

SULLIVAN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 28, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Jerry Payne, Vice President presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order and asked all to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, as Duane Wampler was absent.

ROLL CALL

Jerry called roll, Members present, Jerry Payne, Larry Kinnett, Tim Abrams, Curt Bedwell, Logan Pearson and Nick Cullison. Duane Wampler, absent.

MINUTES

Jerry asked if anyone had any additions to corrections to the minutes, there being none, Jerry Asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Tim Abrams make a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Larry Kinnett seconded. Jerry asked for a vote, all in favor, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Sullivan Solar Abatement and Brampton Brick filed their CF1 forms in a timely manner with the Auditor's Office.

Jerry read a letter from Terry Modesitt, County Attorney for the Sullivan County Commissioners, concerning Sullivan Solar and not having followed the Memorandum of Understanding.

Josh Reshey, Attorney for the County Council, said that the council must decide if Sullivan Solar did or did not make reasonable efforts to comply with the memorandum of understanding.

Tim Abrams made a motion that Sullivan Solar breached their agreement and would like for them to come in for a hearing and decision.

Josh said that the motion had to say that they did not substantially comply with the Memorandum of understanding.

Tim sated his motion again that they did not substantial comply with the memorandum of understanding and wanted to have a hearing. Nick Cullison seconded the motion.

Jerry asked if there was any discussion before the vote.

Josh also stated that the decision in favor of or taking away the abatement needs to be in the form of a resolution. He went on to say, that when they took their vote for the motion presented, if they voted to set it for hearing that they were not in substantial compliance, a hearing date would be set. If at the hearing they decided to revoke the abatement, then they along with the County Assessor would be sent a copy of the resolution signed by the council by certified mail.

Josh said that he had questions that he sent to Sullivan Solar, which they answered, indicating they did substantially comply with the Memorandum of Understanding.

They indicated that one Sullivan business was involved in the construction of the solar farm, with another firm from Terre Haute.

Josh said according to the Department of Energy website, they have the required nameplate capacity.

He went on to say that he thinks the only question is, the local contractors and wages. They let bids and stated in the memorandum of understanding that they would pay around \$30.00 per hour.

When Sullivan Solar came before the council in 2015, they stated:

That the construction would last around 12 weeks, and there would be sixty jobs for the construction of the solar farm and that they use a lot of local labor for the construction and would pay \$31.13 per. The question, did they average the wage stated and did they violate the memorandum of understanding in terms of the average wages paid during construction.

Josh said that he has no idea of the wages paid.

Jerry stated that he felt the council and he stated that at the time they approached the council, he was a sitting councilman at the time when the abatement was approved, should have at that time said something about the wages.

Jerry the asked for a vote on the motion on the floor, that they did not substantial comply with the motion of understanding and they want to have a hearing.

The vote being all in favor, Jerry Payne, Larry Kinnett, Tim Abrams, Curt Bedwell, Tim Abrams, Nick Cullison, with Duane Wampler being absent.

Hearing date set for Special Meeting for June 17, 2019 at 3:30 pm in the Commissioners meeting room on the first floor of the Sullivan County Court House.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry asked if anyone had new business.

Cheryl Casselman asked to speak, she said that she just wanted a moment of the council's time. She wanted to introduce herself, she is the new Extension Educator, Health and Human Services and Brooke Stefanick is the new Extension Educator, Ag & Natural Resources.

She let them know that the extension office was now fully staffed.

Vicki Talpas asked to speak. She said that Tracy Cox one of her deputies had obtained her level two certification and was entitled to \$1,000.00 and would like for the council to make a motion for her to be paid.

Nick Cullison made the motion to pay Tracy the \$1,000.00 Curt seconded.

Jerry asked if there was any discussion, Tim Abrams said that it should be paid out of county general un-appropriated.

Jerry asked for a vote, all in favor, motion passed.

Jerry asked if there was any other new business, Josh asked to speak for a minute about House Bill 1018 concerning park boards. He said there was no change, unless the Circuit Court Judge did not want to make an appointment to the park board, otherwise the ordinance did not need to be amended.

Jerry asked if there was any other new business

Doug Followell asked to speak, He said that the Sullivan County Park and Lake is planning to expand and looking at purchasing property to the north east side of the park and wanted to let the council know of their plans.

Josh asked to speak concerning Brampton Brick abatement and said that the council needed to make a motion to either accept or deny their abatement.

Logan Pearison made a motion that Brampton Brick did make substantial compliance with their abatement. Seconded by Nick.

Jerry asked if there was any other discussion, Josh stated that they had met their number of employees and salary as well.

Jerry called for a vote, all in favor motion passed.

Jerry asked if anyone else had anything.

Nick said he wanted to talk about the local income tax. He asked Josh if he could run some figures as to what 1% and 1.5 % would bring into the county if it was increased.

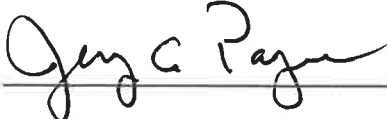
By increasing the local income tax, they could do more and also have money to help with the jail project. Josh said he would run the figures and that they had options, one being the local income tax, another being the public safety tax, where the county could benefit for the jail and the city and towns would also benefit. They could set a tax rate specifically for a new jail. It would allow a max rate of 0.2% and no longer than 22 years, it would be a separate fund and could only be used for a new jail.

Jerry asked if there was any other new business, there being none, he asked the council for a motion to adjourn. Curt made the motion to adjourn and Logan Pearison seconded.

All in favor, motion passed, meeting adjourned.

SULLIVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

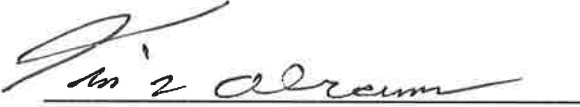
Duane Wampler - ABSENT




Jerry Payne



Larry Kennett



Tim Abrams




Logan Pearson



Curt Bedwell

Nick Cullison

Attest:


Shelly Hiatt Parris, Auditor

May 28, 2019