

APRIL 11, 2022

JOINT SESSION

**PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Pulaski County Commissioners and Pulaski County Council met in joint session 6:00pm April 11, 2022 at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer, Michael McClure and Councilmembers present were Adam Loehmer, Ron DeSabatine, Kathleen Thompson, Mike Tiede, Tim Overmyer, Brian Young with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley. Councilmember Ken Boswell was absent.

Also present were Brandon DeLorenzo, Jennifer Knebel, Connie Ehrlich, Gloria Hoffa, Carol Shidler, Terry Young, Kaila Stukofski, JoLynn Behny, Judge Mary Welker, Gail Lambert, Gene Speicher, Wendy Rose, Judge Crystal Kocher, Randy Davis, Nathan Origer, Jeff Richwine, and Chris Schramm.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following press release read:

The Pulaski County Council has been made aware of the criminal charges filed against Councilman Brian Young on April 4th. A criminal charge against a sitting member of the Council would not always necessitate action by the board, but in this case the allegations challenge Mr. Young's legitimacy as a member of this board. This presents a unique set of concerns for the board. The criminal process will play out despite any action or inaction on the part of this board. The consequences of an ultimate acquittal, conviction, or guilty plea all present different concerns for any past, current, or future actions this board takes in which Mr. Young is an active member. Mr. Tankersley, acting as the legal representative of this board, reached out today to Attorney Churchward, who is the attorney assisting Mr. Young with his defense. The goal of the communication was to open a dialogue about the concerns of the board, and what Mr. Young's intentions are going forward. Mr. Churchward advised that Mr. Young's position is that he was a properly elected representative of his district and therefore he will continue to serve on the Council in that capacity. This leaves the Council with a decision to make. There are several avenues the board may choose to take under Indiana law that could result in the removal of Mr. Young from the board. If the board chooses to pursue one of these avenues, it would be independent of the criminal proceedings and have no bearing on them whatsoever. We are not prepared to have a discussion or decide on those legal options tonight. The situation will continue to be examined by legal counsel and options will be presented to the board as adequate time allows.

IN RE: CDC

COVID-19 home test kits available through Pulaski Memorial Hospital and the Pulaski County Health Departments but limited to one per person. Testing programs have ended but testing provided to patients or those who present with symptoms.

Establishing a redevelopment commission under *Indiana Code 36-7-14* discussed. The CDC was set up 27 years ago solely under a County resolution. Tools available under a redevelopment commission is tax-increment financing (TIF), which allows for new property taxes to stay in the TIF district for specific purposes. One of the three major focal points of CDC's partnership with the Community Foundation through their Aspirations-in-Action programming is housing.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds discussed briefly. A proposed scope-of-work from Baker Tilly presented for review.

The Justice Center renovation project has a remaining balance of \$2,040,510.54, including program contingency of \$101,714.22, a backup contingency of \$26,039.00, and \$208,129.24 in Tonn & Blank contingency. A fairly substantial change order is expected to address a security door for Circuit Court and a few minor odds and ends such as expansion of site-work/concrete work.

Masonry work, window installation, EIFS cladding and hard surface flooring continues. Upstairs painting about 65% complete and the roof-top air-handling unit will go live in second half of April which will allow Tonn & Blank to go from temporary heaters to building heat.

IN RE: BEAVER TOWNSHIP

Distribution of solar funds discussed briefly. Council is responsible for distributing the funding as it becomes available.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Brandon DeLorenzo presented with 10-year service plaque.

Ambulance Grant discussed. The original grant for new ambulances proposed up to 75%, but the county awarded only 35%. The grant will need to be resubmitted to address the changes. Ronald DeSabatine motioned to approve the purchase of an ambulance including infusion pumps and transport vents, Brian Young seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion for the Commissioners to approve and sign the December 13, 2021 and February 14, 2022 joint session minutes as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Kathleen Thompson made a motion for Council to approve and sign the December 13, 2021 and February 14, 2022 joint session minutes as presented, Ronald DeSabatine seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Funding the extra cost of fax machines through Level 365 discussed. There are six copier/printers with added equipment for receiving faxes, which come with an added cost. Kathleen Thompson made a motion for the additional cost to come out of the budgeted telephone line expense Michael T. Tiede seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds discussed and the following items were listed as possible ways to use this money...Ambulance, West Annex air quality (separate coroner area from the rest of the building), Court House new air quality system as part of remodel, and Broadband. Mental health and recovery services suggested for consideration. Kathleen Thompson motioned on behalf of Council to hire Baker Tilly for spending consultation and Brian Young seconded. Baker-Tilly's fee will not exceed \$45,000.00. The vote was 4-2 in favor with Adam Loehmer, Brian Young, Kathleen Thompson, and Tim Overmyer in favor. Ronald DeSabatine and Michael T. Tiede opposed. Chuck Mellon motioned on behalf of Commissioners to hire Baker-Tilly for spending consultation and Maurice Loehmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

County parking lots (west of Justice Center), Health Insurance, and sale of County Home land discussed briefly.

With no other business to discuss, Chuck Mellon motioned for the Commissioners to adjourn at 7:17pm, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. Kathleen Thompson motioned for the Council to adjourn at 7:17pm, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed the 13th day of June 2022 by the **PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL.**

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

KEN BOSWELL

CHARLES MELLON

ADAM LOEHMER

MAURICE LOEHMER

RON DESABATINE

MIKE MCCLURE

MIKE TIEDE

KATHI THOMPSON

BRIAN YOUNG

TIM OVERMYER

ATTESTED BY: _____
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN