

**COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 17, 2025
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President
Jay Alcorn, Vice President
Wayne Huffman
Kerry Williams
Danny Wallace

COMMISSIONER:

Rick Woodall, President
Andy Beck

ATTORNEY:

Trudy Selvia

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

11 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Council met on June 17, 2025, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Campbell opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

Alcorn made the motion to add Baker Tilly, West Central contribution for 2026, and planning/BZA to the agenda. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE AMENDING MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE SURTAX

Campbell opened the public hearing. Trudy Selvia explained the ordinance needed to be amended due to last year's not having the maximum rate for military mini trucks, collector vehicles, motorcycles, and motor driven cycles. The new rates would become effective January 1, 2026. Hearing no comments, hearing closed.

Huffman made the motion to approve ordinance #2025-06/17 amending the motor vehicle excise surtax. Wallace seconded. The motion passed.

PLAN COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Jim Ensley said with the new laws for the board it is causing some issues. Per the statute it states one member must come from the Plan Commission board. However, all the members on this board are ineligible to serve. This is just for informational purposes currently.

TAX ABATEMENT/TIF RESOLUTION

Director Kristin Clary discussed the annual tax abatement request compliance form approval for the following:

Scorpion Protective Coatings, Inc. – Huffman made the motion to approve resolution#2025-06-17-A. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

#1 and Company LLC – Alcorn made the motion to approve resolution#2025-06-17-B. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

POET Holdings, LLC – Huffman made the motion to approve resolution#2025-06-17-C. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

Alamo Group DBS Dixie Chopper – Wallace made the motion to approve resolution#2025-06-17-D. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

Clary said the Commissioners had formed a redevelopment commission for the county to establish their own TIF district. She went on to explain how a TIF district operates and the funding. The planning department is currently working on a map of the district. It would be from the edge of Greencastle, Manhattan Road/Lone Star to 40 and across to 231 to POET. Only industrial parcels would be captured. The resolution has been approved already by the Redevelopment Commission and the Board of Commissioners. She is now presenting it to the Council for their approval.

Alcorn questioned if it would be worth it to the county after hearing the area the district boundaries. Most of the roads in it would be state roads. Clary felt it was worth it. They were not only looking at improving roads but also bridges. Lone Star Road is one of the first projects they would look to fund. Campbell said Manhattan Road would also be a great project. Beck said there were also sewage lines that could be done. The county is looking outside the box for funding options for projects needing to be done. Clary said most counties have their own TIF district.

Campbell read resolution#2025-06-17-E. Huffman made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

SHERIFF – PART TIME HELP HOURLY RATE INCREASE REQUEST

Chief Deputy Tom Sutherlin passed out information regarding their request to increase the hourly rate for part-time jailers to \$22.50. They were not asking for any additional money. Starting full-time jailer is \$23.57/hr so the part time help would still be under, and they do the same work with no benefits.

Sutherlin informed the board Matron Tresha Clearwaters had retired. He introduced the new Matron, Becky Chadd Bailey. Alcorn asked why there had been so much appropriated for part time help if they clearly did not need it since they have only used 19% of the \$117,000 in their budget. Bailey said they have not had as many employees as they have in the past. The Council suggested this being looked at with their request for 2026 to make sure they do not appropriate too high again.

Wallace made the motion to approve the increase to \$22.50/hr effective July 1, 2025. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

BAKER TILLY

Jason Semler passed out information regarding potential impact from SB 1. The State focused on trying to reduce property taxes, which they successfully did with SB 1. However, it could impact the county's property tax revenue. Semler went over the paperwork. Cautioned for personal property in the county's new TIF district. If it goes negative, then the parcels positive must make up for that. It could hurt your funding. They will need to be careful what you capture in the district. The State wants counties to look at income tax and not property tax for revenue.

HIGHWAY ADDITIONAL REQUEST BY COMMISSIONERS FOR BRIDGES

Commissioner Woodall and Beck presented:

\$600,000 County general fund

The funds would be put towards bridges in the county as discussed at the last Council meeting. Huffman made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

HIGHWAY ADDITIONAL REQUEST/CCMG

Commissioner Woodall and Beck presented:

\$1,372,507 CCMG fund

Request to appropriate grant money received for road projects.

Alcorn made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

RAINY DAY RESOLUTION

Auditor Berish stated during budget workshops for 2025 it had been put in the budget to move 1M from the county general fund to the rainy day fund. The board needs to approve having a resolution drawn up to move the funds. Wallace made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed. Selvia will draw up the resolution and get it advertised.

WEST CENTRAL 2026 CONTRIBUTION REQUEST

Huffman made the motion to approve the request of \$110,178. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

MINUTES

May 20, 2025 – Williams made the motion to table, the section where it discussed the Commissioners requesting interest money should state they requested 900K, not 600K. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

BOARD REPORTS

The members gave reports for the boards they sit on.

HEALTH INSURANCE 8/1/25 – 7/31/26

Woodall wanted to give the Council an update on health insurance premiums. During the last period we have 2.3M in claims. Originally Anthem submitted a 17% increase to our premiums. The county's insurance broker EPIC was able to negotiate them down to 8.9%. The premium would increase by 250K for the insurance year. To help offset some of the increase, the Commissioners did increase the employee portion of the premium by 10%. It has been at least seven years since they had an increase in the amount they pay.

EPIC is still negotiating with Guardian on the supplemental insurance offered. When they switched brokers, they were able to see savings from \$36 per subscriber to \$28. Claims are what drives the insurance premium each year and unfortunately, we have had some large claim years.

Prescriptions are part of the high claims. EPIC will be looking at this and helping the county to hopefully guide them in a direction where we can see some savings.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Woodall said they had a meeting with the hospital board again about the building they had proposed the county to purchase for the health department to move to. Beck updated the Council on where they were at this point.

ADJOURN

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Wayne Huffman

Kerry Williams

Danny Wallace

Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish