

# Vermillion County Council

## Special Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to Order. The Vermillion County Council convened in a special meeting on Monday, April 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.
- III. Roll Call. Members present were President Michael Carty, Brent Bush, Ashley James, Randy Dreher, Jill Wesch, James McLain Robert Spence, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson and Council Attorney Scott Craig. Auditor Amy Tolbert was absent.
- IV. Vermillion County Fair Grandstand. The Council discussed the money needed to finish funding the grandstand at the Cayuga Park. Vice President of the Cayuga Town Board Albert Clark told the Council that the town's insurance carrier had agreed to pay \$1.3 million toward the replacement of the grandstand. Clark said \$90,000.00 in donations have been received toward the project. Clark said the low bid was \$1.9 million, but the town has been working with the low bidder, John Major, and has been able to lower the cost to approximately \$1.7 million. He said \$200,000.00 more is needed to completely fund the project. Clark presented figures provided by Becky Holbert from the Purdue Extension Office; he said that during the fair about 1,500 people per day visit the fairgrounds, for a total of 10,500 people over the seven days of the fair. Clark said in addition, a live animal fair is held which draws around 800 people and three demolition derbies which draw 1,000 to 1,200 people each and the Fourth of July fireworks which draw around 800 people. Clark also said that in the early 2000's, the grandstand was also used for concerts and go-kart races, and if the grandstand is built he thinks it will be put to good use. Dreher asked if the numbers presented reflected use of the grandstand, or just attendance at the fair. Clark said that it was only for attendance. He said the new grandstand will have a capacity of 1,500 that is the same as the old one. Dreher also asked about restrooms in the plans for the grandstand, Clark said they are now required by the state, and the grandstand also has to be handicap-accessible. Clark said the original plan called for the grandstand to be made of poured concrete, but costs were reduced by changing to block and steel, and from a gabled roof to a sloped roof. John Michael Major told the Council that if they company receives a letter of intent for the project; they can lock in prices for materials with their suppliers. He said if the project is rebid, due to increased prices resulting from new tariffs, the price will increase 10 to 15 percent. Spence asked if the entrance will be at the center of the grandstand, and Clark said the main entrance would be at the center, with exits at each end also. James asked if there would be an effort to bring more events to the grandstand, and Clark said he believed there would be. He said it will have a 30 x 60 foot stage in front that could be used for events such as concerts. Dreher asked about the town's contribution, and Clark said there is only \$30,000.00 in the park fund, but the town will probably end up contributing around \$50,000.00 in labor and material. Dreher asked about the possibility of loaning money for the project, rather than giving it to the town. Carty said he liked that idea, and said that while it is important to keep the fair going, the park belongs to Cayuga, and his concern is that if the county gives money to Cayuga that every other town would also be asking for money for their projects. Clark said we won't do a loan that he can't guarantee. He said the town is still paying on loans for the sewer system, and he said he's not comfortable obligating the town to another loan. Wesch asked if donations had come mainly from the Cayuga area or throughout the county, and Clark said they had come from the entire county. Bush asked if the town could use its certified shares money from the newly enacted Local Income Tax, and Clark said Cayuga only received about \$50,000.00. Carty suggested that the town could commit \$5,000.00 of that to repaying the county from year to year.

Wesch asked if the town had approached the Economic Development Council about the project. Clark said they hadn't. Wesch said that the project would fall under the Economic Development Council community development efforts, and might be a good project for them in that regard.

The Council acknowledged that they could not act as there was no appropriation request for them to act on. Carty said the request would need to come from the Commissioners.

It was also stated that there were several sources, including the general fund, the rainy day fund and the certified shares tax money, from which the money could be taken if the council decides to do so. James suggested that, if a request is received, it be advertised from multiple funds, in order to give the Council options in funding the grandstand.

The Council stated they would like to hear input from residents regarding whether or not they support the request.

V. Adjourn.

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by Spence, seconded by Wesch. All in favor, motion carried.

**AYE**

**NAY**

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Michael Carty, President

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Randy Dreher, Vice President

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William Brent Bush

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Ashley James

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James McLain

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Jill Wesch

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Robert Spence

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ATTEST:

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Amy Tolbert, Auditor