

COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 21, 2023
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Stephanie Campbell, President
Jay Alcorn, Vice President
Phillip Gick
Danny Wallace
Larry Parker
Keith Berry
Wayne Huffman

ATTORNEY:

Trudy Selvia

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

19 Individuals

The Putnam County Council met on March 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Stephanie Campbell opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR RHINOAG ABATEMENT & LIBRARY

Parker made motion to open the public hearing. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Campbell opened for comment. Representatives from RhinoAg gave a presentation of the expansion project. Anticipate increasing the workforce locally. No further comments, Berry made the motion to close. Gick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Campbell opened the regular meeting. Parker made the motion to add Roachdale Public Library to the agenda. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RHINOAG dba DIXIE CHOPPER ABATEMENT RESOLUTION 2023-03-21

Kristin Clary went over the resolution and abatement. Campbell read resolution. Parker made the motion to approve. Gick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ROACHDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Passed out information regarding the library. Seeking grants and bonding, working with Ice Miller. Just wanted to give the Council a heads up and will come to future meetings. The Commissioners and Council will have to keep in mind the projects the county are wanting to do in the near future: annex being one of them. Must watch the debt/bond limit.

HIGHWAY ADDITIONALS

Jim Peck presented:

1135-20213-790 \$10,000 (cumulative bridge fund)

Traffic counters for Federal aid projects

Gick questioned why we are not participating with THRIVE for traffic counts instead of paying for it locally. The cost would then be 20% and the other 80% would be covered by the State. Peck said he has spoken with them; however, they would not be able to meet the deadline required for some upcoming projects he wants to do. Gick made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1169-30366-706 \$35,000 Local Road Safety Action Plan

(Roads & Streets fund) Gick made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1176-10116-702 \$ 4,300 Raise approved @ February meeting

1176-10149-702 \$ 3,900 Raise approved @ February meeting

(Highway MVH fund) Berry made the motion to approve the two additional. Huffman seconded. Gick abstained, he was not at the last meeting where this request was approved. The motion passed.

Peck informed the board Huffman bridge was closed today. He had been watching it this past year and it has been settling and to the point of causing safety issues. Dunbar covered bridge had a critical finding on it today; however, they feel they can fix it themselves. Edna Collins bridge did not have any critical findings but some advanced rotting.

CLERK ADDITIONAL

Tracy Bridges presented:

1119-30303-104 \$25,000 Elections software & maintenance

(Clerks Perpetuation fund) Bridges introduced representatives from An Island LLC that came to the meeting to give a brief overview of what the program would do. The upfront cost is 25K, then there would be 7-10K annual maintenance fee. The program would allow people to see voting results in real time on their phones, computers. And there would be screens set up in courthouse displaying the votes. Bridges assured everyone the large white board on the second floor would remain, she found people saw it as a tradition to post the votes on the board.

Council questioned the annual maintenance fee, and what about the year there is not an election? Company said there would still be a maintenance fee for the upkeep of the software. Individuals would have the ability to look in history to see for example what someone had received in votes 4 years previously. Some customers have offset the maintenance fee by getting sponsors to pay for ads on the site.

Gick made recommendation to table it and have the Clerk take contract to the Commissioners at their next meeting. If the Commissioners are not in favor of the contract, then the funding issue is moot. Bridges was not aware she needed to take it before the Commissioners. At this point, there is not a contract to even review according to what the company stated. Gick made the motion to table. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ASSESSOR – EMPLOYEE PAY

Don Badolato said Janet Brown was going to work until October 2023 but now is retiring this month. He is restructuring the duties of his personnel. One open position he has, he wants to start the individual at a lower amount due to level of job experience. He requested to change appropriation 4928-10113-105 from \$32,188 to \$32,760 for Michele Cox. Gick made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

JUVENILE PROBATION ADDITIONALS

Samantha Richardson presented: (Juvenile Probation fees)

2050-10217-503	\$8,760	Individual retiring/paying out vac & sick
2050-10121-503	\$ 544	FICA matching taxes
2050-10128-503	\$ 128	Medicare matching taxes
2050-10124-503	\$ 982	PERF employer portion

Berry made the motion to approve the 4 additionals. Huffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERIOR COURT ADDITIONALS

Judge Bridges presented: (County General fund)

1000-10169-201	\$10,000	Pauper Counsel
1000-10161-201	\$39,437	Bailiff for Magistrate court

Mindi Jackman-Hanlin said there is an incentive program they can participate in; they think they will qualify for 4K per quarter in reimbursement. Gick felt this new source of money could help fund the pauper counsel. Then take the bailiff salary from an established fund. Berry made the motion to approve the 10K additional. Wallace seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Gick made the motion to approve the bailiff position but to pay it from public safety LIT instead of the requested county general fund. Auditor will draw up a new additional from public safety LIT for next month's meeting. Wallace seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDITOR TRANSFERS

Auditor Berish presented:

1000-40401-002	1000-10113-002	\$4,000
Salary increase request due to job description change		
1000-20202-002	1000-10113-002	\$1,000
Salary increase request due to job description change		

Berish explained the HR responsibilities have morphed and it is too much for one person to do HR and payroll. She has separated the responsibilities between two of her deputies. The deputy that took over payroll she would like to increase her salary by the requested 5K. Some of the projects in HR they will be working on this year is FMLA, county policy manual (doing in house and saving the county 30-50K), training, implementing a new program for benefits/onboard/open enrollment, timeclock, encrypted personnel files and a tracking system. Gick made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADDITIONALS

Auditor Berish presented:

1186-18888-801	\$ 711	appropriate balance left in salary 12/31/22
1186-10121-801	\$ 271	appropriate balance left in FICA 12/31/22
1186-10124-801	\$1,100	appropriate PERF since it is comp time this year
1186-10128-801	\$ 61	appropriate balance left in Medicare 12/31/22

Parker made the motion to approve the 4 additionals. Wallace seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

February 21, 2023 – Parker made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. Gick abstained, not present at the meeting. The motion passed.

March 6, 2023 – Alcorn made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

ADJOURN

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

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Danny Wallace

Larry Parker

Keith Berry

Wayne Huffman

Phillip Gick

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