



PUBLIC MEETING

November 3, 2022
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

Vice Chair Tom Rolfe called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen was present. Chair Jim McCormick was out of the office. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Nancy Everson, Kari DesRosier, Betsy Kirkeby, Mac McCarley, Michael Swingley, Mark Piskolich, Lori Ladas, Kathy Marks, Valerie Armstrong, Geri Colvin, Candace Payne, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Announcement

- a. Employee Recognition. (Kari DesRosier).

Kari DesRosier, Human Resources Director, presented a special recognition for employee Paul Whitham.

Michael Swingley, District Court Judge, stated in the 34 years he has worked in public service he has rarely worked with anyone that exhibits the standards and professionalism that Paul does. Mr. Whitham is willing to do anything and never causes any attention to himself. He will often be found in the court on Saturdays or nights, even though it is discouraged. Mr. Whitham often serves as Judge Swingley's sub-judge, a position that he would only trust to those that have the professionalism to make crucial decisions. The Justice Court is the court that 99 percent of the public stands before and the face of the judiciary. Mr. Whitham constantly goes above and beyond to ensure everyone no matter who they are treated fairly with efficiency and professionalism. He has an even temperament and Judge Swingley has never seen him raise his voice or not treat everyone that comes to the courtroom with friendliness and compassion. When Judge Swingley attends conferences he almost always hears compliments for Mr. Whitham from other judges for being so professional, efficient and friendly. Many courts do not get that. Mr. Whitham serves the court behind the scenes dealing with all staff member issues. He is the supervisor of Judge Swingley's court and often for Judge Piskolich as well. Mr. Whitham is a very humble person. Two days after Judge Swingley asked to have a recognition for Mr. Whitham, Paul came to him stating that he did not think he was doing a good enough job. Judge Swingley thanked the Commission for recognizing Mr. Whitham.

Mark Piskolich, District Court Judge, recognized how Paul embodies what it means to be a public servant. Anyone that comes into the courts are treated with dignity and respect. He is the consummate public servant and they are lucky to have him.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Whitham for his dedication, obvious professionalism from what has been said. They are very grateful for what he does for them and the people of Lewis and Clark County. They presented him with an award in recognition of a job very well done.

Proclamation Supporting Operation Green Light.

Commissioner Rolfe read the proclamation supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans and declaring November 7, 2022 through November 13, 2022 a time to light up the community with green lights to salute and honor Veterans.

Commissioner Rolfe noted many of the County buildings will have green lights and he encouraged people to do the same next week to honor our Veterans.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Approval of CARES Money. (Nancy Everson)

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented a request for use of the CARES money in the amount of \$41,846.32 to forgive debt owed by Rocky Mountain Development Council (RMDC). It has been part of the County's health insurance plan and due to hardship, fell behind in payments in 2012. They have been making payments since that time. High inflation, stagnant funding, and lack of staff has left their resources stretched to the limit. They run the senior citizen programs, manage Lincoln and Augusta senior meal programs, partner with the County on housing projects, and many other projects. Staff acknowledges the valuable partnership the County has had with RMDC and recommends approval to pay the remainder of the debt owed with the CARES money.

Lori Ladas, RMDC Executive Director, thanked the staff for bringing this to the Commission. It is a great honor to partner with Lewis and Clark County. They are very grateful for the partnership and would not be the organization that they are without the County support. She thanked the Commission.

Commissioner Hunthausen discussed the great partnership with RMDC and some of the other projects that they are involved in from energy assistance to Head Start. They really stepped up through the pandemic regarding sheltering the homeless.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Board Appointments. (Roger Baltz)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented a board appointment for the Airport Authority Board and recommended the appointment of Jim Enyeart to the Airport Authority Board to a term that will expire September 1, 2025.

No public comment was received.

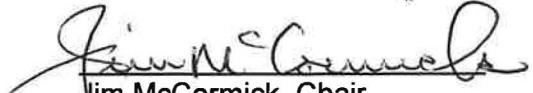
A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.

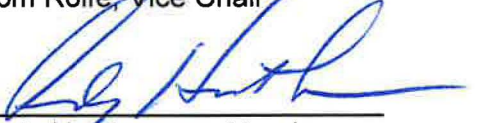
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.


LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Jim McCormick, Chair


Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board