

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2007
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, January 4, 2007 at 8:30 am in the County Council/Commissioners Courtroom. The purpose of the meeting was for election of officers, reorganization, appointments to boards and commissions and liaison appointments. Also, any other business to come before the Council.

Attending: Paula S. Hughes, President; Cal S. Miller, Patt L. Kite, Darren E. Vogt, Roy Buskirk and Maye Johnson.

Also Attending: Lisa Blosser, Auditor; Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy Auditor; Jackie Scheuman, Finance Manager; Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant and Commissioner Nelson Peters.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by President Paula Hughes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paula Hughes: I would first like to take the opportunity to introduce our newest County Council member, Maye Johnson. She is newly elected to the first district. Welcome.

Maye Johnson: Thank you.

Paula Hughes: I will turn it over to our Auditor Lisa Blosser for the election of officers.

Lisa Blosser: Good morning. I will entertain nominations for County Council President.

Paula Hughes: I nominate Paul Moss.

Darren Vogt: Second that.

Lisa Blosser: Do I hear any other nominations? I need a motion to close nominations.

Paula Hughes: So moved.

Darren Vogt: Second.

Lisa Blosser: All in favor of Paul Moss for Allen County Council President. Motion passed 7-0. Paul Moss will be Allen County Council President for 2007. Now, I will entertain nominations for Vice President.

Cal Miller: Move to nominate Roy Buskirk for Vice President of Allen County Council for 2007.

Patt Kite: I'll second.

Lisa Blosser: Do I hear any other nominations?

Cal Miller: Move to close the nominations for Vice President.

Darren Vogt: Second.

Lisa Blosser: All in favor of Roy Buskirk for Vice President. Motion passed 7-0. Congratulations.

Paul Moss: I do want to say thank you to everybody. Certainly appreciate it and am looking forward to 2007 and hopefully it will be a productive year. I also need to say that there are some pretty large shoes to fill. I have only experienced two Council Presidents in my time on Council and Paula Hughes and Darren Vogt have both done a tremendous job. The bar has been set quite high in my opinion. I will do my best not to fail. We need to talk a little bit about boards and commissions. I apologize right off the bat here because I have been out of town for the last week and just got in late last night. It appears that a couple of these need to be tabled, if my understanding is correct, and I assume we can do that until the next meeting. They are the Alcohol Beverage Commission. The gentleman that is currently in that appointment has asked not to be reappointed. Also, Grabill Economic Development Commission...

Paula Hughes: President Moss, I have a comment on both of those, since I was in town this past week. I have a candidate nomination for the Alcohol Beverage Commission and the first meeting of the Commission is next Monday. They meet twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays at 9:30 a.m. They said they normally are done by noon. It is a one year appointment. I would like to propose Michael Robert Mattingly and will pass around his bio.

Cal Miller: Is he here today?

Paula Hughes: He is not here today because I wasn't sure how you wanted to proceed with that.

Paul Moss: So the next meeting is next Monday?

Paula Hughes: Yes, next Monday, the eighth. I also have had multiple conversations with the Town Council members and the Chamber President in Grabill about their Economic Development Commission. The Economic Development Commission in Grabill does not meet frequently at all. When I talked to Wilmer Delagrangue about it, he said he wasn't sure if he could remember the last time they met. We are still drilling into the exact function. We know that the reason the County Council has an appointment to that Commission is that they approve bonds which can be property tax backed bonds and they approve tax abatements. I would offer and propose that because the Commission does not meet on a regular basis, it is going to be hard to find a citizen and keep them informed of what is going on. I would like the County Council to have a stronger tie with the community of Grabill and Grabill is in my district. I would offer that I would be happy to serve as the appointment to that Economic Development Commission to strengthen the ties between the community of Grabill and the Allen County Council and to maintain the oversight of a taxing authority.

Paul Moss: Having volunteerism such as that should be rewarded.

Cal Miller: I move to nominate Paula Hughes to the Grabill Economic Development Commission.

Darren Vogt: Second.

