

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Reorganization Meeting
January 4, 2022

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 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.

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Andy Bozak, Council Member Mike Brickner, Council Member Mike Jessen and Council Member Greg Simms. Also present was, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely. Not present Council Member Sylvia Graham and Council Member Bob Poparad and Council Attorney Harold Harper

Election of Officers

Mr. Rivas, Alright we've got a quorum so we can kick the year off. So we'll start with Election of Officers. Let us see what we can do here, let's start with Board President.

Mr. Bozak, Mr. President, I'd like to make the motion to...oh

Mr. Simms, I'll make a motion to nominate Jeremy Rivas as president.

Mr. Jessen, I second the motion.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, We have a motion and a couple of seconds, are there any other nominations for president? Hearing none we'll close that. I'll try to help guide us for another year. Do we have to vote on it? Let's just do a voice vote. All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, Alright so let's move to the Vice President of the County Council. Let's open the floor for nominations?

Mr. Brickner, I make the motion for Mike Jessen.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second, any other nominations for Vice President of the County Council? Hearing none and seeing none. All in favor of Mike Jessen to continue on as Vice President of the County Council signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, Alright Mike, I think we've been working together for the last couple of years, we'll continue on to see if we can do it again and not make anybody mad up here.

(Laughter)

Attorney Contract

Mr. Rivas, So with that Attorney's Contract. Harold was running late at a deposition he said, so it's the same attorney contract in front of you. It's the same exact contract that it's been for a long, long time with no increases.

Mr. Bozak, I'll make the motion to accept.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor to approve the Council Attorney contract for Harold Harper. Discussion? Can we get a roll call Madame Auditor for Attorney contract for Harold Harper?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Surveyor Agreement

Mr. Rivas, County Surveyor's Kevin Breitzke agreement. So it's the same thing you guys year after year for the agreement in front of you.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, (Inaudible) this is the 24th time.

Mr. Rivas, Is that what it is 24th time we've had an agreement?

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, It's a commitment to the county

Mr. Bozak, I make the motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second on the motion.

Mr. Rivas, That you'll give us your full-time talents?

Mr. Bozak, Why do we have to do this for Surveyor and no other departments? I just...sorry.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, We don't, but I agree to it because of the history of the office and the offices across the state and I think it was a good feel for everybody.

Mr. Bozak, Ok cool, thank you.

Mr. Rivas, We appreciate it, so I think there was a motion

Mr. Jessen, and a second.

Mr. Rivas, And a second. Further discussion? Can we get a roll call Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Mr. Jessen, Thank you for your service.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, Thank you for yours.

Mr. Rivas, Alright Happy New Year.

Citizen Appointments

Mr. Rivas, Alright, so now we can get to our Citizen Appointments here, so you guys...

Mr. Simms, It's a little late.

Mr. Rivas, Yes. I did just receive another application in the hallway, it looks like the Board of Health which we don't have an appointment for, and to West Porter Fire...I believe that comes under us but there's another on for Convention Recreation.

Mr. Bozak, When were the applications due? There was a cutoff right?

Mr. Rivas, Yeah but...

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, I can make sure they get to the right place because that could be a Commissioner one.

Mr. Rivas, So there was another one for the Tourism Board but we'll go down the agenda.

Porter County Redevelopment Commission

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Redevelopment Commission. Is in front of you guys, the Porter County Development appointment it's a one year term I believe.

Mr. Jessen, I make a motion that we reappoint Don Ensign for the Redevelopment Commission.

Mr. Simms, I second that.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor to reappoint Don Ensign for the one year term. Is there any other nominations? All in favor of reappointing Don Ensign to the Redevelopment Commission signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, So Don's it with no other motions.

Mr. Jessen moved to nominate Donald Ensign to the PC Redevelopment Commission 1 year term to expire December 31, 2022. Mr. Simms seconded.

Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Mr. Rivas, So we'll move to the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Commission)

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

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Simms, Second.

Mr. Rivas, We have a motion and a couple of seconds to reappoint Thomas Swihart to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Are there any other nominations?

Audience Member Pamela Schroeder, Can I nominate from the floor?

Mr. Rivas, No ma'am this is from within, these are Council appointments. So are there any other nominations? All in favor of reappointing Thomas Swihart for the one year term to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bozak, Jeremy how did you know it was a one year term?

Mr. Rivas, I've got it on this.

Mr. Bozak, Oh you got that ok thank you.

Mr. Bozak moved to nominate Tom Swihart to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2022. Mr. Simms seconded.

