

Gibson County Council Regular Session Agenda April 12, 2022

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on April 12, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: President Jeremy Overton, Vice President, Craig Pflug, Councilmen Dan Beard, Jeff Clark, Derek McGraw, Jay Riley, and Michael Stilwell.

Also present were Auditor Mike Watkins, 1st Deputy to Auditor, Kristy York, and 2nd Deputy to Auditor, Wendy Williams

The Council opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes - March 8, 2022, minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – March 2022 report was acknowledged by the Council.

Clerk's Report – January 2022 report was acknowledged by the Council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Extension Office – Maegan Hollis, Director and the new Purdue 4-H educator, Jacob Shuman were present. Jacob moved from Ohio, graduated from Ohio State University with an ag education. The extension office is searching for a Health and Human Science Educator. They are getting kids ready for the fair and prepping kids to go to camp.

Health Department – Director Hornby gave Council their monthly reports; there were no questions. She had requested using the part time person for Sanitarian; she has unused money in her budget. She wonders how long the Council will allow someone to train under the Sanitarian. The part time person she is paying from the immunization grant at \$15 per hour; she would like to leave this person at \$15 per hour as this person can continue to do immunizations while also training for the Sanitarian position and has a budget thru June. This position will probably switch over to county money in July. The Council feels she can move this person around at her discretion. The part time person is training in food inspection, vital records, and sanitarian. Director Hornby requests that the position be kept at the current rate of pay of \$15 per hour. Councilman McGraw motioned to keep this part time person at \$15 per hour, seconded by Councilman Clark. The vote was 7-0.

Director Hornby told Council their ADA ramp has broken twice and is now closed. They try to use the trailer as a drive thru for the customers that cannot climb the steps. She asked Council to consider an ADA building for them as she knows there are proposals for other buildings, and she would be happy to share a building with someone else. She would like a one level building. She told everyone the health department is COVID boosting 5 days per week on a walk-in basis.

EMS – Director Pond presented March reports to Council; there were no questions. The next thing he discussed was the part time clerk being raised to \$13 per hour instead of the current \$12.50 per hour. He has sent a job description to the Council; he requests Council move on this item. Councilman Pflug motioned to move the rate to \$13 per hour based on the list of responsibilities, seconded by Councilman Clark. The vote was 7-0.

He told Council the contract was negotiated and sent to the Council. He wonders where we are on paying the EMS employees for every hour. Councilman Overton told everyone he had visited with Warrick County officials to discuss their operations. One of the things they discussed was transitioning into the 24 hour paid shifts. They made an hourly wage adjustment of approximately 8 ½% to alleviate the overtime

cost. Director Pond provided Councilman Overton a packet of information in paper format; Councilman Overton is working to convert this packet to electronic format. Director Pond told Council they cannot reduce the hourly rate of pay as the employees will leave. Councilman Overton is trying to estimate the County's cost if this 24-hour paid shift is implemented; he feels the county must know this number before they can decide. Director Pond is banking on an EMT passing his paramedic course, which will keep their employee numbers where they should be. Warrick County feels the benefits package will have to be lowered in Gibson County as the benefits are much more than Warrick receives. Director Pond then warned Council that taking any benefits away will cause people to leave as well. Councilman Overton says they are working on this item. The other item Councilman Overton has worked on is requesting additional pay for emergency workers from the ARPA money. They requested an additional \$2.50 per hour. An EMS employee and Councilman Overton will be working with Ivy Tech and other area schools to try and create awareness of the program. Director Pond says his people are waiting on a change; he is unsure how much longer they will continue to wait. One of the EMS employees stated that he is earning \$13.90 per hour, but could go to AMR and make substantially more, but he loves this county and wants to stay. As an EMT, he is paid at poverty rate. He feels they have put the contract off month after month and they would like to put it to bed. Attorney Spindler has not reviewed the contract, Councilman Overton has forwarded the contract to him. Director Pond wants the Council to understand, no one will sign a contract that does not pay them for every hour, and something must happen before they lose people.

