rivas

**Weight and Measures**

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Red Stone

Mr. Jessen, Red did you have any other specific interests that you were interested in or want to get on?

Mr. Stone, No I think Vice President is enough.

Mr. Jessen, Yes that is impressive.

Mr. Stone, I think I'm doing just fine.

Mr. Jessen, That will be plenty.

Mr. Rivas, All right that takes care of us. Joy were you able to keep up?

Council Administrative Assistant, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect thank you. All right I think that is it, did I miss anything? Where is my agenda...lost in the shuffle.

Ms. Graham, Here.

Mr. Rivas, I have it...here it is I'm good.

**Attorney's Report**

Mr. Rivas, All right attorney's report.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Nothing to report today. Today is a pretty simple meeting, obviously I just wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve again and welcome Red.

Mr. Stone, Thank you very much I appreciate it.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Thank you and thank everyone it's a pleasure to work with everyone again.

Mr. Rivas, Call him and have him do things as much as you can.

Mr. Bozak, Now that we are paying for it...yeah.

(laughter)

## **Any other matter that may come properly before the Council**

- 2022 Encumbrances – Auditor’s Office

Mr. Rivas, Any other matter that may come properly before the Council. We have 2022 Encumbrances, so Madame Auditor I think you said that you and Ryan were able to just kind of glance through them, but if there’s anything that is not covered please come back. I think you guys know the dance here, this is just so that any contracts or spending that was in the works already that it can be paid from the 2022 budgets. So we are just protecting that \$310,769.84 dollars is that correct.

Auditor Karen Martin, Yes.

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, So there is a motion and a second on the floor to approve all the encumbrances that are in front of you. Is there any discussion or any comments?

Mr. Stone, I do have a question with the encumbrances, there was one specific one that was kind of big, big one for \$220,000 dollars from the Health Department for a mobile unit. Was that something that was approved or how does that work with the Health Department. Because I looked back and looked at the minutes and tried to familiarized myself with some of the budgets over the course of the year and I didn’t see that get approved or do they have their own power to buy.

Mr. Rivas, No I believe the Health Department vehicle came in front of us. If I remember...

Mr. Bozak, A couple of months ago.

Mr. Rivas, Might have...was it October or November?

Mr. Stone, I didn’t see anything, I tried looking like I said and I didn’t see it. I’m not saying it didn’t happen.

Mr. Rivas, Do they have to include minutes in their encumbrances or no? Or do we get the contract.

Auditor Chief Deputy Ryan Kubal, Yeah we can definitely pull all the information...

Mr. Stone, I was just trying to familiarize myself with it. I don’t know if this was a new program or if it was something we already had, we just need a new vehicle. It was just kind of a big encumbrance, so that is why I was concerned.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah

Mr. Stone, It just stuck out.

Mr. Rivas, I believe we approved it...my recollection is they got another Supplemental Grant from the State.

Ms. Graham, Right.

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, Wasn’t it in September for COVID.

Mr. Rivas, Yes

Mr. Bozak, Something from each shot?



Mr. Rivas, Exactly.

Ms. Graham, That's right Andy.

Mr. Simms, Yes it's a new vehicle, it's never happened before. It's part of their Outreach, so it's going to be part of their Education Health Outreach for the coming year.

Mr. Stone, Okay, like I said I just wanted a little clarity, I didn't see it and I tried looking back through the minutes throughout the year and I didn't see it, I might have missed the October one.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah, Joy if you could find that...thank you. Then is there any other questions or discussion on the encumbrances? Are you guys comfortable with that? I mean if there's something that obviously they don't have the documentation then it can't be encumbered forward.

Ms. Graham, Yes please let us know.

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a roll call on the encumbrances of the \$310,769.84 dollars?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Stone	-	Abstained

Auditor Karen Martin, 6 to 0 with 1 abstention

Mr. Rivas, All right so all the encumbrances move forward. Let us know if there's something that sticks out with you guys?

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Mr. Rivas, Alright I think that's it, is there anything else? We are off and running and we'll meet on our regular meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. So welcome aboard Mr. Stone and look forward to working with everybody...Madame Auditor, Ryan and your staff we're going to, like I said before the meeting we're going to rely on you guys heavily. We always have with the Auditor's office, we had a great relationship for this last eight (8) years and I hope that continues on and getting the proper information so we can continue to make the right decision up here so I look forward to it. Is there anything else? I will entertain a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Stone, So moved.

Ms. Graham, Second.

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

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL  
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

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Jeremy Rivas

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Mike Jessen

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Sylvia Graham

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Red Stone

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Greg Simms

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Andy Bozak

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Mike Brickner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Martin, Auditor