Indiana Dunes Tourism (CRV)

Mr. Rivas, Indiana Dunes Tourism (CRV).

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion to reappoint Mitch Peters to the Indiana Dunes Tourism Board.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Simms, Oh yeah second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a couple of seconds and just to be clear that was one of the ones that the lady that had walked in at the end Pamela Schroeder put it in for that. So just to say it, so there is a motion on the floor and a couple of seconds to reappoint Mitch Peters to the Indiana Dunes Tourism Board. Is there any other nominations for that appointment? Hearing none, all in favor of reappointing Mitch Peters for the two year term to the Indiana Dunes Tourism signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Jessen moved to nominate Mitch Peters to the Indiana Dunes Tourism 2 year term would expire December 31, 2023. Mr. Poparad seconded.

Park Board

Mr. Rivas, Park Board, so in your packets there's been a little confusion on this one. So guys bear with me, we have two appointments here and on the one I thought there was two of them up because there was some communication on that. One was up and one was walking away resigning from the board. So we had put it out there for both positions and we did get a couple from the R's so under statue we have to have one of our appointments as a Democrat and one of our appointments as a Republican under this statue. So we did advertise for both positions because there was some confusion coming back from that board member it would appear. But, I think that unless he resigns...unless we get something official from him resigning I think that our appointment Craig Kenworthy has one more year on his term.

Therefore, the only one up we have this year is the Democrat for the Park Board. We have some applications in front of us for the Park Board that has to be a Democrat, let's open the floor.

Mr. Bozak, I'd make a motion to stick with George Armstrong our current appointment.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion...there's a nomination on the floor

Audience Member Pamela Schroeder, (Inaudible) I'm a Democrat. Why would you advertise in the paper if you didn't want anybody new or it's a done deal?

Mr. Rivas, Any other nominations?

Mr. Simms, I'll nominate Bob DeRuntz or Robert DeRuntz.

Mr. Rivas, Ok so there's a second nomination. Any other nominations for the (D) on the Park Board? Alright so we have two nominations, so Vicki do you want to just call us by name and we'll say who we're voting for?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Okay

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Bob DeRuntz
Mr. Simms	-	Bob DeRuntz
Mr. Rivas	-	Bob DeRuntz
Mr. Bozak	-	Bob DeRuntz
Mr. Brickner	-	Bob DeRuntz

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok so we have five votes for Bob DeRuntz

Mr. Bozak moved to nominate George Armstrong (D) for four years term to expire December 31, 2025 and Mr. Simms moved to nominate Robert DeRuntz (D) for four years to the Park Board, term to expire December 31, 2025. Council voted 5 – 0 in favor of Robert DeRuntz (D).

Motion carries on a unanimous roll call vote.

Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA)

Mr. Rivas, Alright PTABOA the Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. There's a couple in front of you there?

Mr. Simms, Alright I'll nominate Steven Claussen.

Mr. Bozak, I'll second that.

Mr. Rivas, There's a nomination on the floor for Steven Claussen and a second. Any other nominations? So there are no other nominations, all in favor of appointing Steven Claussen for one year term to the Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Chesterton EDC

Mr. Rivas, Chesterton EDC it looks like we just have one. Nick Walding I think it is.

Mr. Bozak, I'll nominate Nick Walding.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion to reappoint Nick Walding to the Chesterton EDC. I don't believe we need seconds but since we have been doing it if somebody wants to make a second?

Mr. Simms, I'll second it's fine.

Mr. Rivas, All right, all in favor of appointing Nick Walding for one year term to the Chesterton EDC signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bozak moved to nominate Nick Walding to the Chesterton EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2022. Mr. Simms 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 make the motion to reappoint Patrick McGinley as the Valparaiso's representative to the Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Simms, Second.

Mr. Rivas, So I have a motion and a couple of seconds on the floor, any other nominations? All in favor of appointing 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, 2022. Mr. Simms seconded.

Mr. Rivas, Alright that's all we get for our Citizens appointments right there so that takes care of that.

Mr. Jessen, Now we...Joy we send out letters expressing appreciation to those who have served, who are no longer serving and also welcoming those that are new to the board of Citizens?

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Great very good.

Mr. Rivas, I'm sure some of these Boards are starting to meet relatively soon.

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Like PTABOA?

Mr. Rivas, Yes, we need to them too so that we don't have people crossed up.

