

MARCH 11, 2024

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Council met in regular session Monday March 11, 2024 7:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Department training room. Councilmembers present were Kenneth Boswell, Michael Tiede, Jeffrey Richwine, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez, Bradley Bonnell, Jerry Locke, Tim Overmyer with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley.

Also present were Nathan Origer, Chris Schramm, Ron Fox, Holly VanDerAa, Korbin Smith, JoLynn Behny, Mike McClure, Jennifer Knebel, Edwina Guffey, Ed Corner, Kurt Dickey, Chris Brucker, Judge Crystal Kocher, Leeann Wright, and Megan Galbreath.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Public Hearing set for IGDB Biogas/Loehmerland was cancelled.

IN RE: CDC

IGDB Biogas/Loehmerland ERA designation and tax-abatement discussed. A discrepancy found between the parcel number included in the ERA related paperwork and the maps and plans submitted to Building, Planning and Zoning. Resolution #2024-03, which amends resolution #2024-02 by rescheduling the hearing until April, amending the preliminary resolution to include the proper parcel numbers and requiring LD Monterey Biogas to reimburse Fund 1112-LIT-Economic Development for the cost of re-advertising the rescheduled hearing presented. Qualifications to receive the abatements questioned as this project will have only one new employee? This could open the gate for other farmers. A 7 year abatement is recommended. Resolution #2024-03 died for a lack of a motion.

At least 5 providers submitted Next Level Connections-Round 4 grant applications to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for Pulaski County projects. Broadband Taskforce chairman Kurt Dickey outlined the steps followed, such as creating task force, feasibility study, encouraging investments, incentives, inventory assets, underground burial, GIS mapping, and identifying funding sources.

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority will announce two projects for this year’s special LIHTC allocation round on April 25th. Four submissions were received: Pulaski County’s Willow Creek Villas Project by Sullivan development, a Starke County project and two from Spencer County. The Housing Resource Hub Hoosier Homes down payment assistance program discussed briefly.

Lafayette based MatchBox Coworking Studio is offering its free WHIN funded Regional Accelerator Entrepreneur training program, Thursday evenings beginning March 21. Two projects submitted for potential inclusion in the Northwest Indiana Forum’s proposal to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation: Infrastructure cost for the proposed County farm residential development and the extension of the Panhandle Pathway. The Community Foundation submitted a proposal relating to childcare.

- Program guidelines, scoring criteria and a formal application for ERA Designations and Tax abatements, specifically for commercial and industrial projects presented.
- A recommended fee of \$180.00 to \$360.00.
- Scoring points for Project Investment (40 point cap), average project wage (capped out at 500% of current minimum wage), jobs created and/or retained (max out at 40 jobs), maximum base application score.
- Bonus points available for aligning with strategic plan, bringing life to a vacated structure, using local suppliers or contractors with points lost for requiring local road or street improvement, water, sewer, electric and gas utility improvements, or for adverse environmental impacts.
- A phase-in schedule established for the standard abatement requests.

Courthouse Renovation bids to be opened at a special 5:30pm session on April 8, 2024.

IN RE: SHERIFF

The 20+ years longevity on the Sheriff’s MATRIX dropped. Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez made a motion to add back the 20+ year increment with the same incremental increases as shown on current 2024 Matrix. Mike Tiede seconded Sheila’s motion. Motion passes with five in favor and one opposed. Bradley Bonnell opposed. Exact increments will be presented at next month’s meeting.

IN RE: HEALTH

The Health Department is hiring a Pulaski County Public Health Nurse. The applicant has a Master’s Degree in nursing and is head nurse on weekends at local hospital. Based on experience, the Health Department wants to offer \$32.51 per hour. Bradley Bonnell made a motion to hire the new County Nurse at \$32.51 per hour, Jeffrey Richwine seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Part-time Help pay transfer delayed until a proper Transfer Request is made in April.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

The following transfer and additional requests presented:

1170 -0301 LIT PUBLIC SAFETY/EMS		
FROM:	20700 EMS TRAINING MATERIALS	\$3,000.00
TO:	24100 UNIFORMS	\$3,000.00
1176 MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY/Administration (Equipment)		\$400,000.00
1136 CUM BUILDING/PMH PROJECT		\$50,700.00

Jeffrey Richwine made a motion to approve transfer and additional to be advertised, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Two additional appropriations were presented for approval after being advertised.

4801 LIT BOND PROCEEDS	\$12,750,000.00	TABLED
1112 LIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CDC (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES)	140,300.00	

Courthouse Renovation vs. a new building discussed. Mike Tiede motioned to table the Bond Proceeds additional until new bids are in (April 8th) and approve the \$140,300.00 additional only, Tim Overmyer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The following encumbrances presented for review and approval:

ENCUMBRANCES 2023 PAY 2024		
1000-0003 CO GENERAL/TREASURER		
44100 OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$282.90	
1000-0005 CO GENERAL/SHERIFF		
17004 OVERTIME CHIEF SGT CPL DEP	10,114.40	
20900 RESERVE UNIT	436.95	
22100 GAS OIL ETX	329.28	
22510 K-9 FOOD SUPPLIES	1,316.48	
24100 UNIFORMS	260.00	
31100 TRAINING	446.22	
36100 EQUIPMENT REPAIR	733.15	
36300 SERVICE & MAINT WTH	4,345.58	
37201 FREEDOM THERAPY & RECPV SERVICES	5,000.00	
1000-0009 CO GENERAL/PROSECUTOR		
20600 COMPUTER SUPPLIES	330.00	
31100 TRAINING	375.00	
39100 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	93.64	
44100 OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1,632.00	
45100 LAW BOOKS	213.61	
1000-0011 CO GENERAL/EXTENSION		
32200 TRAVEL	87.77	
1000-0068 CO GENERAL/COMMISSIONER		
31801 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	936.00	
33200 PRINTING ADVERTISING	721.90	
34100 OFFICIAL BOND	105.00	
35100 ELECTRIC WATER GAS	3,751.54	
35200 NIPSCO	3,491.39	
38100 SOLDIER BURIAL	160.00	
1000-0079 CO GENERAL/PLAN COMMISSION		
33200 ADVERTISING	23.19	
1000-0161 CO. GENERAL.MAINTENANCE		
21000 OFFICE SUPPLIES	359.08	
1112-0069 LIT ECON DEVE/IT		
31101 CONSULTANT	6,412.05	
32300 TELEPHONE	97.13	
36600 SERV & MAINT AGREEMENT	18,000.00	
1112-7000 LIT ECON DEVE/CDC		
31801 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	15,569.31	
1138-0069 CUM CAP DEVELOPMENT/IT		
20800 OPERATING SUPPLIES	2,107.23	
31101 CONSULTANT	876.70	
36101 COPIES & LEASE AGREEMENT	55.75	
44600 COMPUTER SYSTEMS	14,451.58	
1138-0161 CUM CAP DEVELOPMENT		
36400 BUILDING & STRUCTURE REPAIR	2,814.02	
1148-0068 DRUG FREE COMMUNITY		
31000 ADMINISTRATION	4,000.00	
38100 PREVENTION/EDUCATION	4,000.00	
38120 TREATMENT/INTERVENTION	4,000.00	
38130 CRIMINAL JUSTICE	4,000.00	
1154-0005 CONT ED/SHERIFF		
31100 TRAINING	690.23	
1159-0610 HEALTH/HEALTH DEPARTMENT		
11510 PART TIME NURSE	154.00	
1170-0301 LIT PUBLIC SAFETY/EMS		
24000 MEDICAL GASES	220.91	
24601 PATIENT CARE SUPPLIES	1,893.30	
31400 PEST CONTROL	49.00	
36100 EQUIPMENT REPAIR	800.85	
36300 SERV & MAINT WTH	450.00	
1222-0005 STATEWIDE 9-1-1/SHERIFF		
36300 SERVICE MAIN WTH	919.78	
2501-0009 PRE TRIAL DIVERSION/PROSECUTOR		
44301 EQUIPMENT	5,000.00	
9141-0232 JDAI GRANT/CIRCUIT COURT		
24800 MISC SUPPLIES	200.00	
31801 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	707.50	
9146-0232 FAMILY TREATMENT GRANT		
14000 PUBLIC DEFENDER	1,832.00	
9147-0232 FAMILY RECOVERY GRANT/CIRCUIT COURT		
20800 OPERATING SUPPLIES	396.70	
30900 CONSULTING	1,052.00	
30910 COORDINATOR	2,425.00	
31100 TRAINING	110.93	
32200 TRAVEL	1,666.98	
34800 MISC SERV CHARGES	1,970.91	
37500 PROGRAM INCENTIVES	439.70	
39800 PHYSICALS/DRUG TESTS	64.00	
	ALL OFFICES TO ENCUMBER	\$132,972.64
TOTALS BY FUND:		
1000 COUNTY GENERAL	\$35,545.08	
1112 LIT ECON DEVELOPMENT	40,078.49	
1138 CUM CAP DEVELOPMENT	20,305.00	
1148 DRUG FREE COMMUNITY	16,000.00	
1154 CONTINUED EDUCATION	690.23	
1159 HEALTH	154.00	
1170 LIT PUBLIC SAFETY	3,414.06	
1222 STATEWIDE 911	919.78	
2501 PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION	5,000.00	
9141 JDAI GRANT	907.50	
9146 FAMILY TREATMENT COURT	1,832.00	
9147 FAMILY RECOVERY GRANT	8,126.22	
	TOTAL	\$132,972.64

Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez made a motion to approve the 2023 pay 2024 encumbrances, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez, Michael Tiede and Jeffrey Richwine have met with County Attorney Kevin Tankersley to discuss board pay and recommend Board pay be set at \$120.00 except aviation, as that is set by Indiana Statute, and election board. For non-election years, election board would be paid \$500.00 but paid \$1750.00 during election years. Board members must attend meeting or conduct some type of business for the board in order to be paid and this is to be certified by the department head. Resolution 2024-04 Adoption of Board Pay Policy presented for review and approval and reads as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF BOARD PAY POLICY
RESOLUTION #2024-04

This Resolution of the Pulaski County Council is effective this 11th day of March, 2024.
WHEREAS, the Pulaski County Council desires to establish a policy and guidelines on how members of boards created by the County or by Indiana statute are paid for work performed, and
WHEREAS, the Pulaski County Council desires to adopt the attached claim forms for the Election Board, Health Board, Drainage Board, Sheriff's Merit Board, Aviation Board, PTABOA Advisory Plan Commissioner, Board of Zoning Appeals, Redevelopment Commission, Economic Development Commission, Advisory Commissioner on Industrial Development, tourism Advisory Council and Community Development Commission; and
WHEREAS, each Board shall submit a claim at the end of each year verifying the work performed by each Board member and certify it to the Auditor by the deadline each year for payment to board members; and
WHEREAS, every year the Council will establish the pay for each board and it will be incorporated into the Salary Ordinance.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RECOLVED THAT the attached claim forms are the approved forms by the County Council for payment to board members as set forth above.

Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez made a motion to approve and sign Resolution 2024-04 as presented, Michael Tiede seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Part-time pay was discussed but no decision made.

With no further business to discuss nor any public comment, meeting was adjourned at 8:54PM.

Approved and signed this 8th day of April 2024 by the **PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**.

KENNETH BOSWELL

MICHAEL TIEDE

JEFFREY RICHWINE

TIM OVERMYER

BRADLEY BONNELL

SHEILA HAZEMI-JIMENEZ

JERRY LOCKE

ATTEST: _____
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN