

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020
SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
12:00 P.M. (NOON)

Mayor Rhorer called the special meeting to order at 12:00 (non) p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020 via zoom meeting.

Mayor Rhorer called the roll:

Ward One: Leslie Martin-here, Danny Clay-absent
Ward Two: Jesse Bronson-here, Richard Sullivan-here
Ward Three: Rick Lewis-here, Jeff Sapp-here

Staff Present: Darla Sapp, City Clerk and Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator

Mayor Rhorer presented the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter a memorandum of understanding for the proposed Ranken-Ashland Workforce Development Training Center. Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator reported there was a revised agenda allowing for public comment prior to taking up the Resolution.

Mayor Rhorer called for public comment. Doris Slinker of 404 Kristi Lane stated he received questions from Duane Shumate that could not be in attendance of the meeting. He stated he presented questions on the Memorandum of understanding being vague with no statement of costs or matrix included. He also asked if the school is directly using tax dollars for the building and questioned the weak infrastructure?

Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator stated we did receive correspondence from two residents with questions that should have been sent to the Board of Aldermen this morning. He stated they would answer these questions once the Resolution was on the table for discussion. (attached to the minutes)

Doris Slinker also asked why we chose Ranken over other technical schools?

Mayor Rhorer reported this is not a question and answer time only public comments. He stated we are abiding by the Roberts Rules of order. Mayor Rhorer called for any further public comments. No one wished to speak.

Mayor Rhorer presented a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter a memorandum of understanding for the proposed Ranken-Ashland workforce Development Training Center. Alderman Bronson made motion and seconded by Alderman Lewis to approve the resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding for the proposed Ranken-Ashland workforce Development Training Center. Mayor Rhorer called for questions or comments. Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator shared the screen on the proposed Memorandum of understanding. He explained the lack of detail and cost from being on this memorandum of understanding is because this is the initial agreement for applying for the grant and the details have not all been worked out. He stated this is a joint project between Ranken, Southern Boone County School District and the City of Ashland. He explained they have met two to three times a week to work on the federal grant application. He stated if the grant is funded the City would pay \$50,000.00 for the engineering for the roadway extension of Perry Avenue to Industrial Drive. He stated the federal grant is a 90-10 grant with a cost estimate of \$7 million dollars. He stated \$6.3 would be the federal maximum with Boone County funding \$100,000. He stated the local participation is

\$700,000. He stated that 5 acres of land would be donated if the grant is approved at a \$500,000.00 estimated land appraisal. He stated the appraisal came back at much higher than this. Tony St. Romaine stated the property ownership will remain in the schools and the operations would be paid through Ranken. He stated the cost to residents is minimal.

Chris Felmlee, Southern Boone County School Superintendent, thanked the Board of Aldermen for their time and everything that they do for the community. He reported the school has very little invested in this project other than the mileage and time spent attending meetings. He stated the school has been able to get 5 acres of land donated. He reported the appraisal came in at \$915,000.00. He stated the grant application deadline is tomorrow. Chris Felmlee reported no other college wanted to come to Southern Boone County so that is why they have been working with Ranken. He gave an overview of the students doing vocational studies, dual credits and college credits. He stated there is a high demand for nursing, medical fields, trades and construction. He stated there are shortages in these areas.

Alderman Sullivan stated this is not a competition with other schools it is to add programs that currently exist. He stated this is benefit for our school and community as a whole. He stated if this goes through we would see the extension of Perry Avenue.

Tony St. Romaine stated the EDA grant the City would pay \$45,000.00 for the engineering of the extension of Perry Avenue to the Industrial Drive.

Mayor Rhorer stated they have been discussing this with Ranken for five years. He stated this has evolved over the years and Tony St. Romaine has taken the lead on this project. He stated he felt this was good for Ashland.

Mayor Rhorer called for the vote on the adoption of the Resolution of the memorandum of understanding for the proposed Ranken-Ashland workforce development training center. Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Sullivan-aye, Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye. Motion carried.

Alderman Lewis made motion and seconded by Alderwoman Martin to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Rhorer called for the vote. Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Sullivan-aye, Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye. Motion carried.

Darla Sapp, City Clerk

Gene Rhorer, Mayor