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, You guys we've got Community Corrections Advisory Board and that is Brickner and Harper on there, I think we told Attorney Harper if he wanted to go there. So is there any interest in changing that?

Mr. Brickner, I am good with that.

Mr. Rivas, Your good?

Mr. Brickner, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Everybody good? Okay, I don't remember do we vote on these Mike? I mean if...

Mr. Jessen, I don't think we have to.

Mr. Rivas, Alright, so we'll just leave Mike on there, maybe at the end we can vote as long as everybody's in agreement. So we are keeping Brickner and Harper on the Community Corrections Advisory Board.

Council moved to reappoint Mike Brickner to the Community Corrections Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2022.

NIRPC

Mr. Rivas, NIRPC. Bob's on there, I don't know his availability, do you guys remember when they meet? When NIRPC meets?

Mr. Bozak, It's during the day.

Mr. Rivas, During the day?

Mr. Bozak, That's my problem, I can't meet (inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, I...

Mr. Bozak, I mean Simms isn't working sign him up.

Mr. Simms, What the heck.

Mr. Bozak, It's just school.

Mr. Rivas, I could attempt it as you guys know to try to work my schedule around that if you guys want me to attempt to jump on NIRPC?

Mr. Bozak, I would never make a meeting.

Mr. Rivas, Okay so I'll switch off with Bob on that if you guys are okay with that.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to NIRPC Board, term to expire December 31, 2022. The Board moved to appoint Mike Jessen to NIRPC, term to expire December 31, 2022

Mr. Jessen, It would be easier for me to go to NIRPC than the Storm Water.

Mr. Rivas, Would it?

Mr. Jessen, I don't know if you're willing?

Mr. Rivas, Do you want to do that?

Mr. Jessen, I can do that.

Mr. Rivas, Alright that's fine with me if you would like to go to NIRPC. Alright we'll put Jessen on NIRPC to make sure Willowcreek Creek Road gets through.

Mr. Bozak, Oh that's who's doing it?

Mr. Rivas, Well part of it, yeah.

Mr. Bozak, Great.

Mr. Rivas, They're part of all, alright then you guys have got them in front of you.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the Storm Water Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2022 and Mike Jessen to NIRPC, term to expire December 31, 2022

Plan Commission

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

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Is everybody ok with that?

The Board moved to appoint Greg Simms to the Plan Commission, term to expire December 31, 2022.

Recycling & Waste District

Mr. Rivas, Recycling and Waste District I know Sylvia really enjoys that one. So is everybody ok with keeping Sylvia on that?

The Board moved to appoint Sylvia Graham to the Recycling & Waste District Board, term to expire December 31, 2022.

EMA

Mr. Rivas, EMA, looks like it says we have two but I think we added another. I know Graham, Simms and Brickner were on that. Is everything going all right? You guys okay with just keeping that? You guys okay?

Mr. Brickner, Yes.

The Board moved to appoint Sylvia Graham, Greg Simms and Mike Brickner to the Emergency Management Agency, term to expire December 31, 2022.

Porter County Council on Aging

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Council on Aging, it looks like Sylvia stays engaged in that is that okay?

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Brickner, Yeah.

The Board moved to reappoint Sylvia Graham to the Council On Aging Agency Board, term to expire December 31, 2022.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

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

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

The Board moved to appoint Sylvia Graham and Mike Jessen to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2022

Storm Water Advisory Board

Mr. Rivas, Storm Water Advisory Board I've been on that a little while since its inception. You know a lot of the work going on in Portage Township and I know we're going to be shifting away from there so...

Mr. Jessen, I would through that out there if there's someone that would want it. Because I would be interested, although I do have a conflict with when they have their scheduled meetings.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, So if someone's available and would like to participate on that, that would be a good thing for somebody to do.

Mr. Rivas, Nobody? Everybody is shaking their heads looking away.

Mr. Rivas, Well I can stay on it. There's no problem and Mike if you want...

Mr. Jessen, Maybe if you can't make it or whatever and if I can't I will let you know.

Mr. Rivas, Okay we could do that and I'll stay on that and then tag team. I was hoping to get off so you guys sucked me into NIRPC over there and now I was just hoping to get off of one and jump on the other. That didn't work out well for me so...

Mr. Jessen, It would be easier for me to go to NIRPC than the Storm Water.

Mr. Rivas, Would it?

Mr. Jessen, I don't know if you're willing?

Mr. Rivas, Do you want to do that?

Mr. Jessen, I can do that.

Mr. Rivas, Alright that's fine with me if you would like to go to NIRPC. Alright we'll put Jessen on NIRPC to make sure Willowcreek Creek Road gets through.

Mr. Bozak, Oh that's who's doing it?

Mr. Rivas, Well part of it, yeah.

Mr. Bozak, Great.

Mr. Rivas, They're part of all.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the Storm Water Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2022 and Mike Jessen to NIRPC, term to expire December 31, 2022

Mr. Rivas, Alright then you guys have got them in front of you, so maybe just make a motion that we approve all of these if that's fine with you guys? I entertain a motion to...

Mr. Bozak, I'll make a motion to accept all of the Council Appointments we just discussed.

Mr. Rivas, For a year there is a motion on the floor.

Mr. Simms, Second.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second...a couple of seconds, further discussion?

All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Alright those are our one year appointments.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

E-911 Policy Board Policy Board

Mr. Rivas, So there are a couple of other Boards that we sit on, the E-911 Policy Board. I sit on but Greg you go a little interest maybe or I don't know if Mike does or I don't know.

Mr. Brickner, Sure.

Mr. Rivas, I don't see what it would hurt for two people to go. Let me find out for sure and then...

Mr. Brickner, I don't know if that's an ordinance?

Mr. Rivas, I'll find out.

Mr. Jessen, Just have two do it or maybe just one of the two vote or...?

Mr. Rivas, Yeah.

Mr. Jessen, The more people the better.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah for sure, we'll put Mr. Brickner and Mr. Sims on there. We'll find out what, there was no voting when I was on there, so I don't think I see it being a problem.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the E-911 Policy Board, term to expire December 31, 2022. This may change at a later time.

Porter County Redevelopment Commission

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Redevelopment Commission so I think it's the President of both of the Council and Commissioners. So by virtue of being the President, I'll sit on that for another year with Don Ensign.

The Board moved to appoint Jeremy Rivas to the Porter County Redevelopment Commission, term to expire December 31, 2022.

Mr. Rivas, So I think that's it.

Council Liaison Appointments

Mr. Rivas, Now we can go through our Council Liaisons. Now if you guys, if you want to go through them...

Mr. Bozak, Can we keep them as they are?

Mr. Rivas, I don't see a reason why not, I mean unless you guys want to look through them we could just keep them as they were.

Mr. Bozak, The truth is if you want to talk to someone or somebody wants to talk to you there is no problem with it.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, This is just...right it gives it an initial point, but you are absolutely right, none of us are any more valuable than the other so everybody's got every right. We could just keep them if you guys are okay with it. I would just kind of want to highlight a couple that we could discuss one which is the Parks. As you guys know we made a new Park Appointment tonight. I think that's the overall feeling of the Council and maybe and I am certainly not going to speak for the Board of Commissioners, but

as you know we're hunting for a New Park Superintendent. There seems to be an interest of you know a little more focus and getting that department over there in a new direction. So I would say whoever's the liaison right now it's got Brickner, Graham and Jessen. I would just want to make sure that specifically those liaisons are engaged...I know Mike and I had talked about the liaisons being engaged in the interviewing process...

Mr. Jessen, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, And I believe that was conveyed to them.

Mr. Jessen, Yes it was.

Mr. Rivas, So we haven't interviewed, so I just want to highlight that. Right now it's Brickner, Graham and Jessen and that's fine or if you guys want to shuffle that around but we probably need somebody to be active in that one as we go through a transition over the next year or two.

And then I know the Health Department, it's got Graham and Simms so that's another one as we continue down this battle of Covid, especially right now with the numbers peaking a little bit, we just want to make sure of that. And I know Mike, we all able to communicate with Letty in the Health Department just fine, but we just make sure we continue to do that, if there's something that they need, then you know if the liaison is the first contact for them that's just fine. However you know that Sylvia or Greg, they just need to know that we're there for them.

Mr. Simms, Oh yeah I talked to them all the time.

Mr. Rivas, Testing sites, if it's vaccinations we just want to make sure we get through this and continue to adjust to living with Covid and all of its strains. But I know Mike's played a big role in that communication too.

Mr. Jessen, I'd like to specifically be added to the Health Department liaison.

Mr. Rivas, Okay that'll be perfect, because I know you've been engaged in that. Yes they just need to know, they've got an ear here whatever they need to make certain that we're there for the citizens when it comes to all of their health needs, but specifically as we continue to battle Covid.