Sheriff Bottoms gave the Council his monthly reports; there were no questions. Today's jail population was 110. They have one new Deputy, plus another background check in progress. IDEM inspected gas tanks; and the overflow bucket has a crack and needs replaced. Parker Excavating quoted a bit over \$3900 for repairs. Councilman Riley asked if the tanks will be moved with the new jail; George Ballard says it has not been decided at this time. Hinderliter has pressure tested the gas tank; it was okay, and they will send the report into the State. IDEM requires them to do a leakage test twice per week now; IDEM recommended a pressure tester. Hinderliter will give a quote on the gage. At this time, they must shut the pump down for two days per week to get the test completed. If they install an auto gage, they will no longer have to shut the pumps down; they will push a button to complete the test. The State Fire Marshal has been in the jail to inspect. They did have to complete some minor repairs. Sheriff Bottoms would like to have more bollards installed around the gas tank; Parker Excavating will do this work after Hinderliter is finished. Councilman Pflug asked if an above ground tank would work better; he feels underground tanks cause more problems and can be a target. He feels a fuel provider might provide the above ground storage. Sheriff Bottoms will investigate this idea.

EMA – EMA Director Hedges commended Oakland City Fire Chief, as he was present. Director Hedges informed Council that he is working on a grant in the amount of \$40,000 for cyber security; they will work with Parrish on the grant. Director Hedges requested more money for his employee as EMA does not receive overtime and wonders if this employee will be included on the ARPA extra pay. Councilman Riley told him they would investigate it. EMA employee feels the pay is based on the job title and since she delivered PPE during COVID and worked the COVID clinic, exposing herself to COVID she should be entitled to the extra pay as well. Councilman Overton told them they went to ARPA meeting and Debbie Bennett-Stearnsman is going to do some research. Stephanie wants to ensure they are not classified as clerical as EMA is not clerical. Director Hedges feels the Courthouse was open during the pandemic and those people that worked should also be entitled to some of this money.

Jail Project – George Ballard, Owners Representative told Council that bid package #1 will disburse this Friday, thru Garmon; it will include the pad, steel, and roofing materials. The jail has another report due on 4/20/2022.

OLD BUSINESS

Additional Appropriation Resolution – The Auditor has advertised the following additional appropriations and now requests approval to add the following additions to the 2022 budget.

Fund 1000 General Fund, Personal Services is receiving an additional of \$10,000 for Overtime in Department 02.

Fund 1131 County Sales Disclosure Fund, Capital Outlays is receiving an additional of \$11,000 for a computer, printer, and toner.

1159 Health Fund, Other Services and Charges is receiving an additional of \$10,000 for legal services.

Fund 1186 Rainy Day Fund, Capital Outlays is receiving an additional of \$100,000 for Financial/Property Tax Software.

Fund 1191 Riverboat Fund, Capital Outlays is receiving an additional of \$207,3500 for Financial/Property Tax Software.

Fund 1216 Auditor's Ineligible Fund, Capital Outlays is receiving an additional of \$30,000 for Financial/Property Tax Software.

Fund 4901 Auditor's Plat Book Fund, Capital Outlays is receiving an additional of \$70,000 for Financial/Property Tax Software.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation Resolution, seconded by Councilman Clark. The vote was 7-0.


NEW BUSINESS

Councilman McGraw extended a thank you to all Dispatchers on National Public Safety Week.

New Probation Building Groundbreaking – Gibson County Chamber Director Vanoven invited all to attend this groundbreaking ceremony on April 20, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn.

Minutes from the April 12, 2022, meeting




Jeremy Overton, President


Craig Pflug, Vice- President




Dan Beard, Councilman



Jeff Clark, Councilman




Derek McGraw, Councilman



Jay Riley, Councilman



Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 

Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor