

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Commissioners and Pulaski County Council met in joint session Monday April 14, 2025 5:00 PM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Commissioners present were Donald Street, Michael McClure (late), Jennifer Knebel and Council members present were Michael Tiede, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez, Jeffrey Richwine, Jerome Locke, Bradley Bonnell, Tim Overmyer and Albert Gutwein with County Auditor Teresa Bryant.

Also present were Connie Ehrlich, Jerry Sullivan, Patty Sullivan, Al Breyfogle, Jamie Murray, Sam Williams, Phil Woolery, Joe Moyer, Raquel Gutwein, Judge Crystal Kocher, Chris Brucker, Jessye Gilley, Natasha Daugherty, Chris Schramm, Nathan Origer and Megan Galbreath.

President Street opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: MARSHALL-STARKE DEVELOPMENT CENTER, JESSYE GILLEY

Jessye Gilley was not present.

IN RE: CDC, NATHAN ORIGER

1. *Courthouse Project*

A. Project Finances: Nathan moved funds out of some line items that will not require their full allocations into our owner’s contingency. Current balance is \$177,354.02, about 23% of the original amount. Project is 75-80% complete. Tonn & Blank’s contingency is between \$250,000 and \$300,000 out of an original total just shy of \$450,000.

B. Change Orders: Nathan approved one change order under his threshold: \$6,564.74 to install a unit heater in the mechanical room in the basement. In the past, this was not needed due to the amount of heat radiated from the boilers. The new system is so efficient, with new insulation on all of the ductwork, that it will not keep the space warm enough. Nathan present Change Order 75 for Commissioners consideration. This covers the cost of painting the covers on our existing baseboard heaters, in the amount of \$13,343.93 plus \$1243.42 in design fees. Donald made a motion to approve and sign Change Order 75, Jennifer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

C. Project Progress: Furniture plans finalized, orders made and expected to install in mid-June. Roofing contractors have finished their metalwork and reinstalling slate tiles that were removed. Washing the roof started this morning. Window repair is underway and painters have begun tackling the windows and exterior painting. Carpet installation has also begun and paving is expected to take place in late May or early June. Will start reviewing landscaping plans for June implementation.

2. *Website-rebuild Updates*

Crane & Grey is finishing up the last round of changes and Nathan will soon have access to the backend. When site goes live, existing website will remain live but locked behind a password until pending litigation no longer requires it be kept in place.

3. *Broadband Planning*

Kimley-Horn, the consultants working with Pulaski County on the project funded by the Community Development Block Grant through OCRA and KIRPC is conducting a survey of County residents to capture a picture of the various issues and concerns of residents, particularly in unserved and underserved areas. The Broadband Taskforce will soon

reboot for a meeting with Kimley-Horn and it needs one Commissioners to replace Chuck Mellon and a councilmember to replace Kathi Thompson. As of last week, they have about 200 responses and the survey remains open until Friday. The link is on the County's website and has been distributed to all 4 schools serving Pulaski County.

4. *Housing*

Sullivan Development's contractors are making good progress at Willow Creek Villas. The clubhouse at the SW corner of the property will contain 2 apartments on the second floor and the 2 complexes will have 8 apartments each. Signage on registering on the waitlist will be up soon.

Appraisals are underway on the proposed READI-funded workforce-housing catalyst project.

5. *Industrial Park*

There is a party fairly seriously interested in acquiring some of the remaining County-owned industrial park land. Appraisals are underway. Once the second appraisal is received, Nathan will convene the Advisory Commission on Industrial Development and proceed with advertising to bidders pursuant to statutory guidelines.

6. *CDC Updates*

A. Commission Reports: Redevelopment Commission has had 2 meetings to discuss brainstorming and visioning. We have a handful of ideas that they will continue exploring. Claud LeMere presented his idea for a façade-grant program he envisioned starting in Winamac and then expanding through Pulaski County. Francesville Uptown Project and Redevelopment Commissioners Isaiah Tidwell has proposed similar programs. Nathan is interested in working with the Redevelopment Commission to establish a countywide facade-grant program that will collaborate with local Main Street organizations and/or municipal government to operate an office out of CDC. Nathan was not asking for money now but thinks for a relatively small initial investment, the County could begin making use of solar-project economic-development payments in a way that could visibly improve our communities.

The Economic Development Commission is in a holding pattern, waiting for any tax abatement requests that it may need to review and review (once program has reopened) any revolving loan fund applications that might come in.

Tourism Advisory Council is making progress on developing our tourism strategic plan, which will be presented to both Boards before final version is adopted. Also wrapping up our marketing budget spending plan and will hire a local marketing consultant to assist in maximizing the effectiveness of our social media marketing.

B. Economic Development Summit: Summit will be held at the Knights of Columbus hall at 6:00 PM Tuesday April 29th. Guest speaker will be Stephanie Wells, president of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute.

7. *Childcare Funding*

Childcare accessibility is becoming increasingly urgent and I have included it in our economic development strategic plan. A private foundation purchased the former Catholic Church in Francesville and is converting it into a childcare facility, to be operated by a separate nonprofit agency focused exclusively on providing daycare services. Grant funding has been allocated to this project and they are still, in partnership with Community Foundation, soliciting contributions to cover costs not covered by existing grants. Nathan requested the County contribute \$20,000 of solar-project economic-development funds to the Francesville's Caterpillar Corner project. This contribution should go through the Community Foundation so that it is eligible for a dollar-for-dollar match and the organization would receive \$40,000. This will be discussed further at Council meeting.

IN RE: SUPERIOR COURT, JUDGE CRYSTAL KOCHER

HB 1144 proposes additional Superior Courts in Hamilton County while it will abolish the Superior Court in Pulaski County (12 County Courts total). Last reading was Tuesday May 15th. This will also abolish Pulaski County’s Veterans’ Court and Drug Court. Judge Kocher urged people to contact legislatures.

Superior Court is seeking funding for Pretrial Services Officer and its program for 2026. Judge Kocher presented a letter of support for Commissioners to sign. Donald made a motion to sign letter of support, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: PURDUE EXTENSION, SAM WILLIAMS & PHIL WOOLERY

Quarterly report presented on Extension activities. Sam is the 4-H Youth Development Educator and Phil is Agriculture and Natural Resources. Sam described the 4-H Discovery Challenge and Captain Cash currently in local schools. Phil works with Private Applicator Re-Certification and UAV Training (Drones). Impact Report 2024 was also presented.

IN RE: MARSHALL-STARKE DEVELOPMENT CENTER, JESSYE GILLEY

Jessye is VP of Mission Advancement for Marshall-Starke Development Center. They provide choices for individuals with disabilities and promote young children’s development. Located mainly in Marshall and Starke Counties but do service 5 Pulaski County residents. Currently servicing over 200 adults in Pulaski, Starke, Fulton and Marshall County. Jessye asked that they consider donating to them during the budget process.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Jenny made a motion on behalf of the Commissioners to approve and sign joint session minutes from 12/9/24 and 2/10/25, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Jerome made same motion on behalf of the Council, Jeffrey seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer made a motion to approve and sign Ordinance No 2025-08 regulating road use for commercial solar and renewable energy construction, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO.- 2025-08

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF COUNTY ROADS FOR
COMMERCIAL SOLAR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSTRUCTION.

Wherefore, the Pulaski County Commissioners, through their Highway Department are authorized to regulate the use of county roads to preserve and protect the infrastructure of Pulaski County.

Wherefore, the Commissioners have determined that to best serve the Citizens of Pulaski County, the Pulaski County Commissioners have entered into road use agreements with solar companies for the construction of solar and other renewable energy projects in Pulaski County.

Wherefore, pursuant to I.C. 9-21-1-2 a local authority may adopt by ordinance additional traffic regulations with respect to highways under the authority's jurisdiction.

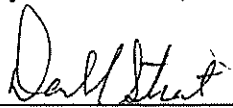
Wherefore, the County Commissioners of Pulaski County have approved routes detailed on a county map as part of the Road Use Agreement between the County and said solar/renewable energy company, a copy of said map is annexed to this ordinance as exhibit A.

Wherefore, any party found to be in violation of this ordinance shall be fined the sum of no less than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) per trip, per mile subject to the provisions of the applicable road use agreement to be paid to the Auditor of Pulaski County to be deposited in in the 1000 fund. No cure period will apply to any violation of this ordinance.

