

MAY 10, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Council met in regular session Monday May 10, 2021 7:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Councilmembers present were Ken Boswell, Adam Loehmer, Ron DeSabatine, Brian Young, Kathi Thompson, Adam Loehmer, and Tim Overmyer with County Auditor Laura Wheeler. Mike Tiede was present by telephone for part of the meeting.

Also present were Autumn Bailor, Alex Donathen, Joe Moyer, Michael Gallenberger, Kyle McTeigue, Gary Kruger, Brandon DeLorenzo, David Olds, Gail Lambert, Connie Ehrlich, Jeff Richwine, and Nathan Origer.

President Boswell opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: SHERIFF

Sheriff Jeff Richwine explained the cost of the work release program vs regular inmate costs which estimates to be \$55.00 per day. Regular inmates pay nothing to the County, but the County must provide health care. The work release program pays \$112.00 per week to the County with no health insurance costs. One additional employee needed to cover the work release program and 3-4 new employees to provide security for the Justice Center after remodeling. The County receives \$52.00 per day for housing federal inmates with an additional \$4.50 per day for meals and there are no health costs.

Jeff showed several videos to demonstrate the challenges faced by jailers due to drug use, mental illness, and understaffing.

IN RE: RECYCLING

Recycling/Transfer Station manager Brad Bonnell sent an email to Council referencing County wages.

Equipment and building issues discussed. The backhoe has extreme oil leaks. Shop roof is still leaking and getting worse. All issues tabled for further investigation.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Kathleen Thompson made a motion to approve and sign the April 12, 2021 regular session minutes as presented, Brian Young seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Restructuring of the Maintenance Department and pay scale discussed. The maintenance department will consist of a Director, Custodial Director and two part-time positions. The intent is to save money by having a knowledgeable person on staff to deal with issues that have been previously outsourced. This was discussed at the last joint session and the commissioners believed all agreed to proceed.

Ronald DeSabatine motioned to table the maintenance discussion until the next joint session, Kathi seconded and motion carried with Michael T. Tiede dissenting.

A Bond ordinance revision presented because Auditor Wheeler requested to have the Auditor's role removed from this process. Wheeler cited the following: 1) County property taxes would increase by 67% over a 3-year period. 2) Two financial advisers recommended budget cuts that have not happened. 3) Solar panel revenue cannot be relied upon and the County must cover the unknown costs of the subsequent lawsuits. 4) Several departments are asking for raises, which will be difficult with trying to cut budgets. 5) The major objective, the Courthouse renovation, is still not addressed with this \$6 million expenditure on the Justice Center.

Discussion followed and Ronald DeSabatine motioned to hold a special joint session to discuss maintenance restructuring and the Justice Center bond, Tim Overmyer seconded and motion carried with Brian Young dissenting. Tentative Special Joint Session meeting scheduled for May 17, 2021 at 7pm.

2022 Budget wage increases discussed. Ronald DeSabatine motioned for a 3% maximum increase but not guaranteed for budget year 2022, Adam Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Kathleen Thompson motioned to approve the following transfer request as presented, Adam Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

FROM: 1135-531-45601	Culverts	\$15,000.	
TO: 1135-531-75802	Bridge #257		\$15,000.

The following additional appropriation presented for approval to advertise.

4800 JC Renovation Bond Proceeds	\$5,575,000.00
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This fund needed to capture the bond proceeds and to pay out the cost of the project. Kathleen Thompson motioned to approve for the additional for advertising as presented, Brian Young seconded. Motion did not pass as Ronald DeSabatine, Tim Overmyer, and Adam Loehmer opposed. Kathleen Thompson and Brian Young in favor. Michael T. Tiede was no longer available by telephone.

Brian Young made a motion to approve the following Revised Salary & Wage Ordinance, Kathleen Thompson seconded and motion carried. Sheriff's salary is set as 50% of Prosecutor by state law.

REVISED ORDINANCE FOR SALARIES & WAGES FOR 2021
Monday, May 10, 2021

	<u>REQUESTED REVISION FROM</u>	<u>REQUESTED REVISION TO</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Per Hour Wage Change as follows: Matrix Change 1000-0005 County General/Sheriff 10100 Jeff Richwine	\$78,062.50	\$79,975.00	07/01/2021

Continuous employment discussed for longevity purposes. Per the MATRIX guidelines "if an employee is reduced to part-time status, it will be considered to be a break in employment for longevity purposes". A part-time EMS employee (Kyle McTeigue) wants to return to Pulaski County full-time and retain his full-time seniority status, which deviates from the current Matrix rules. Kathleen Thompson motioned to amend the MATRIX rule to state 'employees who go from full time to part time and then want to come back to full time will retain longevity as of the number of years previously worked full time.' Brian Young seconded but motion did not pass as Brian Young, Kathleen Thompson, and Adam Loehmer voted in favor with Ronald DeSabatine, Tim Overmyer, and Kenneth Boswell opposed. Michael T. Tiede was unavailable at the time of the vote.

Brian Young made a motion to form a special sub-committee (reestablish the Matrix committee) to rewrite the handbook and address Matrix issues. Kathleen Thompson seconded. Brian explained that he thinks the Matrix is outdated and hard to understand. Brian Young and Kathleen Thompson were in favor while Tim Overmyer, Adam Loehmer, and Ronald DeSabatine opposed. Motioned did not pass.

Digitized Ordinances discussed briefly.

Brian Young reported on aviation grant activity. The FAA has approved \$307,000.00 to invest in the property. Aviation's 5-year plan is to replace lighting (already done) and improving runway/taxiways.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments made on Circuit Court moving to the Justice Center, courthouse attic issues, and EMS wage increase.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Approved and signed on June 14, 2021 by PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL.

Kenneth Boswell

ADAM LOEHMER

RON DESABATINE

MIKE TIEDE

KATHI THOMPSON

BRIAN YOUNG

TIM OVERMYER

Attest: _____
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY