

MAY 8, 2023

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Council met in regular session Monday May 8, 2023 7:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Councilmembers present were Kenneth Boswell (by Zoom), Michael Tiede, Tim Overmyer, Bradley Bonnell, Jerry Locke, Jeffrey Richwine, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez with County Auditor Laura Wheeler.

Also present were Nathan Origer, Chris Schramm, Gail Lambert, Leeann Wright, Gary Kruger, Connie Ehrlich.

Vice-President Tiede opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: SHERIFF

A deputy resigned but another 2 ½ years' experience hired. Council asked to approve him in on the Matrix as a 2nd tier employee. Jeffrey Richwine made a motion to approve, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: CDC

Courthouse project update given. The overall Design Development costs an estimated \$11,803,362.00. In January 2021 the rough estimate was \$6,165,545. Another estimate on a new building discussed. The County has currently incurred about \$500,000.00 on this project plus Nathan Origer's time and Nathan refused involvement in getting a quote on a new building. Changes to restrooms, number of restrooms, sidewalks, and retaining wall discussed in an effort to reduce the overall cost. Funding and changes to the North entrance discussed briefly. A replacement for Adam Loehmer is needed for the steering committee. Jeffrey Richwine made a motion to appoint Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez to the steering committee, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Pulaski County Preliminary Resolution No. 2023-04, establishing an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) for the Bottlebrush Solar Project, including Exhibit A (list of owners and legal descriptions) and Exhibit B (copy of plat showing participating parcels) presented for review and approval and reads as follows:

PULASKI COUNTY RESOLUTION No. 2023-04
BY
THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA,
A PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA
FOR THE BOTTLEBRUSH SOLAR PROJECT

WHEREAS *INDIANA CODE (I.C.) 6-1.1-12.1* EMPOWERS THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA ("COUNCIL"), TO DESIGNATE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREAS BY FOLLOWING A PROCEDURE INVOLVING THE ADOPTION OF A PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION, PROVISION FOR PUBLIC NOTICE, CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF A FINAL RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION OR A MODIFIED VERSION THEREOF;

WHEREAS BOTTLEBRUSH SOLAR ENERGY LLC HAS REQUESTED THAT THE PARCELS LOCATED AT LOCATIONS WITHIN BEAVER AND SALEM TOWNSHIPS, PULASKI COUNTY, DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A, DISPLAYED ON THE MAP INCLUDED AS EXHIBIT B, AND COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 5,999.011 ACRES, AS WELL AS ANY COUNTY-ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY ENCOMPASSED WITHIN THE GENERAL PROJECT AREA HIGHLIGHTED IN THE BLUE-BORDERED AREA OF THE MAP INCLUDED AS EXHIBIT B REGARDLESS OF ANY PARCEL'S INCLUSION IN OR EXCLUSION FROM THE PROJECT OTHERWISE, BE DESIGNATED AS AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING A DEDUCTION TO ASSESSED VALUATION (PROPERTY-TAX ABATEMENT) IN CONNECTION WITH REDEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY OCCURRING ON THE AFFECTED PROPERTIES; AND

WHEREAS THE COUNCIL RECEIVED EVIDENCE REGARDING WHETHER THE AREA SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA, AND SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WAS PROVIDED THAT ESTABLISHED THAT THE PROJECT SATISFIES THE STANDARDS SET FORTH BY THE STATUTE,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. THE COUNCIL NOW ADOPTS AND APPROVES THIS PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION AND HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE AFFECTED PARCELS, INCLUDING THE SECTIONS OF ALL PARCELS IN THE GENERAL PROJECT AREA WITHIN COUNTY-ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY, REGARDLESS OF SAID PARCELS' INCLUSION IN OR EXCLUSION FROM THE PROJECT OTHERWISE, AS AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA FOR A PERIOD OF 40 YEARS;