Mr. Jessen, I think Jeremy, if I could just add as you look at the liaison process or program, it's really...from my perspective, it's an opportunity for us to get more specifically involved with particular departments that we have a special interest in, or maybe expertise in. And it's a special opportunity for them too, to lean on us as we try to and we need to and we have to be very intentional about working on the communication between us collectively and them. You know I think if the Expo Center Director, for instance has a specific need or needs something communicated, clearly she can communicate to anybody and anybody can speak to her. But, in terms of a point of contact in terms of something that's going to be presented at one of our meetings for instance, it would be helpful to have that conversation in advance. So that when it comes to the meeting setting we're not surprised, they're not surprised and everybody knows what the questions are, what the issues are and this gives us an opportunity to do our homework. Now we clearly as Council Members, I mean we can't be intimately involved with every single department, because there's just simply not enough time in the day. However, I think as we look at this liaison program, it gives an opportunity to insert ourselves very intentionally to provide that conduit between the department heads and the departments and us. So I think Jeremy as you mentioned, it's important with all departments and some more so than others and especially departments that are going through an unusual or transformational time. You hit on two of them, one would be the Parks Department where we're going through a Superintendent search and we also collectively as a county want to see what the potential is for the Parks Department. So to have the liaison specifically involved with this it could be the meetings, it could be in conversations, it could be with whatever type of communication would be helpful for us to be more involved,

more aware, certainly helpful for them so that they feel like they have someone in their corner.

The Health Department can be spoken about in the same vein, where they're going through an extraordinary time that they've never experience, we've never experience and I think to be able to provide a more specific communication or conduit between them and the Council, and frankly between them and the Commissioners too. I think we can lean on that liaison process and everybody benefits from it.

So I would just challenge all of us to as we look at these departments that we're involved with or liaisons for to take that extra time, that extra effort to get involved, to be aware and I think that helps us and helps them. Plus this will also will help our council meetings as well, because there will be less first time I've heard that sort of thing. In addition, I think is will help expedite communication between all of us. I think it's something that can work and we've done it to a large degree, but I think we can even do better as we go into 2022.

Mr. Rivas, Plus I think this Council has done a great job working together, building relationships with the Board of Commissioners, Elected Officials and Department Heads. We've done a lot...

Mr. Simms, Yes...I'm sorry.

Mr. Rivas, No go ahead.

Mr. Simms, With that being said with the Parks, I've been communicating quite a bit with them, is there a way, I mean it's got Brickner, Graham and Mike you're on there. So is there somebody who want to or we don't need four on there, I wouldn't think, but that's too many.

Mr. Jessen, I wouldn't say that was to many, if you're wanting to get involved and are committed, which obviously you are with Parks especially, then I think we should put you on the list.

Mr. Simms, Yeah okay.

Mr. Jessen, That's fine from my perspective.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah we could talk to Sylvia. Yeah we can't have four Council Members in a room together discussing things.

Mr. Simms, Oh that right.

Mr. Rivas, But to Mike's point though, the more involved is good. So we definitely can talk to Sylvia, because that's a department that we need to really be engaged in for sure. And Sylvia, well she works with us on everything so I think she will. But again, I'm not going to speak for her, but I think a conversation with her will go a long ways. So yes well said Mike and again, I am just saying we just need continue to work together and I appreciate you guys putting your trust in me to be your president for the next year and working close with Mike. Plus we have a lot to do...we've done a lot and we have a lot to do. We have that wage study that is going to be coming back here shortly and I'll try to get with the Commissioners and HR and see where that is. Let's start understanding some timelines...

Mr. Bozak, Can we get a update at our next Council meeting?

Mr. Rivas, Yes absolutely.

Mr. Bozak, That way we can know what's going on.

Mr. Rivas, Yes I will reach out and see where things are at and if they need anything from us and when we can start maybe expecting anything back. I will try to get us a an update on that, so there's a lot I know me and Mike we'll get with the Commissioners here shortly and look at the next steps with the ARPA money to maybe

get together and see what the next step in the process is for the other part of the money. So we'll see what's out there and I know we've gotten some emails from the general public, phone calls and there's ideas, so let's just continue to make sure we're moving forward at all times. Does anybody have anything to say or add?

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, Mike Jessen 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

Weight and Measures

Council Liaisons are Sylvia Graham and Greg Simms

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Mr. Rivas, Madame Auditor you have some encumbrances for us to take care of in terms of...

Harold just texted me and I apologize guys, he just finished up if you guys are close to the end I may just skip tonight if that's okay? He exhausted. It's all good I will tell him.

Mr. Bozak, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, Yes. Happy New Year Lorelei! Have a great year.

Indiana Dunes Tourism Director Lorelei Weimer, Have a good night and thank you.

Mr. Rivas, So no attorneys report.

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

- 2021 Encumbrances – Auditor Vicki Urbanik

Mr. Rivas, Any other matter that may come properly before the Council. We have 2021 encumbrances by our Auditor Vicki Urbanik.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, This is the annual approval that you are asked to approve these are the appropriations that were requested to be carried forward by the department heads. So basically what this is are unspent appropriation at the end of the year and if the departments meet a certain set of criteria, they can carry it forward. And that criteria basically includes that the department received an invoice sometime usually in December, but for whatever reason they were not able to pay the claim in time to meet the end of the year deadlines.

Mr. Bozak, What does the Park have no avail? What is no avail? On the bottom there is Uniform and Clothing under Parks Operating fund there is no avail?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Oh they tried to encumber, but there was no appropriation. So we just put that on the list but it's not going to be...

Mr. Bozak, It won't do anything right?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, Okay.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, This is just a list that all the departments submitted to our office and so we went through it to make sure, one that there is an appropriation and two that there was actually an invoice or a contract. You can't just carry forward an appropriation. It had to be for services or items that were obligated in 2021.

Mr. Rivas, Vicki and I don't have a total recall memory...is that an average number of what we've been doing? Where does that number land?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I meant to look this up...so for the general fund I think that's pretty much...

Mr. Rivas, Good?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yeah about that much.

Mr. Rivas, Nothing out of the norm? Nobody was...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No it's lower than it used to be, let me tell you.

Mr. Rivas, Okay perfect. And you reviewed like you said, you reviewed all these and everybody's complying?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes what they needed to do. Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So with the encumbrances in front of you from our Auditor so that everybody can move the money forward to pay all of these? I'll entertain a motion to approve on the 2021 encumbrances?

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion to approve.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor, is there any further discussion on the encumbrances? Can we get a roll call Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I believe that's 5 - 0. This is a resolution, so I do ask that you sign it.

Mr. Bozak, We had one on this side so it's coming.

Mr. Rivas, We've got one on the way.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Oh it's the same? Oh okay very good thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Alright Vicki you had a request to move our meeting date is that correct?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes, the next meeting date was scheduled for the 25th is that correct?

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, The AIC will be hosting their legislative conference on that day and the next day, and I will be attending that so I will not be here.

Mr. Rivas, I'm sorry so Greg what did have to say?

Mr. Simms, Looks like we have a Foundation meeting on the 25th does anyone else have that? Why do I have that?

Mr. Brickner, Yes at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Simms, You have a Foundation meeting too at 5:00 p.m. on yours?

Mr. Brickner, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, If we have a Foundation meeting I wouldn't want to change it, I'd want to keep them the same night.

Mr. Simms, Right because that's going to be different.

Mr. Bozak, I would have someone fill-in for Vicki.

Mr. Rivas, Do you know if the Foundation meeting is that night?

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, We could talk to Laura to see if she could change it to the 27th.

Mr. Bozak, Whoa, whoa, we need to make sure that you can actually have it changed.

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Your right.

Mr. Rivas, So you won't be here on the 25th?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Correct.

Mr. Rivas, So what do you guys want to do? Do you want to wait and talk to Laura before we make any moves?

Mr. Bozak, Vicki's got someone to fill in right? We shouldn't move a whole meeting just because Vicki's not going to be here that night? We know that you are awesome, there wasn't to pick on you, but your people are good too.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, So I would say we should still have the meeting.

Mr. Rivas, Are your people going to the conference with you?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No, I'm on the AIC Board, so I should be there. Plus this is the legislative conference and there are some big legislative issues.

Mr. Rivas, So you want to keep it then?

Mr. Jessen, Yeah, I would just have your deputy...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Okay Toni.

Mr. Rivas, That would be fine then?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Alright so as of now we'll leave it. We'll leave it put on the 25th. Alright anything else that may come before the board?

Mr. Simms, So do we have a Council meeting after our Foundation meeting?

Mr. Rivas, Yes they always have tried to put them together now since there's usually seven of us here and seven out of the ten here.

Mr. Simms, I just want to make sure that I've got it right.

Mr. Rivas, Right.

Mr. Simms, Okay, you know put it there. Okay are we all good?

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Rivas, Alright so we will be back here on the 25th of January and I will entertain a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Bozak, I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Jessen, 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