

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 9, 2021**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

**2. MINUTES:**        **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE**

Sheriff Mark Garton informed the Board of the various fundraisers his office will be involved in this holiday season that will help bring toys to kids who otherwise might receive them. The S.A.L.T team in going through an academy training and will have a graduation at the end of the month. I.S. will be updating the cameras in the jail because they are on the verge of being completely inoperable. Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, stated that the cost associated with this replacement is approximately \$800,000.

The Sheriff discussed the fact that all law enforcement agencies are having a difficult time recruiting and maintaining staff levels, largely due to the decrease in applicants. The Sheriff will provide the Board with a proposal that will include some incentives he believes may help bring in and keep more quality applicants. Commissioner Pope added that whatever the effort is that is has to be sustainable.

**4. COMMUNITY CARD PROGRAM**

Shawn Irvine, with the City of Independence, appeared before the Board to request that they support and participate in a Polk County Community Card program that would incentivize Polk County residents to shop local and support local businesses. Mr. Irvine stated that each city will be funding \$5,000 to help get the program started and to promote the program. He asked that the Board also contribute \$5,000 to cover the cost of the card fee which is \$1 per card plus 3% of the balance put on the card. Mr. Irvine discussed how the program works and how it was successful in Harney County. The program is ran through a website called "Yiftee" and they also offer customer service for individuals having trouble using or processing the card.

The Commissioners deliberated on the possible benefits and the possible downfalls of implementing this program right now. Greg Hansen, Administrative Office pointed out that because they are in the process of hiring a Business Development Coordinator it might be better to wait until the position has been filled in order to get their professional opinion on the program versus other programs that exist that might be better suited for the cause.

The Commissioners agreed that at this time they do not want to participate in this program. They would like to be kept informed of the progress and they will keep an open mind for possible participation in the future.

**5. PLANNING COMMISSION INTERVIEW**

Michael Burton, Dallas resident, was interviewed for a position on the Planning Commission. The Commissioners inquired about Mr. Burton's beliefs regarding land use issues in Polk County, as well as government regulations. Mr. Burton responded that he believes people should be able to do what they want when they buy land and that it is very important to consider all factors before changing the zoning for a particular piece of land. He considers wetlands, transportation, and economic development the most important land issues facing Polk County over the next four years.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPOINTED MICHEAL BURTON TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.**

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

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.