2. THIS ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA ALLOWS ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES ATTRIBUTABLE TO REDEVELOPMENT OR REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES AND the installation of new manufacturing equipment, all as defined in I.C. 6-1.1-12.1-1 and permitted under I.C. 6-1.1-12.1-3 and I.C. 6-1.1-12-4.5;

3. such redevelopment or rehabilitation activities and such manufacturing equipment as described in part 2, above, are limited strictly to investments made for the purpose of generating electricity from solar energy for the public grid and to activities and equipment in direct support of such efforts, or to other purposes related thereto and fully compliant with the Pulaski County Unified Development Ordinance, as amended, and any actions taken by the Pulaski County Advisory Plan Commission or Pulaski County Board of Zoning Appeals in their efforts to enforce and to interpret aforesaid ordinance;

4. A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE FILED WITH THE COUNTY ASSESSOR;

5. A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE DEDUCTION TO ASSESSED VALUATION TO BE REQUESTED BY THE PETITIONER SHALL BE PROVIDED TO EACH AFFECTED TAXING UNITS; AND

6. THE COUNCIL HEREBY FIXES 7:00 P.M., ON MONDAY, 12 JUNE 2023, IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE PULASKI COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT GARAGE, 1131 NORTH U.S. 35, WINAMAC, INDIANA, AS THE TIME, DATE, AND LOCATION FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR RECEIVING OF REMONSTRANCE AND OBJECTIONS FROM INTERESTED PERSONS PRIOR TO ADOPTING A FINAL RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE AFFECTED PARCELS AS AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA AND CONSIDERING ANY DEDUCTION TO ASSESSED VALUATION REQUESTED BY THE PETITIONER.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS EIGHTH DAY OF MAY 2023 BY A VOTE OF 4 YEAS AND 2 NAYS.

Matt Muller from Invenergy, who is in charge of the Bottlebrush Solar Project, spoke briefly about Chicago based Invenergy having four (4) other projects in Indiana. There are 5,999.011 acres under contract in Pulaski County, but only 1500 acres will have panels. Jeffrey Richwine made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-04, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez seconded and motion passed 4-2. Kenneth Boswell, Jeffrey Richwine, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez, and Michael Tiede in favor, Bradley Bonnell and Tim Overmyer opposed. Jerry Locke recused himself from the vote. Public hearing planned for June 12, 2023 at Council regular 7:00pm meeting.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

The department budget hearings set for August 7 and 8, 2023 with Public hearing September 11, 2023 and final adoption October 9, 2023. The County has 129 active funds of which 78 are not budgeted and 51 are budgeted, with 13 are critical funds. These 13 funds had \$1,697,685.04 not used in their budgets in 2022. Council decided to cap budget hearings to 20 minutes per department.

The Matrix also discussed with the county having 24 total departments and 21 different pay scales (10 just for Sheriff’s Department) plus another 12 individuals set with special wages and ten (10) boards all paid differently. Longevity pay is 5 years with the exception of two (2) departments, which have a longevity increase in only two (2) years. To be discussed further.

Department wages based on recent salary study is being considered for the 2024 budget.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

The following advertised additional presented for approval:

1237	Opioid Restricted	\$72,519.83
1238	Opioid Unrestricted	17,207.89
8910	USDA Grant – Ambulance	95,000.00
	Building and Maintenance Repair	2,650.00

Jeffrey Richwine made a motion to approve advertised additional as presented, Bradley Bonnell seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Tim Overmyer made a motion to approve and sign April 10, 2023 regular session minutes, Jeffrey Richwine seconded and motion carried unanimously.

There was on public comment from Connie Ehrlich questioning County revenue base and the impact made by the Bottlebrush preliminary resolution.

With no other business to discuss, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez made a motion to adjourn at 8:19PM, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed this 12th day of June 2023 by the **PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**.

KENNETH BOSWELL	MICHAEL TIEDE	TIM OVERMYER
JEFFREY RICHWINE	JERRY LOCKE	SHEILA HAZEMI-JIMENEZ
BRADLEY BONNELL		

ATTEST: _____
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN