

AREA PLAN COMMISSION

Minutes

Council Chambers
401 S Adams Street
Marion, IN 46953

March 20, 2023

Special Meeting at 7:00 pm

1. President Briede called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

- 2. Roll Call**

Members present were Randy Atkins, Bob Bothwell, Chuck Briede, David Broyles, Jerry Caudill, Bob Highley, Frank Hix, Brian Hunt, Jim Todd, and Steve Wright. Robert Couse and Tyson Nuckols were absent.

- 3. Part-Time Permit Clerk**

Director Malott told the Commission that Rita Garriott was the recommended hire for the new part-time permits clerk. He noted, Rita was a Realtor for 20 years, very familiar with Elevate GIS, and had semi-retired. Mrs. Garriott meshed very well with staff during her interview.

Dr. Bothwell asked what process was used in coming up with Mrs. Garriott as our Recommendation. Dr. Bothwell stated he thought when we were getting the new software that we would eliminate an employee. Director Malott stated that he stated, "that the new software would be like adding another employee". Director Malott stated he never discussed reducing staff, he said he currently has six employees but could easily keep eight employees overwhelmed.

Motion made by Mr. Highley to approve the new part-time permit clerk; Mr. Broyles seconded.

Mr. Atkins, Dr. Bothwell, Mr. Broyles, Mr. Caudill, Mr. Highley, Mr. Hix, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Todd, and Mr. Wright all voted yes. Motion carried.

4. Director Malott brought the McCoy petition in front of the APC for clarification of the vote taken at last meeting. Director Malott noted that the McCoy Rezoning was for the APC to set forth a "Recommendation" to the Commissioners. Although a "No" Vote is easily conceived as an unfavorable recommendation, the parties involved were not told that the petition would then move on to the Commissioners for final approval or denial. Director Malott noted that letters would be sent out to clarify with Mr. McCoy and surrounding neighbors.

- 5. Attorneys**

There were three applicants for the APC Attorney position. These are the applicants: Pat Hess, Bruce Elliott, & Kyle Persinger.

- Mr. Highley asked if Pat Hess would do this? Mr. Highley stated that he has concerns that we could not afford him, since he charges \$350.00/Hr. plus travel time.
- Kyle turned in his time from 2021 & 2022. He worked 126 hrs. in 2021 & 116 hrs. in 2022, Director Malott noted he felt those numbers were short. Mr. Broyles noted that Mr. Hess would cost \$42,000 at that rate.
- It was mentioned that in some cases it might be a conflict of interest for Kyle Persinger to work for the APC and the Commissioners. Kyle's representation of the APC is for the needs of the office, as is his representation of other offices within the building is for their needs.
- It was brought to the APC's attention that Mr. Persinger was given an ultimatum from the former APC President, that he had to choose between the APC & Commissioners, this was not known or discussed with the Commission as a whole. President Briede also noted that the APC has not yet accepted Mr. Persinger's resignation.
- It was discussed, the Attorney Salary has not changed in years. If we were to raise the salary, would we possibly get more interest in the job? APC's current reputation was noted as also being an issue with finding a new attorney.
- Mr. Hunt stated that he would like to keep Kyle Persinger. His office is across the street, and he knows what the office needs. Several members concurred.
- It was noted, Bruce Elliott had some stipulations. He has an hour drive home and didn't want to come to the meetings. He would do the job if there were not any other applicants.
- Dr. Bothwell brought up the idea of having two attorneys, one for the office and one for the Plan Commission. Would have to ask for additional appropriations to accommodate two attorneys.
- Director Malott contacted neighboring counties to find out what they paid their attorney. The pay varied from \$7,500 (Wabash) to \$25,000 (Hamilton). Some counties pay by the hour, \$150.00 (Huntington).

Motion was made to keep Mr. Persinger another quarter by Dr. Bothwell and seconded by Mr. Atkins. Mr. Atkins, Dr. Bothwell, Mr. Broyles, Mr. Caudill, Mr. Highley, Mr. Hix, Mr. Hunt, and Mr. Todd all voted yes. Mr. Wright abstained. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Highley to have a special session on April 17, 2023, to interview candidates and seconded by Mr. Broyles. Mr. Atkins, Dr. Bothwell, Mr. Broyles, Mr. Caudill, Mr. Highley, Mr. Hix, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Todd, and Mr. Wright all voted yes. Motion carried.

6. Comprehensive Plan

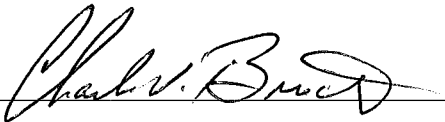
- The Comprehensive Plan is a major undertaking, and we have others that want to help. Director Malott was to contact the surrounding counties to find out when they updated their Comprehensive Plan, who did the work, how much, and what the company's name was. Director Malott noted that Mr. Highley came in to help with the calls. Consulting Fees in neighboring counties ranged from \$50,000 to \$250,000.
- Director Malott found Steve Niblick's Comp Plan (2011-2014). Several of the towns were approved, but it never went to the Commissioners or was recorded.
- Director Malott stated that there may be grant monies out there to assist with the Comp Plan. President Briede noted that he, Director Malott, and Commissioner Wright had had some meetings with Community Foundation, IWU, Grant County Economic Development, etc... and found there are companies that can do the compiling of the comprehensive plan.

- Mr. Highley suggested if we take what Mr. Niblick did to start, we will need community involvement and funding. Need a committee of three to four to find funding.
- Mr. Briede stated that we had a meeting with Bill Walters with ECIRPD on Monday, March 27th to discuss options for Comp Plan such as what needs done before we get started, steps to get started, grants available, etc...

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

***Although the meeting was recorded, there is no audio. Grant County IT Director Marcus Elliott stated that the OWL Software updated, which default “muted” the microphones. The Commissioner’s Meeting earlier in the day had the same issue. Issue has since been corrected.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chuck V. Briede", written over a horizontal line.

Chuck Briede, President

