

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2020

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Pope were present.

2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPEAL OF PLANING APPLICATION LUD 19-43; HEARING BODY DETERMINATION

Sidney Mulder, Planning Supervisor, informed the Board the Community Development received an application proposing to establish a Winery on a property that is located off of Zena Road and is within the Farm Forest Zoning District. On April 14, 2020 the Planning Director approved this application and a timely appeal was submitted by the Perrydale Domestic Water Association. When a land use application is appealed Polk County Zoning Ordinance section 111.280 requires the Board of Commissioners to determine the hearing body. The Board can choose to direct staff to schedule the public hearing in front of the Polk County Hearings Officer. That decision would then constitute the final local decision but would be subject to ratification on the Boards consent calendar. Alternatively, the Board could direct staff to schedule the hearing before the Board of Commissioners. Due to the technical nature of this application and the appeal staff recommends that the Board set the hearing before the Polk County Hearings Officer.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO ACCEPT STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND SET THE HEARING BEFORE THE POLK COUNTY HEARINGS OFFICER.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. RECLASSIFICATION

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification of an Application Support Specialist I, specifically for Jessie Trowbridge. He is requesting that she be reclassified to an Application Support Specialist II position. Jessie has already begun performing the duties of this position. If approved this change will be effective May 1, 2020 and if it had been for a full 12 month period during this fiscal year it would be an approximate increase of \$3,600 including PERS contributions.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATION OF AN APPLICATION SUPPORT SPECIALIST I TO AN APPLICATION SUPPORT SPECIALIST II.

5. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

a) BUSINESS OWNER TESTIMONY

Jackie Lawson, Dallas City Counselor, explained that she was not coming to the Board as a City Counselor but as a citizen, residing at 569 SW Walnut Ave in Dallas. Mrs. Lawson introduced her husband David Lawson who was there with her and informed the Board that he is a RN. Mrs. Lawson proceeded to read the letter of testimony that she prepared and provided copies to the Board. In her testimony Mrs. Lawson expressed that as a business owner who has been drastically affected by the Governor order to shut down her gym. Her business is 40% down from last year and fears that she will not be able to recover. Ms. Lawson provided other statistics regarding increasing mental health calls and other crimes that have increased since the shutdown order. She asked that the Board follow through with the signing off plan that was proposed in the framework of the Governors re-opening plan and let Dallas business open back up. It is her understanding that we have plenty of PPE and that the Governors inability to give any time frames and hope for our community has her concerned. She stated that the Executive Order the Governor put in place was for 60 days and the Oregon

Constitutional Article 10A section 6 limits the length of time the Governor is allowed to have such broad emergency powers to 30 days unless the legislative assembly is convened prior to the expiration of that 30 days and votes to extend those powers beyond the 30 days.

David Lawson stated that he also owns World Gym and is a licensed Registered Nurse with 20 years emergency medical experience and serves on the BOPTA Board for Polk County. Mr. Lawson stated that he was put on a list to be called in to work as an RN at the West Valley Hospital in case there was a large influx of COVID-19 infections. He was never called or needed and knows some of his peers that do work there have been sent home on furlough because there were not enough patients. He went over some statistics that he got from the Oregon Health Board and in Polk County there was one death and he was elderly and had preexisting illnesses. Polk County has a population of 86,085 people and there have been 38 cases reported, which is a .00044%. He believes that the deaths and cases don't justify the measures that have been taken and that social distancing was in place at his gym and other places and worked. In his opinion the lockdown is a political move and not based on science and not born by the statistics and encouraged the Board to look at the statistics as well. Mrs. Lawson added that all except one business owner she has spoken to has said they would be comfortable opening their business.

Commissioner Pope thanked them for coming to give their perspectives. He stated that he has been trying to figure out how we can meet the gating guidelines and the core preparedness under CDC and push back on the limitations that Oregon is trying to put on the CDC guidelines. He believes the CDC guidelines are adequate and is working with team members to make sure we have our proposal in place and ready to go to the Governor's office soon. He has also had conversations with other counties about how to collaborate and compare plans with each other. He said he is anticipating more information on the limitations later today and also Thursday they are laying out a plan for personal services.

b) ANNEX FAÇADE UPDATE

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, informed the Board that we are out to bid right now for the Annex Façade and the bid closure date is May 14th. There was a mistake on the original bid that was put out that was corrected.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:32 am.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: May 5, 2020