

DECEMBER 11, 2023

JOINT SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Commissioners and Pulaski County Council met in joint session Monday December 11, 2023 at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon and Michael McClure with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley. Commissioner Maurice Loehmer absent. Councilmembers present were Michael Tiede, Tim Overmyer, Jeffrey Richwine, Jerome Locke and Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez. Councilmembers Kenneth Boswell and Bradley Bonnell absent.

Also present were Teresa Bryant, Nathan Origer, Ronald Fox, Leeann Wright, Gary Kruger, Joe Moyer, Judge Crystal Kocher, Charles Hendrickson, Anna Hendrickson, Tiffany Colsten, Monica Combs, Megan Galbreath, Chris Schramm, and Kathi Surma.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joint Session was recessed and Board of Finance meeting opened.

IN RE: BOARD OF FIANANCE

President of the Board of Finance Maurice Loehmer was not present and Charles Mellon took over his duties. The County has 4 CDS coming up for renewal in January 2024. All are at First National Bank of Monterey at 5.5%.

1/05/2024	1112 LIT – Economic Development	\$580,000.00
1/05/2024	1138 Cumulative Capital Development	400,000.00
01/22/2024	8950 American Rescue Plan	2,000.000.00
01/22/2024	1237 Opioid Restricted	32,519.83
	1238 Opioid Unrestricted	17,707.89

Cumulative Capital Development CD for \$400,000.00 needs to be redeemed. Charles Mellon made a motion to redeem the CD at maturity date of January 5, 2024, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

About \$400,000.00 of the ARPA money has been committed from for wage increases for each of the next 2 years; \$246,000.00 for a second new ambulance and \$75,000.00 for clerk retention files. Charles Mellon made a motion to hold out \$500,000.00 into a separate 6-month CD for when needed and renew \$1,500,000.00 CD at 6-months, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. No other changes needed.

Michael McClure made a motion to adjourn Board of Finance meeting, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: SUPERIOR COURT

Katie Surma introduced as the Community Navigator. She is a certified personal trainer and is developing a work book for county wellness. Commissioners agreed to a county wellness program.

IN RE: CDC

All departments except Maintenance successfully moved out of courthouse.

Courthouse project bids have come in over budget by \$3.54 million. Several categories will be put out for rebid with expected receipt by middle of March and awarded at the first Commissioners’ meeting in April. Project completion is expected by Labor Day 2025.

An amended lease agreement between Pulaski County and Kyle Sommers is needed due to the amount of space being used by the Clerk’s Office. An increase from \$600.00 to \$940.00 per month is expected.

The restructured CDC discussed briefly. Michael McClure made a motion to reappoint Maurice Loehmer to the CDC board, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried. Jerome Locke made a motion to appoint Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez to the restructured CDC board, Jeffrey Richwine seconded and motion carried unanimously. Under the new by-laws, there will no longer be term limits.

A grant application submitted for County Broadband Plan development. The Office of Community and Rural Affairs is currently reviewing challenges to broadband-availability maps. Other grant opportunities discussed.

A regional grant from the Economic Development Administration through KIRPC to fund a regional strategy for agricultural economic development through the Northwest Indiana Forum for project implementation awarded. A job description has been prepared to hire a regional agricultural economic development specialist to manage day-to-day responsibilities of the project.

Phased housing development discussed.

Resolution 2023-01, authorizing execution of a cooperative agreement with Fort Wayne Housing Authority for the implementation of the Hoosier Homes program in Pulaski County presented for review and approval. Adoption of this resolution will permit the Authority to begin providing down-payment assistance. This does not create any financial obligations for the County but will generate a very modest amount of revenue each time a local homebuyer participates. Charles Mellon made a motion to approve and sign Resolution 2023-21 as presented, Michael McClure second and motion carried unanimously.

Michael McClure made a motion on behalf of the Commissioners to approve and sign The October 09, 2023 Joint Session minutes, Charles Mellon seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Jeffrey Richwine made a motion on behalf of Council to approve and sign October 09, 2023 Joint Session minutes, Jerome Locke seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Charles Mellon made a motion to approve and sign all 2024 Calendar Schedules (Holiday, Pay, Commissioners, and Joint) as presented, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Jeffrey Richwine made a motion on behalf of Council to approve and sign 2024 Council and Joint session meeting Schedules, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez seconded and motion carried unanimously.

With no other business to discuss nor public comment, Michael McClure made a motion on behalf of Commissioners to adjourn at 6:40PM, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez made a motion to adjourn at 6:40PM, Jerome Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed this 12th day of February 2024 by the **PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** and **PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**.

_____ **ABSENT** _____
KENNETH BOSWELL

_____ **CHARLES MELLON**

_____ **MICHAEL TIEDE**

_____ **ABSENT** _____
MAURICE LOEHMER

_____ **JEFFREY RICHWINE**

_____ **MICHAEL MCCLURE**

_____ **ABSENT** _____
BRADLEY BONNELL

_____ **SHEILA HAZEMI-JIMENEZ**

_____ **TIM OVERMYER**

_____ **JEROME LOCKE**

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