

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**July 13, 2021**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Present:</b>
Matt Miller	At Large		Present
Bill Lentz	At Large	Pro-Tem	Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large		Present
R. Scott Bonnell	District 1	President	Present
Greg Duke	District 2		Present
Mark E. Gorbett	District 3		Present
Jorge R. Morales	District 4		Present
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Present
Pia O'Connor	Auditor	Secretary	Present

The Bartholomew County Council met on July 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Bonnell called the meeting to order.

Bill Lentz gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes for June 29, 2021. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was Public Hearings regarding the Economic Revitalization Area Request within the “Bartholomew County I-65/US 31 Industrial Park” as presented by

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Jason Hester with the Greater Columbus Economic Development Board. Mr. Hester stated that tonight is for the Public Hearing and then to vote on a Confirmatory Resolution. This will allow tax abatement requests. There are two of these for tonight. Attorney Monroe stated that the last Resolution was that they would look into it and tonight the Resolution is stating that they are going to do it. President Bonnell opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting and asked for any Public input. There being no comments, the Public Hearing portion of the meeting was closed. Greg Duke asked about the property that is adjacent to this that is for sale. He asked if this ERA would cut in and out of some of the already existing industry. Mr. Hester had the map displayed and stated that the ERA area is the large pink area as shown on the map. There has been some development already in this area, such as the outlet mall. Greg Duke asked how this would affect Mr. Hester's job. Mr. Hester stated that it makes his job much easier as the steps are in place to get "time to market" much shorter. Mark E. Gorbett stated that this will allow the companies to request abatements without having to create an ERA each time. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to Approve the Confirmatory Resolution for the Economic Revitalization Area Request as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed 6-1 with Greg Duke being the dissenting vote.**

The next item was the Request for the Approval of Statement of Benefits Schedule and Abatement for Georg Utz, Inc. as presented by Mr. Hester, George Utz Finance Manager Penny Grubbs and President of Georg Utz America Mike Chiado. They are requesting an abatement for 10 years for Real Estate and 5 years for Personal Property for

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an investment of Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked about what type of energy efficient building. Mr. Chiado stated they will build the roof to support solar panels at a later date. Bill Lentz asked about the mechanics of the tax abatement within a TIF area. Mr. Hester stated that the existing taxes collected prior to the TIF are still distributed among all the taxing units. The new taxes raised from the new real property will stay within the TIF while any increases in personal property taxes will be distributed to the other units. Bill Lentz is concerned about tax abatements and TIF Bonds. Mr. Hester stated that he would not advise the County to bond if there were not enough funds being generated to make the bond payments. He stated that every homeowner gets an “abatement” through the Homestead Deductions but it is not for 10 years, it is for the life of the owner. Businesses pay up to 3 times what homeowners pay based on the CAPs that were established by the State Legislature. This employer is currently employing 108 employees and planning to hire another 46. Jorge R. Morales stated that we have given Georg Utz abatements in the past and that they have met their commitments each time. Attorney Monroe stated that he believes we may have granted abatements without ERA’s being established. Chris West, Tax Administrator for the Auditor’s Office stated that there had been ERA’s passed on a by parcel basis per each request. No abatements have been given by the County without an ERA being established first. Mark E. Gorbett asked who sets the length of the abatement. Mr. Hester stated that they could do 20 years. The County Council has generally granted real estate abatements for 10 years and personal property abatements for 5 years. George Utz has met or exceeded their plans every time they have received an

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abatement. The only exception was in 2008 when the economy down turn hit, yet they revised their plans and have continued to grow. Mr. Hester stated that they will be filing yearly compliance reports with the Auditor's Office if the abatement is granted. Mark E. Gorbett asked if they were confident that they could hire the additional 46 people. Ms. Grubbs stated they do have some openings at this time and workers are becoming difficult to get. If they need to, they will increase their wages to meet the market amounts to get and retain personnel. President Bonnell asked about the current wages and staff. Mr. Hester stated that they are currently at 108 employees at \$24.44 average per hour. The County median is \$19.60 per hour. Greg Duke asked about the building. Mr. Chiado stated that the additional space will allow additional area for manufacturing and thus additional output. It will also allow them to place their North American Headquarters office in this building. The only location in the US is this one. Greg Duke asked how much money had Georg Utz put into the community with their continuing abatements. Chris West stated that this year alone they are paying over \$69,000 in property taxes. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to approve the Statement of Benefits and Abatement as presented for 5 years on personal property and 10 years for real estate with the schedules that were presented for Georg Utz, Inc. as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed 5-2 with Greg Duke and Bill Lentz as the dissenting votes.**