Roy Buskirk: I don't think we can because of her not residing in Grabill.

Cal Miller: Is that a requirement?

Paula Hughes: No, it is not a requirement. The last appointment didn't reside in Grabill.

Roy Buskirk: He moved out after the appointment.

Paula Hughes: But was reappointed.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Paula Hughes: The investigation we have done into the position, doesn't show that residency is a requirement.

Darren Vogt: The fact that they don't know when the last time was that they met, I am not sure that this appointment will have much to do with tax

abatements. We can do either one but I like the idea of having a Council member that understands tax abatements and what is going on with those and making helpful decisions. But to Councilman Buskirk's concern, I don't want to put someone there if there is some reason that they need to be a Grabill resident. We would have a very limited base to pull from if we had to do that every time. I can go either way on whatever you want to do.

Paul Moss: There is a motion on the floor. Was that motion seconded?

Patt Kite: I will second it. Or do we need to table it until we find out about the requirement?

Cal Miller: Based on the history that Councilwoman Hughes set forth of the person who was on it last was not living there when reappointed, and also the desire of Councilwoman Hughes to create a bond between Allen County Council and Grabill, I think they are valid reasons. If for some reason, a requirement does exist, we can take action later.

Patt Kite: Then my second stands.

Paul Moss: Any other comments or questions? All those in favor of Councilwoman Hughes being the appointment to the Grabill Economic Development Commission signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Buskirk). Thank you.

Paula Hughes: Thank you.

Patt Kite: Councilman Moss, I have also a candidate also who is interested in the Alcohol Beverage Commission. I have a bio on him and it is Dick Alfeld, who is the Chief Investigator for the Coroner's Office. He is involved in a lot of community things and a lot of boards and he expressed interest. I will pass the bio along and he is another candidate for consideration.

Paul Moss: We have some folks that are here as appointments to other boards and I want to be respectful of their time. What I would like to do, if it is okay with Council, you can digest the bios of the candidates and we can put that down to the bottom of the list here. We will go through these other appointments as quickly as we can. With that in mind, the Library Board, Jim Williams has served in that role quite capably and I don't see him here.

Becky Butler: Paul, he said he would be here closer to 9:00.

Paul Moss: Okay, then we will hold off on that one. I see that Mr. Rios is here from the Child Care Facility Board. My assumption is that he would like to

be reappointed to that. If you would like to make a few comments, you are welcome to do that. Please step forward.

Jesse Rios: Yes, I want to thank you all and appreciate the invitation. I am a County Council appointee on the Allen County Child Care Facilities Board. This will be my third year of participating in that. I enjoy participating in that and wish to continue that participation. I will address any questions you may have. We meet quarterly but there is a lot that happens in that period of time.

Cal Miller: Could you describe what you do as a board member and the decisions you make as part of the Child Care Facilities board?

Jesse Rios: Certainly. There are three functions out there, Youth Services, Kryder House and Yoder House. Essentially what that does is receive children from Allen County that have challenges whether they have been abused or are runaways or that nature. One of the things we addressed at our last meeting was parental visitations. Sometimes we take it for granted that parents want to come in and see their child but as board members, we need to understand the legality that we don't know the background of the parent-child relationship and why the child is there. Another thing we are working on is that some of the homes are not ADA compliant. The homes were built at a time when there was a gray area about that but now we understand that and as a board, we are looking at how we can address the needs that these homes have. That kind of gives you a background of the board. It is a working board. We all participate and bring ideas and that is what makes this invigorating. Some of the board members are from law enforcement, from administration and from education and they try to do what they can to lessen that blow of what these kids have been in. We try to get the kids to attend school on a regular basis and find them employment. Unfortunately, these kids have been dealt some bad cards and we try to show them that they are part of society.

Cal Miller: What is it, Mr. Rios, about this particular appointment that you enjoy and makes you well-suited to continue to participate as a board member? What makes you enthusiastic about being on this board?

Jess Rios: For me, I get to see a side that normally I don't see and I think from a culturalistic side, I can bring in an area of what is happening around and in the City of Fort Wayne that maybe some of the others don't see. I can interject those ideas and thoughts. I like to be on the board and grow with it because they let me bring those ideas to them.

Maye Johnson: Mr. Rios, what is the biggest challenge you face in doing this work?

Jesse Rios: Just trying to make sure that all of the kids that become part of Youth Services come in and are served properly. To make sure there is due course of process. They come in and are serviced and can go back and be part of the system again. One of the things that I see with the homes is that they provide an avenue for education. It is one thing to get them through middle school and high school but one of the challenges as a board member is to get them into college. As a board member, that is the challenge to show them that there is more past high school. The kids are intelligent but some things just (inaudible).

Maye Johnson: In your opinion, is the level of services available matching the need of the children and their families?

Jesse Rios: I guess like any other member, there can always be improvements in services but one of the things we hear is how to improve the court system. The kids come in and could be addressed immediately by the legal system and have actions take place and not be there for a period of time that is longer than what they need to be there for.

Paul Moss: Any other questions or comments?

Paula Hughes: Thank you for serving.

Jesse Rios: Thank you very much.

Paul Moss: Thank you.

Paula Hughes: Move to appoint Jesse Rios to the Child Care Facilities Board.

Maye Johnson: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

Roy Buskirk: Congratulations.

Paul Moss: Next on the list is the PTABOA Board. Is Judy Macon in the audience?

Judy Macon: Yes I am.

Paul Moss: We have two appointments to this board. One issue is the reappointment of Ms. Macon and the other is to appoint a replacement for Mrs. O'Day whom I believe cannot serve.

Paula Hughes: She already serves as Secretary to that board as the County Assessor. Becky and I both had conversations with her and she is looking for another appointment for us. I have not come up with one on my own. I don't know if other Council members have or not.

Paul Moss: How often do they meet?

Judy Macon: We meet very often depending on how many cases we have.

Paul Moss: So is it a critical need to get somebody appointed between now and our next Council meeting?

Judy Macon: We will need to have someone because we need to make sure we have a quorum at all times.

Roy Buskirk: There is one other issue that needs to be addressed that is that the board has to have two Democrats and two Republicans. The Commissioners have one appointment and we have two appointments. The appointment from the Commissioners or the second one from the Council needs to be a Democrat since O'Day is a Republican and you are a Democrat. Correct?

Judy Macon: Yes I am.

Paul Moss: So the Commissioners have not made their appointment yet?

Roy Buskirk: Correct. Nelson?

Nelson Peters: We have an appointment but I don't know if it is up this year.

Paula Hughes: I think they are annually.

Roy Buskirk: I think they are all annually appointed.

Nelson Peters: I know who our appointment is and if that appointment is up, it is our intent to reappoint that individual. I believe that individual is a Republican.

Paul Moss: Then it is safe to assume that we need to find a Democrat.

Roy Buskirk: Because O'Day replaced Love and she was a Democrat.

Paul Moss: Do you have any comments you would like to make or give us a brief overview of the PTABOA Board and your role on it?

Judy Macon: I can make a very brief comment. I am the President of the board right now and our board is very active in trying to make sure that the citizens are all treated fairly and that they have a chance to come before us and appeal their decisions. They don't come to us unless it is an appeal on their property taxes. We make sure that they understand that the value is set forth by marketing value and use in being determined for the value of the property. We make sure that everyone has a voice. If they are not satisfied, they can go on to the state level.

Paul Moss: So essentially your board deals with appeals with property tax assessments. That is the first step and if there is an additional appeal beyond that, they would move to the state level. Councilman Miller?

Cal Miller: Judy, I have never met you before but I have been hearing your name for about four years or so. I have heard great things about you. I didn't know if you were a Republican or a Democrat but that you were good at what you do. Could you give a little background as to your assessing experience and where you fit in certifications for assessing?

Judy Macon: I own my own real estate company, All Homes Real Estate. I have sold real estate for the last eighteen years. I have been on my own for the last eleven years. I sit on another board, the Fort Wayne Housing Authority Board. It deals with housing needs for people in our community. Basically, what I bring to the board is a common sense element. Everyone wants to complain and have a place to go to hear that complaint heard. I want to make sure that everyone knows that in regards to taxing and housing, I am here to listen. I have come from where they are at. As far as the levels of expertise, our board is full of people that have all of the input that we need. We have appraisers, we have Level 2 Specialists and we have all the information we need when the people get to us.

Cal Miller: So you come from the real estate end. I guess I didn't know that. How long have you served on the board?

Judy Macon: It has been almost five years now.

Cal Miller: All right. So the other folks on the board are certified in assessing. What is the element that you bring as a person with eighteen years

experience in real estate that would assist folks in understanding if the property value has been assessed appropriately?

Judy Macon: When we go out to assess anyone's home, the job is to have the comparable market analysis which is the information for all of the properties. The value of the home based on its location and I have that information available prior to coming to the board. I know what the values of most subdivisions are regardless of where they are located. When they come and say that my home is only worth \$40,000 and they are in Cherry Hill, I really think there is a difference.

Cal Miller: And since it seems that we have now moved towards a neighborhood factoring makes a lot of sense. Thanks for your comments.

Judy Macon: No problem.

Paul Moss: Thanks for your service. Are there any other comments or questions?

Paula Hughes: Judy, do you think there are any gaps in expertise or knowledge on the PTABOA Board? As we are looking for our second appointment, is there any area of expertise that you would suggest that we target?

Judy Macon: For the most part, we do have access to continuing education. If we could get someone else with the appraisal information or someone who knows the values of homes, that would be helpful.

Paula Hughes: So, someone who is involved in the real estate community?

Judy Macon: Right.

Paula Hughes: Through sales, appraisals, inspections...

Judy Macon: Even a surveyor. Someone who knows the land sizes and values.

Paula Hughes: I wonder if, with your background in residential real estate, you have a feel or sense for a percentage of your cases that are residential versus commercial.

Judy Macon: No I don't. Everyone in the City, since market value and use has an appeal that they need to set forth.

Paula Hughes: So you are seeing them all.

Judy Macon: Yes and we are trying to make sure that everyone understands that we are trying to treat them fairly and that this is not something that the City of Fort Wayne is trying to do to them.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: This reminded me that when I talked to the Assessor's Office, they brought up that they are checking with the state to see if the last person appointed needs to be a Level 2. Stacey is going to check on that. That is something that, between the Commissioners and the Council, we will have to keep in mind.

Paul Moss: I want to make sure I understand the process here. Is an individual, such as Ms. Macon going to submit some names or are we supposed to go out there and look for some folks?

Roy Buskirk: Stacey is working on it.

Paula Hughes: In the past, we worked with the County Assessor. If any of the Council members had a connection with somebody they felt would be appropriate, then we could look at them for the board. As long as they meet the requirements and this has a few more requirements than some of the others.

Paul Moss: I will make certain that I contact Stacey.

Darren Vogt: I would like to make the motion that we appoint to the PTABOA Board, Judy Macon.

Roy Buskirk: I'll second.

Paul Moss: Is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Thank you very much.

Cal Miller: Thank you for your service.

Judy Macon: Thank you.

Cal Miller: Along those lines, President Moss, I think we do need to get hold of Stacey O'Day to see what the best combination of talents and background to make the most effective PTABOA Board member. If she doesn't have anyone in mind, then maybe we can look and see if we know anyone who meets the criteria. Could you let us know what she says in terms of this?

Paul Moss: Yes I will. Next on our list is Woodburn Economic Development and I believe Clarence Reichert is here. Would you please join us for a few moments and let us know your thoughts on how things are going in Woodburn?

Clarence Reichert: I am the past Mayor and the current Mayor as well as one of the Council members is on the Economic Development Commission. We meet and discuss stuff and we use the County to approve our plans when we want to have an addition developed. We have water and sewer service available. We have the industrial park on the north side of town on 101. We have been trying to develop it and we have four different businesses in there now. They are light commercial and it is not for heavy commercial. The new project with Highway 24 will be within a mile of the industrial park which will help with development. Our biggest concern right now is the intersection of 101 and new Highway 24. They are looking to make it at grade level like it is currently and we have so many accidents there. We have been in contact with the state to see if we can make it a cloverleaf. That would be safer than a crossroads intersection. Otherwise, we haven't had anything in particular going on. We have had a couple of people inquire about development in town but nobody has bought the land yet. That is about all I have to comment about.

Paul Moss: Could you describe the interaction between you and the Fort Wayne-Allen County Economic Development Alliance?

Clarence Reichert: We have been trying to get more interaction with the Council so that they know what is going on in the City of Woodburn.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing that you brought up, Clarence is concerning the hand-out that I gave Council this morning. This has information in it about how you can contact the state and has to be turned in by January 12th. I mentioned this in our meeting in December and told you I would get this to you at the next meeting. I encourage the public and Council members to contact the state because of the concern of the at-grade interchanges along all of the intersections on the new road. It was originally designed for cloverleaf interchanges and because of cost they have eliminated all of them. The one at 101 and 24 is a great concern of yours and mine also. They have designed it now with a stoplight and with the anticipation within the next twenty years of improving it. I am not sure if not a full cloverleaf but at least a diamond interchange. I encourage each Council member to contact the state before January 12th and express your concerns for safety. You also have a lot of Amish in that area and because of it being a four-lane road it will be more difficult for them to cross. Because of closing many of the current crossroads, it is going to put more traffic on the crossroads that remain. They are

acquiring the right-of-way at the present time. They are just not installing the bridges or diamond interchanges.

Clarence Reichert: There was a comment at the meeting about getting the right-of-way and holding it for twenty years and not developing. Our concern is why wait? Construction costs will be higher and if they wait twenty years to put in a cloverleaf or some other type of intersection, why don't they do it when they build it new while they have the right-of-way?

Roy Buskirk: And the road is designed for interstate and you are going to have at-grade crossings.

Clarence Reichert: The first project that they are proposing this to build it from the state line to half mile west of 101. That is the first phase. Construction would be in 2008. Things are moving pretty fast. In the past, I have encouraged people in the Chamber meetings etc. to do it like when 469 was built and they took it to Minnick Road and improved Minnick Road.

Paul Moss: Are there any other questions or comments?

Paula Hughes: I just wanted to thank Mr. Reichert for his service. Thanks for coming to see us.

Clarence Reichert: Thank you.

Cal Miller: Move for approval of the appointment for Clarence Reichert to the Woodburn Economic Development.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Paul Moss: Is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0. I believe Mr. Williams for the Library Board is here. Jim Williams has served on that board as our appointment for four years now. My assumption is that you wish to remain on that board and this is a pretty interesting time to do so.

Jim Williams: January 27th is when the new library opens.

Paul Moss: Any comments you would like to make, we would certainly appreciate them.

Jim Williams: I try to keep the Council up on all activities throughout the year with a couple of mailings. Basically I have gone over the activities over the last four years and the financial statements of the library have cleared.

The major work of upgrading eleven branches and also the completion of the downtown building has gone definitely on budget but almost on time also. They are to be commended for that. I have been happy with the appointment and would like to continue with another term.

Cal Miller: Mr. Williams thanks for your service. What is it about this appointment that you enjoy and some of the achievements?

Jim Williams: It gives me the opportunity to stay involved with the community. It also gives me the opportunity to lend some of my talents towards the new library and the board in areas of organizational development and keeping the financial side of the library intact.

Cal Miller: I do appreciate the library newsletters you send out.

Paula Hughes: My question was, when are they officially re-opening the downtown branch?

Jim Williams: January 27th.

Paul Moss: The satellite facilities' renovations are complete?

Jim Williams: All complete.

