

JUNE 9TH 2025

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Council met in regular session Monday June 9th, 2025, 6:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Councilmembers present were Michael Tiede, Sheila Hazemi, Jeffrey Richwine, Bradley Bonnell, Jerome Locke, Albert Gutwein, and Tim Overmyer with County Auditor Teresa Bryant.

Also present were Joe Moyer, Judge Mary Welker, Karla Redweik, Connie Ehrlich, Raquel Gutwein, Jamie Murray, Josh Stamper, Emily Hizer, Isaiah Tidwell, Sherry Fagner, Mark Eber, Judge Crystal Kocher, Darlene Olds, Dave Olds, Natasha Daugherty, Gail Lambert, Larry Lambert, Brandi Larkin, Jennifer Knebel, and Randy Davis.

IN RE: HIGHWAY, GARY KRUGER

Gary has 4 employees that he would like to adjust on the Matrix due to their prior experience. Jeffrey read the Matrix, which said longevity does not apply when gone for over 1 year, which 2 of the employees had. Unlike the Sheriff’s Department, County does not pay for any training nor CDL cost for Highway. Albert made a motion to discuss this at budget time, Jeffrey seconded. With no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Michael asked Gary regarding wheel tax. Gary said the House bill did not pass yet, requiring County to have wheel tax to qualify fully for Community Crossings grants. Bill would make County’s share 50% rather than 25% and could only get \$750,000. maximum. Gary would go for the wheel tax now at the minimum to start funding.

IN RE: SUPERIOR COURT, JUDGE CRYSTAL KOCHER

Judge Kocher requested two additional:

13600 Pauper Council	\$15,000.00
13500 Petit Jurors	\$20,000.00

Additional Pauper Counsel funds are needed to cover expenses of indigent appellate cases. Already over \$50,000. has been spent on one particular individual. 40% is reimbursed by the State but only felony cases. The majority of her remaining cases are Level 6 felonies. Judge Kocher has already had 8 trials in 2025 with 8 more expected. Jury pay and mileage has increased. Bradley made a motion to advertise the requested additional and Albert seconded. Sheila asked if Judge Kocher could ask for a smaller amount now and come back later if needed. Motion passed unanimously.

IN RE: BUILDING/ZONING, KARLA REDWEIK

Karla needs Council to appoint a member to the BZA. Candidates are: Ron DeSabatine, Courtney Poor, Mark Eber, Jamie Murray and Darrel Gudeman. Jeffrey asked if all 5 met the requirements and Karla said yes but Sheila is concerned with IC 36-7-4-905. Code said a member of BZA must be a resident of the jurisdictional area of the board or be a County resident and owner of real property located in part of the jurisdictional area of the board. DeSabatine and Poor both live in Winamac (which has its own zoning board) but do not own any property outside of town. Both were removed from consideration. Sheila made a motion to appoint Mark Eber and Jerome seconded. Albert asked Mark to come before the board. Mark said he lives down by Thornhope and works in Kokomo. He wants to get involved in local government without having to run for election. Jamie Murray also came forward and talked about her background and why she wants on the BZA—transparency. Bradley suggested this should be tabled to allow other candidate to come before Council. After much discussion, Michael, Sheila, Jerome and Jeffrey voted in favor of appointing Mark Eber to BZA while Bradley, Tim and Albert were opposed.

Karla then asked for \$8,000. for BZA and \$8,000. for APC to hire an attorney. She has 2 candidates that the boards will vote on. Both will waive their retainer if they are hired for both boards. Karla currently has only \$1,000. in her budget for Professional Services. Albert made a motion to advertise \$16,000. for both boards but revised his motion to \$8,000. for both boards. Bradley seconded and after discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: TREASURER, TERESA BRYANT

Commissioners have previously given Teresa permission to use TrueRoll for managing homestead deductions by identifying unqualified exemptions in the County. County can go back 3 years to collect taxes from the unqualified exemptions. There is a onetime \$2,500. implementation fee and TrueRoll would receive 30% of the collections (35% in only 1 year back taxes collected). Sheila made a motion to approve requested transfer, and Tim seconded. After no discussion, motion carried unanimously.

FROM: 36200	Preservation of Records	\$2,500.00
TO: 34800	Misc Services	\$2,500.00

IN RE: CDC, NATHAN ORIGER

1. Courthouse Project

A. Project Finances: Owner’s Contingency’s current balance is down to \$79,700.33 but does not reflect the return of \$14,352,66 coming to us from the HVAC issue nor a credit we will receive for eliminating the east lawn sidewalk. We do have a couple of small change-orders, ticket items and other adjustments in the works, which will not break the contingency bank. One or two will come out of our separate IT line item.

B. Project Progress: Luminaut was on-site last Tuesday for the punch-list walkthrough for the basement and first floor. Some of the second floor work was postponed to allow the new floor stain and clear cost to dry and cure properly. Luminaut will return in early July to conduct the overall site and second floor punch-list walkthrough and confirm the completion of punch-list corrections.

At present, the only subcontractors still on-site are the electricians, painters and carpenters. Landscapers will be here later this week. Paving of Meridian Street and the parking lot between Justice Center and Howard’s are scheduled for Saturday (weather permitting). Furniture delivery will take place in two phases beginning next week. Once that work is complete, Roeing can begin IT installation. Roeing has assisted Nathan in determining the right microphones to purchase for our existing sound system.

2. Comprehensive Plan

After receiving confirmation from Commissioner President Street, Nathan gave KIRPC the green light to publish a request for proposals for the development of a new comprehensive plan for Pulaski County. KIRPC will be applying to OCRA for a planning grant. Nathan may taking the matching funds from his budget or solar funds. Community Foundation’s report prepared by Ball State urged the update, which has not been addressed since 2009.

Five firms will receive requests directly, in addition to any who chose to submit a proposal. Nathan will put together an interview committee, which he hopes will be comprised of Karla Redweik and at least one from plan commission, Nathan, a Commissioner and a Councilor. Once a firm is selected, they will review existing documents, interview key County personnel and potentially conduct surveys before producing a final plan that will be recommended to the Commissioners by the APC for formal adoption.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Sheila made a motion to approve and sign Council minutes from 5/12/2025 and Albert seconded. With no discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Updated 2025 Salary Matrix for EMS Department was presented for approval. Sheila asked where the money was coming from. Funds will come from the income EMS produces. Sheila asked if they give the \$2.00/hr. raise to full-time, then at budget time look at the other employees. EMS Director said she has not heard anything from County Attorney regarding the study Pulaski Memorial Hospital was conducting. Bradley made a motion to approve and sign updated Matrix, Albert seconded. After some more discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Jeffrey made a motion to approve and sign Revised Ordinance for Salaries and Wages, Jerome seconded. With no discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**REVISED ORDINANCE FOR
SALARIES & WAGES FOR 2025
Monday, June 09, 2025**

	REQUESTED REVISION FROM	REQUESTED REVISION TO	EFFECTIVE DATE
Per Hour Wage Change as follows: Status Changes/Matrix Increases			
<u>1170 LIT PUBLIC SAFETY</u>			
0301 EMS			
10205 Jaeson Fort (Matrix Increase 4-8y to 8-12y)	\$22.16	\$22.79	06/22/2025
0005 Sheriff			
1000.10402 to 1170.11101 Brian Linback (Deputy to Jail Sgt)	\$27.03	\$22.47	05/11/2025
<u>1000 COUNTY GENERAL</u>			
0201 Superior Court			
14300 Brittnei Bierrum (Matrix Increase (0-4y to 4-8y)	\$22.19	\$22.95	06/08/2025
0005 Sheriff			
10402 Christopher Parish (Matrix Increase 3-8y to 9-14y)	\$27.03	\$28.01	05/25/2025
10403 Matt Pickens (Matrix Increase Prior Experience Granted (3-8y to 9-14y)	\$29.75	\$30.78	04/27/2025
10302 Seth Barton (Matrix Increase Prior Experience Granted (9y to 12y)	\$29.75	\$29.75	04/27/2025
<u>1235 LIT PSAP</u>			
0005 Sheriff			
10902 Laura McIntosh (Matrix Increase 15-19y to 20+y)	\$25.65	\$26.33	08/03/2025
<u>1176 HIGHWAY MVH</u>			
0531 Maintenance & Repair			
11103 to 11201 Larry Disinger (Foreman to Laborer)	\$24.36	\$22.88	05/11/2025
11201 to 11103 Steven Foust (Laborer to Foreman)	\$22.14	\$23.62	05/11/2025

IN RE: TRANSFERS

Bradley made a motion to approve transfers as applied for, Jeffrey seconded. With no discussion, motion carried unanimously. Probation’s request is to pay for office shirts, new vests and badges. Circuit’s request is to transfer to Superior Court. Highway’s request is to help pay for new highway tile. Sheriff’s request is to receive insurance money from vehicle damages.

2100: PROBATION			
From:	31600	Medical and Dental	\$1,900.00
To:	33100	Printing (other than office supplies)	\$1,900.00
1000 CIRCUIT COURT			
From:	33700-0232	Guardian Ad Litem (Circuit)	\$4,076.01
To:	33700-0201	Guardian Ad Litem (Superior)	\$4,076.01
1135: CUMULATIVE BRIDGE			
From:	75803	Bridge #249	\$26,500.00
To:	34801	Bridge Repairs	\$26,500.00
1000: COUNTY GENERAL			
From:	00890	Reimbursement/Refund Account	\$5,329.25
To:	36100	Equipment Repair	\$5,329.25

IN RE: ADDITIONALS

Jeffrey made a motion to approve for advertising additional as requested, Jerome seconded. With no discussion, motion carried unanimously. Insurance check was received in 2024 on Sheriff’s insurance loss but claim was paid in January 2025. Pension Fund additional is to pay for 2024 shortfall (self-funded).

1000-3600-005	Equipment Repair	\$6,142.55
1193-12400-05	Sheriff Pension Fund	\$3,059.00

IN RE: Years of Service Credit Guidelines

Teresa asked for some guidelines for Jenny, payroll clerk, as to years of service. According to handbook, if an employee leaves and then comes back to the county, he does not retain his years of service if separation is over 12 months. Handbook also states that to get credit for prior employment, it must be in the same job.

IN RE: JOINT ORDINANCE FOR STOP SIGN

Commissioners signed Ordinance 2025-11, regarding posting of stop signs near Mammoth solar project. It was later determined that there was a County Ordinance from 1994 that requires both Commissioners and Council to approve this type of ordinance. Michael said he was in favor of the stop signs if this would only be temporary. Tim made a motion to approve and sign Ordinance 2025-11 as long as temporary and Sheila seconded. With no other discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

Jerome stated that a councilmember needed to be appointed Soil & Water and Superior Court for budget discussions. Mike announced that Jerome has resigned (no formal letter has been received) and thanked him for his service. Tim will take over Soil & Water and Bradley will take care of Superior Court.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jamie Murray: Jamie asked Sheila if Mark Eber worked for her and Sheila responded yes. Jamie asked if this is not a conflict of interest and Sheila said she had nothing to gain from nominating him.

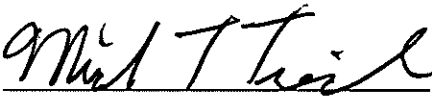
Joe Moyer: Joe thinks Section 7 of Solar agreement should be removed due to controversies and clarity.

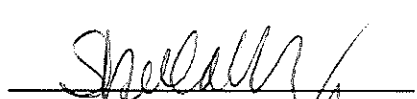
Judge Crystal Kocher: Recently met with Indiana Supreme Court regarding security assessment and they were very complimentary. They did make some suggestions and they will help Judge Kocher apply for a grant to cover the costs.

Brandi Larkin: Complimented Board on their use of the microphones.

With no other business to discuss nor public comments, meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

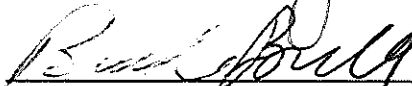
Approved and signed this 14th day of July 2025 by the PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL.


MICHAEL TIEDE


SHEILA HAZEMI

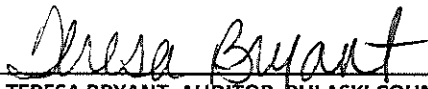

JEFFREY RICHWINE


TIM OVERMYER


BRADLEY BONNELL


ALBERT GUTWEIN

____ POSITION VACANT _____

ATTEST: 
TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN