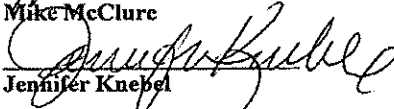
Wherefore, the Sheriff of Pulaski County is charged with enforcing this ordinance.

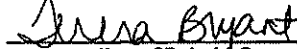
Wherefore, be it ordained by the Pulaski County Commissioners that the terms of this ordinance shall be in full force and affect upon being duly passed by the Pulaski County Commissioners this ~~24~~ day of ~~April~~ ^{May} 2025.

The foregoing was passed by the Pulaski County Commissioners, this 14th day of April, 2025.


Donald Street


Mike McClure


Jennifer Knebel

Attest: 
Teresa Bryant Auditor of Pulaski County

Jennifer made a motion to approve and sign Ordinance No. 2025-07, requiring the installation of stop signs on a County highway, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

PULASKI COUNTY ORDINANCE 2025-07
BY
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA
AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY

WHEREAS, pursuant to *Indiana Code (I.C.) 8-17-1-40* and *I.C. 9-21*, the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners ('Board') is authorized to regulate traffic on any highway in the Pulaski County ('County') Highway system;

WHEREAS, pursuant to a joint ordinance enacted by the Board and the Pulaski County Council ('Council') on 8 August 1994, the Council shares in the aforesaid authority with respect to the installation of stop signs and other matters; and

WHEREAS, in light of concerns expressed by the Pulaski County Highway Department ('Highway') pertaining to an increase in the risks faced by motorists, their passengers, and their vehicles on certain County highways attributable to additional truck and heavy-equipment traffic using such highways to travel to and from sites being developed for commercial solar-energy systems, the Board and the Council have determined that the erection of stop signs for both directions of traffic on County Road 600 W at its intersection with County Road 200 N is necessary and appropriate, as well as a stop sign located at County Road 500 W and 100 N is necessary and appropriate.

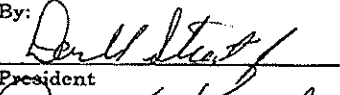
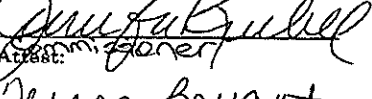
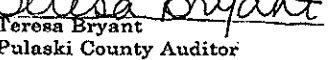
NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD AND COUNCIL THAT

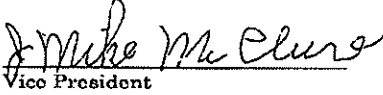
1. Highway shall erect one *Indiana Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*-compliant stop sign for each direction of vehicular traffic
 - a. on County Road 600 W at its intersection with County Road 200 N; and
 - b. County Road 500 W and its intersection with County road 100 N.
2. All operators of motor vehicles and other lawful means of transportation shall be required to stop at aforesaid stop signs at aforesaid County-road intersection and not to proceed until such time as doing so is safe and compliant with Indiana's laws governing traffic patterns at public-thoroughfare intersections;
3. Any operator of a motor vehicle or other lawful means of transportation who is cited for failing to stop at the applicable stop sign at aforesaid intersection shall be prosecutable by the Pulaski County Prosecutor's Office for the commission of a Class C infraction pursuant to *I.C. 9-21-8-32* and *I.C. 9-21-8-49(a)*;
4. any operator of a motor vehicle or other lawful means of who is cited for failing to stop at the applicable stop sign as aforesaid intersection and, in failing to stop at aforesaid stop sign, causes bodily harm to a person shall be prosecutable by the Pulaski County Prosecutor's Office for the commission of a Class A infraction pursuant to *I.C. 9-21-8-32* and *I.C. 9-21-8-49(b)*;
5. Any operator of a motor vehicle or other lawful means of transportation who is cited for failing to stop at the applicable stop sign at aforesaid intersection and is also charged with violating regulations set forth in any or all of sections 35, 50, 52, 55, 56, 58, and 59 of *I.C. 9-21-8* may be prosecuted by the Pulaski County Prosecutor's Office for the commission of a misdemeanor or felony, as spelled out in aforesaid sections of *I.C. 9-21-8*, pursuant to *I.C. 9-21-8-32* and *I.C. 9-21-8-49(b)*;
6. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners and publication for two consecutive weeks pursuant to *I.C. 36-2-4-8(b)*; and
7. This ordinance shall be published on the official website and Facebook page of the County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board this day 14th of April 2025, by a vote of 3 Yeas and Nays14.

