

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A JOINT SESSION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M. ASLO IN ATTENDANCE WERE MEMBERS OF THE MARTINSVILLE CITY COUNCIL AND MARTINSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT WERE DON ADAMS, KENNY HALE AND BRYAN COLLIER. COUNCIL MEMBERS PESENT WERE KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, KELLY ALCALA, JASON MAXWELL, TROY SPRINKLE, AND CHIP KELLER. DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; DAN BASTIN, COUNTY AUDITOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY WERE ALSO PRESENT. PAUL PRATHER WAS ABSENT.

PLEDGE.

INTRODUCTIONS

After introducing the members of the Board of Commissioners and members of the County Council, Mayor Kenny Costin introduced John Lillywhite (RDC), Gary Oaks, Al Myers (RDC) Dakota VanLeeuwen (attorney), Dair Grant (RDC), Phil Deckard I, Phil Deckard II, Rich Grizwold (Redevelopment Authority), Ann Miller, Suzy Lipps, Mac Dunn (City Superintendent), and Michelle Baugh (RDC). Brandon Schreeg with Kimley Horn was also present.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN DISCUSSION

Josh Messmer stated that the City would like to move forward with Phases 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the Downtown Action Plan and asked if the county plans to participate in what the city is doing, and if so, to what level.

Kim Merideth stated that she would like to say they would be in, but not at the price that was presented at the prior meeting. The county has other priorities and asked if the city would want the county to participate if it were scaled back. Mayor Costin stated that he liked the concept, but was not sold on the cost. They will do their due diligence as elected officials and obtain quotes or bids. Phases 1 and 2 are to redo the alley off of Morgan Street going north to Pike, purchasing several lots, and installing a stage in that area. Phases 3 and 4 fall on the county for updates at the Courthouse and parking around the square. Phases 5 and 6 (resurfacing Main and Morgan Streets) will be done when the INDOT project is finished. There will also be two new stop lights that INDOT will place at Morgan and Main and Washington and Main. The city will then need to decide if Jefferson should be changed back to a one-way street going north, or continue as a one-way street going south. They will also need to determine parking conditions for Morgan Street. They would like to have the stage area phase complete in time for the 2022 bicentennial. The city is currently in the process of obtaining an environmental study for the lots and they are unable to move forward until that is accomplished. The Martinsville Redevelopment Commission had paid the \$650,000 in expenses so far through bonds. According to the plan, the cost for Phases 3 and 4 is \$8.3 million. Kim Merideth stated that see couldn't see committing to that number. In speaking with her constituents, there has already been a lot of construction downtown and local businesses are hurting. Mayor Costin stated that merchants downtown have been subject to a lot this past year.

Dakota Vanleeuwen stated that there are security reasons why the layout makes sense. Inmates and the public are all using the same door and it is not safe and not how most courthouses are used.

Chip Keller stated that both the city and the county have to budget for their needs. This project was started in an effort to bring Martinsville into a 21st century city that will attract the best and brightest to live in Martinsville. The city has been stagnant for 30 years. After reviewing the needs the county has, the county cannot commit to a project at this cost; however, he would like to see the plan move forward as it is a worthwhile project. It will increase the interest in downtown, which will be good for the tax base and the businesses downtown.

Vickie Kivett noted that the Morgan County RDC will be paying back a \$1.8 million loan to the county in 2021 and asked if this would be enough to work with if the plan is scaled back. John Lillywhite stated that he would like to see a start on it or they will just be getting further behind. Josh Messmer stated that there is a shift in the way people find a place to live; people move to where they want to live and find a job secondarily.

Vickie Kivett asked if they could meet with a committee to eliminate some of the costs. Brandon Schreeg stated that they could meet in a joint steering committee to move forward. Bryan Collier

stated that the committee could review the cost breakdown. There are several needs at the Courthouse and while the lawn is dug up for these projects, that could be the time to combine the county projects with the Downtown Action Plan to find some cost savings. Mr. Collier stated that the plan lists the costs for Phases 1 and 2 at \$4.7 million and asked what the city anticipates the costs to be. Gary Oaks stated that they expect to bring it in at \$2.5 to \$3 million. Bryan Collier stated that he felt the county should be on board, but within reason.

The steering committee members were Josh Messmer, Craig Fenneman, Kenny Hale, Ryan Goodwin, Michelle Moore, Laura Parker, Jason King, Chip Keller, Lisa Arnold, John Badger, Pam Hurst and. Chip Keller noted that there has been a fair amount of turnover and suggested that the committee be updated. Dakota VanLeeuwen listed the following additional members: Jason Maxwell, Gary Oakes, Bryan Collier, and Don Lipps for an updated board of 13 members.

ADJOURNMENT

Kenny Hale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried.

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Don Adams

Attest:

Kenny Hale

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

Bryan Collier

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Merideth

Vickie Kivett

Paul Prather

Kelly Alcala

Troy Sprinkle

Jason Maxwell

ATTEST:

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

Chip Keller