The next item was the Request for the Approval of Statement of Benefits Schedule and Abatement for Force Holdings as presented by Mr. Hester, Harold Force, David Force, and Clayton Force. Mr. Hester stated that we are missing opportunities every year due to

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a lack of available commercial buildings. Mr. Force presented a summary presentation (See attached presentation). He stated that an industrial shell building can draw many prospective companies. This project will be their 4<sup>th</sup> shell building in Bartholomew County. It saves time and offers advantages for potential businesses. We currently do not have any available buildings. This would be on the Northwest corner of the intersection of 800 N and 250 W. It will be a 50,000 square foot building but can be easily expanded. He appreciates the Council approving the ERA as it will help streamline the process. The next slide showed that they are not requesting TIF money, EDIT money, free land or public subsidy of interest cost. They want this project to stand on its own. They are prepared to invest approximately \$3,700,000 into this project. They have requested a modified tax abatement to have more of it in the last years. They are asking to receive 95% for the first five years. The abatement would then step down to 80%, 60%, 40%, 20% and finally 10%. There is no request for any personal property abatement. Mr. Hester stated that with the customized schedule, the parcel is currently taxed at \$179 per year. Even with the customized schedule, it will increase to \$1,000 per year. He explained that the 10-year estimate is collection of \$65,874 with year 11 being \$20,912 per year. Mark E. Gorbett asked if there is an average on how long a shell building sits vacant? Mr. Force stated that their first shell building took 2.5 years to fill. Their next one was available for about a year. There is data of some buildings that have gone well beyond 5 years. Mark E. Gorbett asked if a company came in and wanted to expand, would that company have to come back for another abatement. Mr. Hester stated that he was correct. Mr. Force stated that shell

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buildings attract businesses, even businesses that may not purchase the shell but rather build their own building near the shell. Matt Miller asked if they had ever had anyone not want to build next to a shell building because it has sat vacant and maybe un-kept. Mr. Hester stated no. He stated that it is like a lure in the water that attracts other businesses. We are missing out on multiple opportunities. Jorge R. Morales stated that he has sat on the Greater Columbus Economic Development Commission. During his time, they had 3 companies contact them and they all walked away. Force had a shell building in Walesboro that was filled in 2 years. The increase of jobs increases our tax base. This is one more tool. **Mark E Gorbett motioned to approve the Statement of Benefits and Abatement as presented for 10 years for real estate with the stated schedule for Force Holdings as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed 6-1 with Bill Lentz as the dissenting vote.**

The next item was a Presentation regarding Adult Substance Abuse Addiction as presented by Community Corrections Director Rob Gaskill. Director Gaskill gave an update on the REALM (Recovery Enables A Life for Men) program. They partner with CenterStone. To get in the program, you have to be a high risk male (See attached presentation). They are not part of the Jail. They operated during the pandemic. It was not an ideal time to start a program, but they have had 17 of their participants complete the 1-year program. Jorge R. Morales asked if there were any reasons for the 30% that did not complete the program. Director Gaskill stated they had gone back to their substance abuse. He stated that a lot of the support groups had shut down during the pandemic which did

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not help the situation. He stated that if they are only losing 30% of the participants, then they are doing a good job. There will be some failures, no matter what you do. President Bonnell asked if these are people that come from the Court system. Director Gaskill stated that most come to them after getting out of the Jail. They have to want it and be willing to work for it. Their capacity for residential is 15 beds. They have 12 in the residential program as of today. Jorge R. Morales stated that he is glad to see the work that is being done for the men as they have had a women's program for a while. Director Gaskill stated that they receive part of their funding from a grant and part from the City/County ASAP split. Jorge R. Morales stated they are doing a great job.

The next item was an update on Bartholomew County – BART Treatment Program within the Jail as presented by Chief Deputy Chris Lane and Program Coordinator Theresa Patton (See the attached presentation). Coordinator Patton stated that they require a 1-year compliance from their graduation date. They must remain in contact throughout that year and must work with ASAP. With this process, Cohort I is the only group that is not currently being followed as they have passed been out of the program for over a year. FOX News did a story on the Valedictorian of the graduation. He had been in Bartholomew County Jail 9 times and had been written multiple times trying to get into the program. Mentors are former participants in the program. Deputy Chief Lane stated they are still incarcerated but have completed the program. Jorge R. Morales stated that this appears to be doing great. He is trying to understand the connection with ASAP and this program. Director Patton stated that ASAP becomes a resource after an inmate leaves the Jail. Jorge

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R. Morales asked about the relationship with CenterStone. Director Patton stated that the only relationship is with housing and she has had no success in placing any of her participants in their program. Jorge R. Morales asked if the Council could help in anyway with this. Director Patton stated that they have worked with ASAP regarding this situation. They are in the early steps of working on this issue. Jorge R. Morales stated that he is asking because of the amount of funding that the Council allots to CenterStone. The President of CenterStone Indiana was in the audience and stated that he would be happy to attend the budget hearings and is willing to help explain the processes so that everyone is better informed. He stated that they are chipping away at other gaps that were existent in the community with CenterStone; he is working on it. Jorge R. Morales asked for a copy of the presentation. Director Patton will send copies to them. Jorge R. Morales asked where Bartholomew County is in the State compared to other Counties. Director Patton stated we are well ahead of the others. She has facilities that she has created in 20 other states. We are the only one providing recording and we are the only one with a lifetime partnership with our resources. Bill Lentz stated that they are doing great things and you would hope the population would go down but it doesn't seem to correspond. Chief Deputy Lane stated that a mom & dad had shook his hand because this program had given them their son back after 20 years. Mark E. Gorbett stated that we need to continue the partnership with the City for funding. Without that cooperation we could not do this.

The next item was an update of ASAP as presented by Mr. Doug Leonard and Judge Benjamin (See attached presentation). Jorge R. Morales asked why we transport them out

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of County. Mr. Leonard stated that there are no treatment programs within the County. They have identified this as an issue and hope to see something start within this County. Jorge R. Morales asked about the relapse issue; is it the alcoholics? Mr. Leonard stated that any addiction can see relapse; it does not have to be alcohol. Matt Miller asked about what they had done for a Washington Street building. It was stated that they had spent about \$100,000. Judge Benjamin stated that there are currently 23 women in there for in-house treatment and part of them have their children with them. The placement in the homes are based on an assessment. Some have ties to Court and some don't. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked how many churches and other organizations they work with. Mr. Leonard stated that they work with many community organizations. He is looking at retiring. He made a 2-year commitment and they have an excellent person that will replace him.

The next item was an update of the Adult Recovery Court by Judge Benjamin (See attached presentation). She wanted to impress upon them how much has been done and how well it has been done. They have set the standards high. Fifty-percent is good but our goal is at seventy-percent. Jorge R. Morales asked if there is a connection of bringing BCSC into this. Judge Benjamin stated that she had brought that before the Council at the last meeting. Mark E. Gorbett asked about the homelessness and whether the new program will address this. Mr. Leonard stated it would. Jorge R. Morales asked about how Veterans are affected by this as far as if there is communication between the various programs. Judge Benjamin stated there is excellent communication between them. Auditor O'Connor

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asked that any presentations be sent to herself or Chris West so they can be disseminated to the Council and incorporated in the minutes.

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for Adult Protective Services (8900) in the amount of \$329,860.45 as presented by Prosecutor's Office Manager Brenda Mijares. Manager Mijares stated that this is the budget for Adult Protective Services as it is fiscal and runs from July 1 to June 30. They have asked that the part-time investigator position be increased from \$14.46 to \$19 per hour so that they can get someone in the position. She is only asking for the increase after the Council has set the remaining County budget. Auditor O'Connor stated that if the raises are higher or lower than 4%, they will make the changes when they finalize the 2022 budget. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$329,860.45 subject to the final salary being based on the 2022 Final Budget.** Court Services Director Brad Barnes stated they are also on a fiscal budget cycle and he is here with 5 budgets to have them appropriated. Mark E. Gorbett stated that there will be no raises until 2022 so we can adjust this during the budget salary. Auditor O'Connor stated they are not making changes to the salaries until 2022. Greg Duke asked how difficult it would be to change the Salary Ordinance later. Auditor O'Connor stated that they are not changing the Salary Ordinance. **Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for COVID Relief/Mental Health (8889) in the amount of \$187,000.00 as presented by Jail Commander

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John Martoccia. This had been approved by the granting body to the end in December of 2022. He had just been notified that this will end on January 19, 2022, cutting the time down for the Grant period. They will regroup and rethink. They cannot ask the company to hire a full-time person and then fire them in January due to lack of funding. Because of this change, he does not need the appropriation. He will return at a later date if needed.

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Jury Supplemental Fund (4902) in the amount of \$10,000 as presented by Judge Benjamin. They are down to \$600 in this fund and have some jury trials coming up. **Matt Miller motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$10,000.00. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Cell Tower Fund (4938) in the amount of \$7,806.78 as presented by Chief Deputy Dalene Pattingill. This is to pay for a bill for an elevator within the E911 facility. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$7,806.78. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Veteran's Court (9201) in the amount of \$36,477.50 as presented by Court Services Director Brad Barnes. This is an existing grant and is on a fiscal cycle but will go to a calendar year in 2022. Because of that move, this amount is only for the last 6 months of this year. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$36,477.50. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Veteran's Treatment Court (9202) in the amount of \$10,000 as presented by Director Barnes. This is a fiscal grant. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$10,000.00. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Drug Treatment Court (9208) in the amount of \$10,000 as presented by Director Barnes. This is a fiscal year budget. **Mark E. Gorbett motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$10,000.00. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for Pretrial II (9203) in the amount of \$13,576.00 as presented by Director Barnes. This is a fiscal year grant. **Bill Lentz motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$13,576.00. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Community Corrections Juvenile (9102) in the amount of \$63,631.00 as presented by Director Barnes. This is a fiscal grant from the Youth side. **Mark E. Gorbett motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$63,631.00. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Jail LIT (1114) in the amount of \$21,888.85 as presented by Jail Commander Martoccia. He had bills for

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the repair of the air conditioning as well as for the maintenance of the Cummins generator. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation as presented in the amount of \$21,888.85. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

There was a Resolution in the packet for “Electronic Meeting” procedures to allow members of the Council to attend via electronic. **Matt Miller motioned to accept the Resolution as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** This only has to be approved in one meeting.

The next items on the agenda were updates by the Council members regarding Boards and Commissions as follows:

**R. Scott Bonnell:**

*County Extension Bd* – nothing to report

*Solid Waste Management District Bd* – nothing to report

*Sheriff's Merit Bd* – nothing to report

**Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence:**

*County Parks & Recreation Bd* – nothing to report

*Job Review/Classification Committee* – nothing to report

*Youth Services Center Advisory Committee* – nothing to report

**Bill Lentz:**

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Cols Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bd – nothing to report

Health Bd – nothing to report

**Matt Miller:**

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – July meeting cancelled.

Bartholomew County Broadband Initiative – nothing to report

**Jorge R. Morales:**

County Plan Commission – nothing to report

Greater Cols Economic Development Bd (proxy) – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Broadband Initiative – nothing to report

**Greg Duke:**

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Jt Council Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

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Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

**Mark E. Gorbett:**

Community Corrections Bd – nothing to report

Data Board – nothing to report

Drug Epidemic Committee – nothing to report

ASAP – nothing to report

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Matt Miller made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
R. Scott Bonnell, President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Miller, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jorge R. Morales, Member

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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Duke, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pia O'Connor, Auditor  
Bartholomew County