Pulaski County Board of Commissioners

By:


President

Attest:

Teresa Bryant
Pulaski County Auditor


Vice President

Stop signs will be erected on CR600 W at 200N and CR500 W at 100N. As this has to be advertised for 2 weeks before in effect, Jennifer asked if there was any way to speed up the process. Nathan said the signs can go up but cannot enforce the ordinance until after the advertisement.

Teresa would like to have a handbook committee to update current Personnel Handbook. Committee was started in 2017 but has fallen off. Committee should consist of 2 councilmembers, 1 commissioner, auditor and county attorney. Bradley and Albert volunteered from Council and Jennifer volunteered from Commissioners. Committee should meet quarterly.

Mike Tiede brought up that the County should hire a part time engineer. A \$40,000. reimbursable grant is available and County would only have to match \$10,000. Jay Sullivan, a Pulaski County resident, is an engineer and presented the board with job description. County engineer would serve within the Highway Department overseeing and conducting engineering operations. He would write up ordinances (with County Attorney's approval), approve claims/vouchers, and negotiate professional service consultants' agreements, among others. Jennifer did not feel this is being done properly as there has been no discussion on the need of a County engineer. Shouldn't the solar

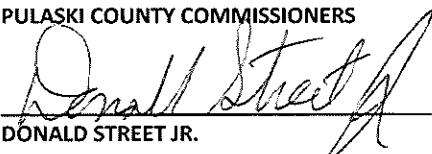
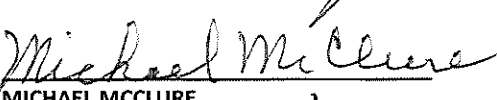
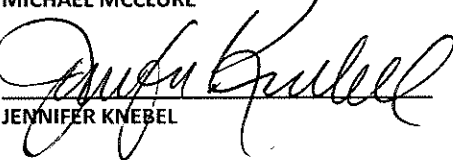
companies pay for this? This needs to be done correctly—discuss the need, advertise, applications. Donald and Jennifer feel that more discussion is needed on this subject.

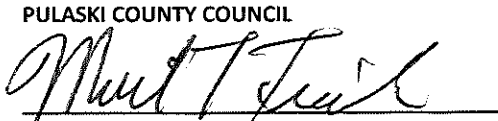
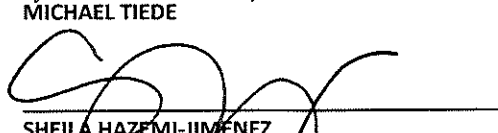
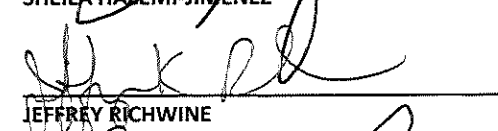
Grant ordinance was on agenda for discussion and was tabled by President Tiede.

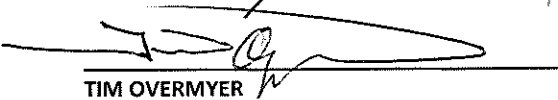
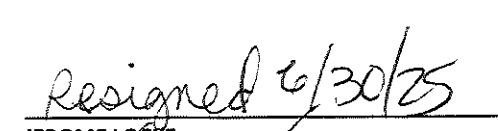
With no other business to discuss, Jennifer made a motion on behalf of the Commissioners to adjourn at 6:00PM, Michael seconded and motion carried unanimously.

President Tiede dismissed Council.

Approved and signed this 9th day of June 2025 by the PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL.

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DONALD STREET JR.

MICHAEL MCCLURE

JENNIFER KNEBEL

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

MICHAEL TIEDE

SHEILA HAZEMI-JIMENEZ

JEFFREY RICHWINE

BRADLEY BONNELL

TIM OVERMYER

Resigned 6/30/25
JEROME LOCKE

ALBERT GUTWEIN

ATTEST: 
TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN