

**MINUTES**  
**ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Special County Council Meeting**  
**January 28th, 2021**

The Special January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Sheriff Jeff Siegel at 4:00 p.m. in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Roll Call of Council: Members present were Council President Thomas W. Stump, Council Vice President David L. Hess, Tina M. Wenger, Douglas S. Graham, Darryl J. Riegsecker, Thomas W. Stump and Adam M. Bujalski. Council Member Randall D. Yohn was absent.

Also present were Patricia A. Pickens, County Auditor; Craig Buche, County Attorney; Commissioner Suzie Weirick; Jeff Taylor County Administrator

\*\* This meeting commenced pursuant to public notice under the Indiana open door law and Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders. This meeting was made available for the public and press to attend virtually in remote real-time observation and remote electronic participation.

\*\*\*In pursuant to Indiana Code 36-2-3-6 all votes will take via roll call.

Craig Buche:

- (a) For Consideration and Approval of Declaratory Resolution Designating Economic Revitalization Area and Qualifying for Certain Real Estate Improvements and Certain Improvements and Certain Personal Property for Property Tax Phase-In CC-2021-04.

Craig Buche and Chris Stager on behalf of Valmont Industries give brief overview of the company. Valmont Industries wants to purchase 80 acres to build a manufacturing plant to produce concrete utility poles.

On motion made by Wenger and seconded by Graham to approve Declaratory Resolution CC-2021-04. A roll call vote was taken with the roll call votes as follows: Hess-Aye, Wenger-Aye, Graham-Aye, Yohn-Absent, Riegsecker-Aye, Stump-Aye and Bujalski-Aye. With a vote of 6 to 0 the Council carried and approved Declaratory Resolution CC-2021-04.

Doug S. Graham: Council member Doug S. Graham presented Council Non-Binding Resolution to Commissioners Regarding Re-Opening County Buildings. CC-2021-05. This non-binding resolution states that the Council highly recommend that the Elkhart County Commissioners suspend the closing of the Elkhart County Offices to the Public. Graham goes on to state that they are concerned for the welfare and health of all members of the public, but adequate provisions have been made to the County building to protect the County Employees as they perform their duties to the public.

Commissioner Weirick discussed they are working with Dr. Bethany Wait and looking at the changing of the Level that Elkhart County is in prior to making that decision.

Council members spoke in favor of Re-opening the buildings were: Riegsecker, Wenger, Hess and others.

County Assessor Cathy Searcy and Taxpayer Glenn Null spoke in favor of re-opening the County Buildings.

On Motion made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski to approve the Non-Binding Resolution CC-2021-05. A roll call vote was taken with the roll call votes as follows: Stump-Aye, Hess-Aye, Wenger-Aye, Graham-Aye, Yohn-Absent, Bujalski-Aye and Riegsecker-Aye. With a vote of 6-0 the Non-Binding Resolution CC-2021-05 was approved.

Council Member Tina Wenger- Wenger discussed a letter she wrote to the Commissioners back in December asking them to rescind the Elkhart County Restated COVID-19 Ordinance 2020-38. Implementing an Ordinance that approves fines for local businesses that do not comply.

She discussed at this meeting, the point that only 2 signatures were signed on the Ordinance 2020-38 Elkhart County restated COVID-19 one was Commissioner Mike Yoder and the other was Auditor Patricia A. Pickens. Wenger wanted it on the record that Commissioner Mike Yoder is no longer a Commissioner and that would make the Ordinance invalid and the only other signature is the Auditor whose signature attests the Commissioners signature, not that she is necessarily in favor of the Ordinance.

### **AUDIENCE ITEMS**

Glenn Null discussed re-opening the building to the public.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion made by Riegsecker seconded by Graham to adjourn the meeting. By roll call vote, the Council's votes are as follows Hess-Aye, Wenger-Aye, Graham-Aye, Yohn-Absent, Riegsecker-Aye, Stump-Aye and Bujalski-Aye. With a vote of 6 to 0, the Council approved the request to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Cindy Chadwell  
Recording Secretary

A complete recording of this meeting is available in the Auditor's Office. The recording of this meeting will be available for one year and then erased.