

**COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 15, 2023
6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Woodall

ATTORNEY:

Trudy Selvia

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

15 Individuals

The Putnam County Council met on August 15, 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.

COLD SPRING SOLAR

Campbell opened the public hearing. Huffman made the motion to table since there is another meeting taking place at the same time by another board for this same topic. Advised by counsel, cannot do that during hearing. Campbell asked for public comments. Hearing none, closed the hearing at 6:32 pm.

Campbell read aloud resolution 2023-08-15 presented. Huffman made the motion to table. Parker seconded. Call for a vote: Wallace opposed. Alcorn opposed. Berry opposed. Gick opposed. The motion did not carry.

Kristin Clary Economic Development Director further explained the resolution. The public hearing had been advertised. And the resolution was advertised that anyone wanting to see it could contact the Auditor's Office prior to tonight's meeting. On August 11th the Commissioners did approve the agreement. Tonight, it is going before the BZA for a special exception. Reps from Baker Tilly are here tonight to answer any questions.

Hearing no other questions, Wallace made the motion to approve. Gick seconded. Parker and Huffman opposed. The motion passed 4 to 2.

PUTNAM COUNTY LIBRARY ADDITIONAL

Additional needed due to damage to the building. It will be from their rainy-day fund in the amount of \$125,000. Gick made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMS LIT RATE

Campbell opened the public hearing. Closed hearing at 6:49 pm after no comments heard. Campbell read Resolution #2023-08-15-1.

Gick asked if passed where does that leave the county on total rate allowed. Budget Advisor Jacque Clements stated she would look it up on her laptop. Gick said while she was looking it up, he also wanted to stress the .2 rate, he felt a portion of that needed to be put aside as capital outlay that would be in essence a rainy-day fund. It would cover capital outlay expenses and unforeseen expenditures. Clements said this would not impact the rate. We would still have .45 left. Gick made the motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Huffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Gick made the motion to hold back 25% to be withheld for capital expenditures. Huffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E911 FUND

Clements researched Gick's question if radio equipment could be purchased from the fund for first responders, law in 2020 passed where first responders could get equipment paid from this fund. She can get verification from the State that it is an allowable expense. She can also ask if PSAP money could be used. Gick was trying to find funds for the volunteer fire departments to get radios. The Council could purchase the radios from E911 and the amount of E911 budget this may short could be moved to PSAP. Gick said he would like to see it just come from the PSAP.

EMS ADDITIONAL

Kelly Russ presented:

\$6,233 Purchase radio for ambulance from the LIT fund.

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

BINDING & NON-BINDING REVIEW

Jacque Clements presented the report. She brought to their attention a lawsuit on a homestead deduction and the homeowner won. It allowed for more of his structures to be eligible for the homestead deduction & supplemental deduction. Due to this, law was changed effective January 1, 2024, 1 acre ground primary resident, garage, additional building, outbuilding, pool, decks, pergolas and such will be eligible. It will increase the tax rate and the circuit breakers. The Assessors have not changed the way things are assessed. People may appeal, we need to put it in our budget plan for 2024 to address by circuit breaker or operating balance. Budget like nothing has changed, but there may be refunds needed to be made by the county. We will know by next year's budget time where we stand.

Wallace made the motion they have reviewed and instructed the Auditor to send out to all the units the binding and non-binding. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY ADDITIONALS

Jim Peck presented:

\$1,000 To cover trash expenses from the MVH fund.

Berry made the motion to approve. Parker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

\$75,000 To cover Community Crossing grant expenses from the MVH fund. Gick made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WHEEL TAX & EXCISE SURTAX

Jim Peck presented a report showing if the county changed some of their rates, the county highway department could potentially receive an additional 600K in revenue to operate. He has been trying to find other revenue streams to help get money for the roads and bridges. If the Council were in favor, they would need to have a public hearing, resolution etc. to increase the rates. Peck said Montgomery County had passed this.

Gick said Montgomery just passed this but what other counties have and their plan. Would like to see a comparison. Alcorn questioned the current rates versus the proposed. The figures were not adding up.

Jacque Clements looked up to see the deadline to pass an increase. It is too late for the 2024 budget. The earliest would be to help fund the 2025 budget.

EXTENSION OFFICE TRANSFER

Mark Evans presented:

\$2,500 part time to overtime/to pay out comp. time accrued during fair.

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

MINUTES

July 18, 2023 – need to make correction under the committee reports portion.

August 4, 2023 – Alcorn made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board members gave their committee reports.

ADJOURN

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

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Keith Berry

Wayne Huffman

Danny Wallace

Larry Parker

Phillip Gick

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