Paul Moss: So the downtown is the final one. I have one question. With your experience on the board, can you give me an idea of what you believe to be the primary measure to gauge the success of the library? Is it in terms of visits, books checked out? What is the number that somebody, who is not intimately familiar in the library operations and in your opinion, considers the most important number to gauge the success?

Jim Williams: We are updated monthly on the number of visits for that particular month in comparison to prior years. We also look at all of the different branches. I can't give you the number right now but I can make sure that you get a copy of it. Patronage is definitely a concern. With the closings of different branches, while they were under construction, and when they open up, will they come back? I can say that in all branches that have re-opened, the patronage has increased. Some of that has been because one branch will close and then people will go back to their home branch when it re-opens. Now that all of the branches are open, the patronage is up. They are hoping that the downtown branch will continue in that same step.

Maye Johnson: Mr. Williams, I have had the experience to attend a great number of meetings at the Hanna-Creighton location and it would seem that

there is always a waiting list for the computers. Is that the norm for all of the branches? It just seems to be a very high number of people utilizing that branch.

Jim Williams: Computer usage is definitely up and at all branches, when the computers were upgraded, the quantity of computers was increased. Yes, we are seeing that through all branches. Steps are being taken to try and mitigate waiting times by having reservation times at different branches. That seems to help.

Roy Buskirk: I think the last report that I saw on the downtown library said something about a little over two million visitations.

Jim Williams: At the downtown branch.

Roy Buskirk: Yes.

Jim Williams: Placed in that temporary building with the lack of adequate parking is something to be looked at. We will have more parking and foresee nothing but increase.

Paul Moss: The public has invested a lot of money in the library system and I certainly hope that attendance continues to increase. Thank you for your service and I don't know if there are any other questions or comments but I entertain a motion to reappoint Mr. Williams.

Patt Kite: I move to retain Mr. Williams to the Library Board.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Paul Moss: Is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

Jim Williams: I look forward to representing you for the next four years.

Cal Miller: Thank you.

Paula Hughes: Thank you.

Paul Moss: Our appointments to the Library Board are staggered, are they not?

Paula Hughes: Yes.

Paul Moss: Well, we tabled the Grabill Economic Development appointment.

Patt Kite: No we didn't.

Paula Hughes: No.

Cal Miller: Paula is going to serve.

Paul Moss: That is right. I am sorry. I apologize. We do want to talk about the ABC appointment and I want to make a quick comment before we go too much further on this. Last year, when we made these appointments, I had a bit of an interest in serving on this board. It seems like an interesting process and something I did have an interest in at the time. But we had an individual who had participated on that for a number of years and had served well. I am still interested in and willing to do that however it is not something that I am clamoring for. Having said that, I would like to have some feedback and perspective, from the people that are affected by the decisions of the ABC, prior to making this appointment. I will do what is the pleasure of the Council is but my preference is to hold off on this even though we have a bit of a timeline.

Cal Miller: I second that preference because I would like to have both gentlemen come before Council. Looking at the resumes of both individuals, they are impressive for different reasons. Dick Alfeld is of interest to me because of all of the policing background that he has had and probably has a very good sense of the dangers associated with alcohol. That could assist in guiding the board as to who is permitted to sell it and all of those things. From that standpoint, I think his background is very interesting. I would like to hear a little bit more about what the board's authority is, what they do and what impact they have. Then we could make a more informed decision about the appropriate choice. If we need to have a member in place, I wonder if we can make a motion for a temporary...

Paula Hughes: Interim.

Cal Miller: Interim, yes thank you. Go right ahead, you want to finish my thought?

Paula Hughes: No.

Cal Miller: An interim position on the board to get through the first meeting. If that is something that is needed.

Paul Moss: Is our current appointment willing to do that?

Lisa Blosser: I don't think so. He is retiring.

Cal Miller: President Moss, if you are willing to serve in an interim role, maybe you could go to the first meeting. I would be in favor of making sure we have our bases covered. Then we could talk to these individuals about their backgrounds and what they could bring to an important role such as this.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing that I can see is that there is a tremendous amount of time commitment to this.

