

COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 20, 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

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Woodall

ATTORNEY:

Trudy Selvia

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

10 Individuals

The Putnam County Council met on June 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Stephanie Campbell opened the meeting with a pledge to the flag.

ABATEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS FOR SCORPION, #1 AND COMPANY LLC & COLD SPRING SOLAR

Kristin Clary submitted resolutions to be reviewed and approved. Campbell read aloud resolution 2023-06-02-A for Scorpion. Parker made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Campbell read aloud resolution 2023-06-20-B for #1and Company LLC. Alcorn made the motion to approve. Gick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Clary said late fall of last year they had discussed Cold Spring Solar. They were now asking for consideration to add an additional 70 acres to the project to be declared a revitalization area open for abatement. Campbell read aloud 2023-06-20-C resolution.

Parker made the motion to deny the request. Alcorn seconded. In favor of motion: Parker, Huffman, and Alcorn. Against: Gick, Wallace and Berry. The motion did not pass. Gick made the motion to approve. Wallace seconded. In favor of motion: Gick, Wallace & Berry. Against: Parker, Huffman, and Alcorn. Campbell voted in favor, breaking the tie. The motion passed.

Woodall said they have been in negotiations, making progress until a "small" typo happened on a dollar amount that equaled to 2M. Now regrouping and new document submitted for review. Chris Matthews with Cold Spring came to the meeting to answer any questions. Regarding zoning, they are taking it one step at a time to get through the process.

METHAMPHETAMINE TREATMENT PROGRAM

Prosecutor Tim Bookwalter came to the meeting to discuss the meth problem our county is facing. Chief Probation Officer Teresa Parrish also came to the meeting to lend support for the program. He also has the support of the new Sheriff. Bookwalter said they have about 200 cases a year.

In around 2006, they developed a matrix system. You had to serve 60 days in jail with a bond of 10K set. Once released you were then put into the matrix system. This was mandatory therapy time typically with a place such as Cummins. Unfortunately, now they do not have a place to send them to get help. Due to not having a place for people to seek help they see the same people coming back repeatedly.

Bookwalter said he wanted to be proactive in trying to help people. What he proposed is when someone is arrested, they would serve 30 days in jail. Once released, they must attend weekly sessions at Raw Recovery and have a daily appointment with Adult Probation and be drug tested. The program is estimated to cost 50K a year. He will front the initial 25K from the pretrial diversion user fee fund. Bookwalter asked the Council to consider funding the other 25K. He was not asking for a decision tonight but asked them to consider it. Raw Recovery is a proven program that works.

The Prosecutor's office will track the program and its effectiveness. He would report back to the Council on how well it is working. This program would not be offered to the dealers. The Council thanked him for the information.

EMS PROPOSED LIT RATE

Commissioner Woodall passed out a spreadsheet and went over it with the board. We need to decide if we want to get EMS out of the county general fund and to be self-sufficient. Do we want to make it that between their monthly revenue and the new EMS LIT rate it would be enough to cover their entire budget. If the consensus is yes, then we are looking at needing to pass the maximum rate for EMS at .2 which would raise \$1,732,133.

Woodall reminded the Council too that EMS does not bill a county resident. If there is a balance left after insurance or do not have insurance, they are not billed by EMS. The 2022 revenue reflected on the spreadsheet will be lower than what they collect this year, but they wanted to be conservative with their numbers.

Commissioners recommended the Council to approve a rate of .2. The Council consensus is to advertise at the maximum rate of .2. The Council would want a portion of the revenue generated to be set aside for capital expenditures (such as purchasing ambulances) and the rest would be for operating expenses. Trudy Selvia will draw up the proper paperwork for the resolution to be on next month's agenda.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Commissioner Woodall said today the county decided to change the county health insurance from fully funded to self-funded with a 75K stop loss. This will save the county money and the employees should not see a difference in their health care.

It was also decided to keep the employees' portion of the premium the same, as well as the county's contribution to HSA and life insurance. Employees would also still have access to the clinic.

ANNEX STUDY

Woodall said Commissioners approved an agreement with DLZ for the annex site to make sure it was a viable option. An additional would be coming before the Council next month in the amount of 10K to pay for the study.

HIGHWAY ADDITIONAL

Engineer Jim Peck presented:

1169-40402-706 \$60,000

Funds would come from the local roads and streets fund to purchase a used roller. Parker made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Peck passed out information regarding a snapshot of the bridges given to them by United at a special meeting a few weeks ago.

After some discussion of proposed expenditures from Peck, Trudy Selvia suggested that he provide to the board a 5 and a 25-year plan for the Highway Department by the end of this year.

AUDITOR ADDITIONAL

Auditor Berish presented:

4933-30471-0000 \$8,000

To appropriate monies for the elected training fund per the Indiana Code requirements.

Wallace made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2023 AMENDED SALARY ORDINANCE

Gick made the motion to approve. Wallace seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

May 16, 2023 – Alcorn made the motion to approve. Wallace seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board members gave their committee reports. Gick will not be able to attend the July meeting.

ADJOURN

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

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Phillip Gick

Keith Berry

Danny Wallace

Larry Parker

Wayne Huffman

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