

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**  
**6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:	Stephanie Campbell, President Jay Alcorn, Vice President Danny Wallace Larry Parker Wayne Huffman Phillip Gick
COMMISSIONERS:	Tom Helmer, President Rick Woodall
ATTORNEY:	Trudy Selvia
AUDITOR'S OFFICE:	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	16 Individuals

The Putnam County Council met on September 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Councilman Keith Berry would not be attending tonight's meeting. Stephanie Campbell opened the meeting with a pledge to the flag.

Campbell stated she would like to add a topic to the agenda, Baker Tilly. Parker made the motion to add to the agenda. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

**2024 BUDGET HEARING**

Campbell opened the public hearing: Putnam County, Greencastle Community School Corporation, Putnam County Airport Authority, Roachdale Fire Protection, Walnut Creek Fire Protection, Floyd Twp Fire Protection, West Central Indiana Solid Waste Management, and the Putnam County Public Library. Hearing no comments from the audience when Campbell asked three times, Gick made the motion to close the public hearing. Parker seconded. The motion passed.

**HIGHWAY ADDITIONALS**

Jim Peck presented:  
\$100,000 Cumulative Bridge Fund                      buy out excavator  
Commissioners had approved, pending Council approval.  
Alcorn made the motion to approve. Parker seconded. The motion passed.  
\$150,000 Cumulative Bridge Fund                      start engineering work on Bridge 105  
Commissioners had approved, pending Council approval.  
Parker made the motion to approve. Gick seconded. The motion passed.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT – OVERTIME**

Administrator Joni Young came to request overtime pay for the personnel in her department. Requesting the use of the nurses' fund to pay for the overtime September – December of this year. Gick made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

**CORONER ADDITIONAL**

Jon Myers presented:

\$5,000 County General Fund transporting the deceased  
Alcorn made the motion to approve. Wallace seconded. The motion passed.

**SHERIFF ADDITIONAL**

Tom Sutherlin and Tresha Clearwaters presented:

\$50,000 LIT Correctional & Rehab Fund provide meals for the inmates  
Wallace made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

**CLERK ADDITIONAL**

Tracy Bridges presented:

\$270,700 Rainy Day Fund to purchase new election equipment  
The State has made changes that have dictated the need for change. And it has been  
over 15 years since the county received new equipment.  
Gick made the motion to approve. Wallace seconded. The motion passed.

**JUVENILE PROBATION ADDITIONAL**

Renee Marstellar presented:

\$25,000 County General Fund holding of juveniles  
Wallace made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

**COMMISSIONERS ADDITIONALS**

Commissioner Woodall presented:

\$21,638 EDIT Fund County birthday bash  
Wallace made the motion to approve. Parker seconded. The motion passed.  
\$12,000 Hazardous Waste Fund pay Align Engineering for topo mapping  
Huffman made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

**EMS ADDITIONALS AND BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

Auditor Berish presented:

\$5,401 EMS Fund Move money from 1170 fund to 1151  
\$29,538.88 EMS Fund receipted into the wrong fund by dept.  
\$438 EMS Fund Additional 1151 Reduction 1170  
Gick made the motion to approve the three additionals and reductions. Huffman  
seconded. The motion passed.

**FACILITATION TRANSFER**

Auditor Berish presented:

\$1,000 Facilitation Fund (1212) to pay for office supplies  
Alcorn made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

**MINUTES**

July 18, 2023 – Parker made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

August 15, 2023 – Gick made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

August 22, 2023 – correction under Sheriff change part time sentence on second page, typo. Gick made the motion to approve with the correction. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

August 23, 2023 – First page, typo says Floyd Township Fired instead of Fire. Wallace made the motion to approve with the correction. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

**BAKER TILLY INFORMATION: Excise Surtax & Wheel Tax, Bridges & Annex**

Woodall presented paperwork from Baker Tilly for: proposed annex building, proposed bridge project and county excise surtax and wheel tax analysis.

- 1) County excise surtax and wheel tax analysis – combined total of vehicles currently is 44,502. Currently collect \$1,164,294.70 which gets disbursed between entities in the county. The highway department receives \$971,000. With the proposed option 1 rate increase would collect \$1,760,244.70. Or option 2 is the maximum rate allowed which county would collect \$2,671,214.70. Option 1 would give the county an additional \$498,523, option 2 would give the county an additional 1.62M.

We have missed the window to get the additional revenue for 2024. If approved now, we would not start collecting until December 31, 2024. Wallace felt we should go with the first option for the constituents of the county and not hit them all at once with a large increase.

- 2) Proposed annex building project – went over the estimated project costs and funding. Estimated space of the annex is 25,000 – 30,000 square feet. The total estimated cost of the project is \$12,255,000. In the scenario given, county would use the 2M we have for the annex towards the cost of the project, bringing it down to \$10,255,000. Went over the different bond term options. Woodall said Baker Tilly was in the process of going through the taxpayers of the county to see where we would be on how much the taxpayers would cover and how much the county would need to make up the difference of the yearly payment.
- 3) Proposed bridge project – maximum bond amount is 2M, can do multiple bonds but each cannot be more than 2M.

Campbell said to give the county the possibility to look at these for 2024, she asked the Auditor to advertise for these scenarios. If the boards decide to not do it or modify, then we can make changes. Jacque Clements, county budget advisor said if you do one of these options make sure they don't set the bond payments due January 1<sup>st</sup> but July 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure money in the funds to make your payments.

**2024 BUDGETS**

Clements asked to be added to the agenda. Campbell made the motion to add her. Huffman seconded. The motion passed. Clements said the Auditor and herself have everything in gateway for next year's budgets. Final numbers, we are adopting 4K over levy. This is factoring in putting 1M in the rainy-day fund which will offset the additional approved earlier in the meeting.

**MAIL**

Board acknowledged their mail.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Board members gave their committee reports.

**ADJOURN**

Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Huffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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**Stephanie Campbell, President**

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**Jay Alcorn, Vice President**

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**Phillip Gick**

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**Wayne Huffman**

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**Danny Wallace**

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**Larry Parker**

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**Attest: Auditor's Office**  
**Kristina Berish**