

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grant County Complex Council Chambers at 401 South Adams Street, Marion, Indiana.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Bardsley, Commissioner Ron Mowery, Commissioner Mike Burton, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Auditor Jim McWhirt. Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Commissioner Mowery led the prayer and Commissioner Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Claims

9/13/2021 preapprovals - general \$133,277.02, other \$25,523.36, and highway \$27,621.08 totaling \$186,421.46. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

9/20/2021 - general \$176,918.80, other \$22,503.03, and highway \$76,449.12 totaling \$275,870.95. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Payroll

Formal approval of payroll #19 was given on 9/17/2021 in the gross amount of \$502,590.66 and paid out on 9/17/2021. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify payroll #19. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Minutes

None

Receipt of Monthly Reports, Clerk of the Circuit Court - Months Ending 7/31/2021 and 8/31/2021

Commissioner Mowery made a motion to receive the monthly reports as presented. Seconded with by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

Communications & Board Updates (Elected Officials, Boards, Special Committees)

1. Auditor McWhirt stated that the tax sale has been completed and went over as scheduled. He also commented that the State Board of Accounts should be moving out of the side room of the council chambers with the audit completed.
2. Bob Jackson, EMA, gave an update from the EOC. He received a call from the Marion hospital. They are struggling to maintain order and run efficiently. Elected surgeries are being halted and management is now working the floor in many areas not only due to the increase of patients, but the lack of staff as well. Commissioner Bardsley commented that last week there was a discussion about referring patients with non-COVID concerns to other counties. In a true emergency, such as a heart attack, this could become quite problematic if there is simply no help. Mr. Jackson stated that this will be watched at a local level daily at least through this week. The state is expecting a spike around October 9th. Dr. Moore stated that the life expectancy went down in 2020. The two most important things to do is get vaccinated and to wear a mask, in his opinion.

IT –Marcus Elliott

None

HIGHWAY - David White, Superintendent

1. Bridge inspections start in October.
2. Washington Street Bridge demolition will begin on September 28th. The deck is scheduled to be poured by the second week of October.
3. The repair on 380 West, near the 1812 reenactment battle grounds, is halfway completed. Work is expected to be completed by the end of next week.
4. Mr. Jackson let Highway utilize one of the EMA signs to put down by the Pennsylvania Street Bridge to remind everyone that the bridge will be closing on September 27th until the spring of next year.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Soldier Burial Ordinance - Brad Hodson, Veterans Service Office
This item has been tabled for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Application of Development Standard Variance - Ryan Malott, Area Plan
The petitioners are Cindy Thrasher of Greenwood, Indiana and Dorothy Truman of 4024 S Meridian Street, Marion, Indiana 46953. The property in question is 4013 S. Meridian Street, Marion, Indiana 46953. The variance of development standards is to allow for a 24 square foot free standing sign in a R1 district instead of the 8 square foot standard. This will go before the BZA. The Area Plan Commission has no issue with the request. This is for the Idyl Wyld Roller Palace. The current sign is basically the same size. Commissioner Mowery made a motion for a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
2. Proposal to Amend Areawide Zoning Ordinance, Yards and Setbacks - Ryan Malott, Area Plan
This is to address right of ways. Changes to the language were to say 30 inches or more opposed to 30 inches or less. This was an error in the ordinance. This was presented to all towns in Area Plan's jurisdiction and a unanimous yes vote was given from all towns. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to amend the areawide zoning for yards and setbacks ordinance 9-2021. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
3. Proposal to Amend Areawide Zoning Ordinance, Accessory Structures - Ryan Malott, Area Plan
This is pertaining to shipping containers that are starting to become popular across the county. This comes as a request from the BZA. The amendment allows shipping containers to be on site for 6 months. They would be considered temporary storage and one must receive approval from the town in order to be put on one's property. Commissioner Bardsley made a motion to approve ordinance 10-2021. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
4. Proposal to Amend Areawide Zoning Ordinance, Map Amendment - Ryan Malott, Area Plan
Mark Leming, the current owner of property address 887 S 807 W, Fairmount, Indiana 46928, is requesting a change in zoning from residential - 3 (R3) to local business (LB). This was considered by the Area Plan Commission on 9/13/2021 in a public meeting and was given a no recommendation by a vote of 7-3 and forwarded to the Commissioners. Mr. Leming is wanting to upgrade the existing structures that are on the property area making them into storage buildings. He would also like to add another building for RV and campers. The lot is not currently in use. There is an old foundation from a tomato factory. The property is partially overgrown. This area has not had any development in some time and the residents are not wanting any development of any kind. Diane Harshman of 8080 W 887 S, Fairmount, Indiana 46928, spoke on behalf of the residents of the town of Point Isabel. Ms. Harshman stated in the two years he has owned it, Mr. Leming has not taken the time to take care of the property. He did mow it for the first time about 3 weeks ago. There are no businesses in the area currently. The town is opposed to this proposal. They are a small community of 40 some residents and do not want the extra traffic in their town.

A petition was signed to reject this rezoning by 42 people. This is every adult that lives in Point Isabel. The residents are against the storage facility. If Mr. Leming would like to build a house or an apartment building bringing in families, the town would rather have that because it is adding to the community. This is a very safe and quiet community and that is how they want it to stay. Most of the community have lived there 20 years or more. Mr. Leming stated that the property was at one time zoned as local business due to it being a cannery. No one seems to know how it was changed to a R3. At one point, the Harshman's were purchasing the land. The gentleman that was selling it passed away in an accident and then this property went through multiple tax sales. Many thousands of dollars were owed on this property. Mr. Leming purchased the property through a Commissioners' sale with the hopes of doing something with it for a return on investment and he was unaware that it was zoned R3. The pictures provided show that the town residents have been using the area as storage for scrap metal, old washing machines, and junk on the property. Mr. Leming explained that he has to have that cleaned up at his expense. Mr. Leming commented, "I'm not asking anyone in the town to rent from me. I am just trying to make something out of the property. Anyone from that town has had plenty of years and opportunity to purchase this piece of property." Mr. Malott added that he got the old plats out back to 1972 and it was R3 at that point. There are 3 local business areas in Point Isabel. Two are vacant lots and one is the fire station. Commissioner Bardsley added that he appreciated the input from all of the citizens on this and that he felt research is needed before rendering a decision. Commissioner Mowery added that he personally has a problem going against an entire community and that he cannot support changing this and voting against this small community. Commissioner Bardsley asked if Commissioner Mowery would be interested in some more investigation on this matter. Commissioner Mowery said that he personally has all he needs to hear on the matter, but he is willing to go along with the other Commissioners if time is needed. Commissioner Bardsley stated that he just wants to do the right thing legally and by both sides of the issue. This matter will be tabled until 10/4/2021.

5. Payment Request Packet #6 - Todd Durnil, Pyramid
Changes were made to the amount due. The corrected amount is \$5,192.00. Commissioner Burton made a motion to accept and pay the corrected amount to Pyramid. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
6. Payment Request Packet #7 - Todd Durnil, Pyramid
The packet included: MPX Solutions, TP O3C (concrete), application #5 = \$86,278.40, MPX Solutions, 35TM (tower material), application #5 = \$71,203.00, and Pyramid Professional Services application 1910405-21 = \$22,720.00. The total is \$180,201.40. All amounts are tower related. Commissioner Burton made a motion to accept and pay payment request packet #7. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried. Administrator Saathoff asked if Mr. Durnil was aware of the leaks in Central Dispatch last week. He was not but stated that he was not surprised. Mr. Durnil spent some time a few weeks ago up on the roof top taking measurement of the limestone to put together a package to repoint the limestone. This will be an advertised bid, using local contractors for the work. The HVAC system is not keeping up. Contractors have been back twice for Freon leaks. Commissioner Bardsley stated that a HVAC RFP is in the works for a lot of the buildings. Mr. Durnil that he will have a contractor look at Central Dispatch's HVAC system in the meantime. Mr. Jackson, EMA, asked if final payment has been made on the EMS building. Mr. McWhirt stated that only the retainage is remaining.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:30 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.