Darren Vogt: In the past, when we have had multiple people interested in something, we set up a sub-committee. When we appointed Ms. Fleck to the Library Board, we met with several people. I would make the suggestion that we do that with anyone else. I don't know that during a Council session is the appropriate place to do it but maybe in our conference room we could interview them.

Roy Buskirk: For a temporary solution to this, I make a motion that Paul Moss serve as the temporary appointment to this Commission.

Paul Moss: I am fine with that and I appreciate it but again, this is not something that I am clamoring for. I am more than happy to have one of these individuals do this on a more permanent basis. I am willing to go to that meeting and it might prove to be illuminating for me as to whether it is something that I would be interested in or not. I could then also provide some information to these two individuals to make sure their interest continues.

Cal Miller: Second the motion, then.

Roy Buskirk: I don't want to railroad you into this but I call for the question.

Paul Moss: **All in favor of an interim appointment of me to the Alcohol Beverage Commission signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0.** So the next issue is how we are going deal with Mr. Mattingly and Mr. Alfeld in terms of which would be most suitable for the more permanent appointment.

Paula Hughes: If I could interject, I like Councilman Vogt's suggestion that we do it in a less formal environment than at the Council table. It would be nice to have a meeting with those gentlemen before our next Council meeting. We could then make the appointment at the next Council meeting. Perhaps, you could ask at the meeting on the 8th, the State Excise Police really run the

Commission, if they would have someone who could come and talk to the candidates about what is required of them.

Cal Miller: The only piece of the puzzle that would be missing for me is that I really don't know what they do. I would like more background on that so we can have that when we look at the people that are interested. After your meeting on Monday, could you disseminate a letter giving us your understanding of the structure is and the decisions they make?

Paul Moss: When is the next meeting after the 8th?

Paula Hughes: It would be the fourth Monday which is the 22nd.

Roy Buskirk: I think we ought to be able to make a decision on this at our next Council meeting.

Darren Vogt: Council there may not be time between now and then to get these folks to meet with us. We have an interim at this point and I am not sure that we want to rush to make the appointment.

Paul Moss: That is my concern as well. That is what I would suggest and after that meeting I will talk with Mr. Mattingly and Mr. Alfeld and if Mr. Buskirk would be willing, and anybody else that would have an interest, you could have a phone conversation with them. From a timing standpoint, that may be the best way instead of trying to get a committee together and schedules together could be a little difficult. If that is an acceptable approach to everybody, then that would be my suggestion.

Cal Miller: That would be acceptable to me as long as we have that information from you.

Paul Moss: And you will have that Tuesday of next week.

Cal Miller: Great.

Paul Moss: Is there anybody in the audience that would like to make a comment about the Alcohol Beverage Commission? That takes care of our appointments to boards and commissions. The next issue that we have to deal with here is the liaison assignments. I had hoped that this wouldn't be terribly difficult and I don't think that it will be. I have come up with some suggested assignments and is based on the point system that Councilwoman Hughes had developed and seems to work very well. I looked at the Council assignments from 2006, moved some things around, didn't make a whole lot of adjustments but did obviously recognize the fact that we have a new

Council member. I have had a few comments from folks indicating a few particular liaison appointments that they are interested in. My only comment is that I don't want to get too bogged down in who has which liaison appointments. I do believe that continuity is relatively important. My preference is that I would like to pass this list out to you and if you could contact me in regards to the appointments. I would like you to look at this as a proposed list but please get back with me as quickly as possible. I would like to have this done before the next Council meeting. I don't think it is appropriate to discuss all of this at this meeting. I would like to say one more time that I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this role. Councilwoman Hughes did an awfully good job for 2006 and it will be difficult to follow that but I am looking forward to it. We have a lot of issues before us in 2007 and look forward to the next Council meeting.

Cal Miller: I make a motion to waive the second reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of January 4, 2007.

Darren Vogt: Second.

Paul Moss: All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.

Darren Vogt: Motion to adjourn.

Cal Miller: Second.

Paul Moss: All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.

The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2007 at 8:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.