

Gibson County Council Regular Session Meeting August 8, 2023

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on August 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: President Jeremy Overton, Vice President, Derek McGraw, Council Members: Jeff Clark, Jay Riley (absent), Robert Schleiter, Michael Stilwell, and Hannah Whitehead
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 - July 11, 2023, regular meeting minutes were approved as written. The 2024 Budget Meeting on Departmental Requests from July 19, 2023, was also approved as written.

Treasurer / Clerk Report –reports were acknowledged by the Council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

EMS – Director Pond presented July reports to Council; there were no questions. Director Pond told the Council that EMS is having employment issues; they cannot seem to retain or gain employees. He says there are approximately 30 Paramedics in the tri-state. Scott Township is going to offer a hybrid class, Director Pond is hoping to sign three employees into this class. He wonders if the Council would be willing to pay for this class for the three employees. The expense comes at the end of the class and the employees would be willing to sign a contract assuring they continue working in Gibson County after they receive the training. The Council feels this idea should be vetted through the County Attorney. Director Pond has checked for grants but was unable to find any. The EMS does have a line item for training; it is budgeted at \$4,000. The training is approximately \$9,000 per person. Councilman Schleiter asked if other departments provide this type of training. The state funds the police academy. Councilman Overton told Director Pond to ask his association or other counties for a template of their process if they are paying for this. The Council has concerns about other employees that have paid for this class in the past and they might come back to the Council for reimbursement.

EMA – EMA Interim Director Stephanie McKinney informed the Council of a \$40,000 grant that will expire in September. Parrish has presented information to upgrade cyber security and she would like to use this grant to help pay for this upgrade. The council did not act on this item, as they feel the Commissioners have already approved this quote from Parrish.

Sheriff Vanoven gave Council the department’s monthly reports; there were no questions. The July average jail population was 104. They still have an employee shortage. A “we do great things” story was told by Sheriff Vanoven.

OLD BUSINESS

Animal Shelter Update – Sharon Werne presented the Council with an Animal Shelter overview. They were awarded ARPA funds for two vehicles and a new building. They have been working with Commissioner Fleetwood as their local contact on the building. The lowest bid received is also the bid they are most excited about; they are close to final design and hope to break ground next spring. She presented an artist rendition of what the building might look like when complete. The architect feels they will see a

savings on utilities. Ms. Werne told Council that Gibson County should be proud to say they are a no kill shelter as 90% of dogs that come into the shelter walk out of the shelter. The new shelter will have quarantine areas; there will be a segregated drop off area, accessible with a keypad, for law officers. They are exploring the installation of a high temp, small incinerator, which will have multiple uses. She feels law enforcement could use this incinerator to destroy evidence that needs discarded and City/Towns can use it for dead animal disposal. They will grow from 16 kennels to 38. There will be an area for small dogs separate from the larger dogs, also an area for pregnant dogs. They want to install an exam area as well. Ms. Werne feels this new shelter will be a bullet point for the County; the architect feels it will be a showplace for other animal shelters.

Jail Project –George Ballard, Owners Representative told Council that the project is coming along. The radio consoles have been ordered, but it will take one year to deliver. The body scanner has been purchased and is sitting in California waiting to be delivered. The federal report was sent in; but no news is good news. They are still working on solar panels for the sheriff’s office intake center and 911 center. The project is on track to finish in fall of 2024. Council Member McGraw asked again if they still intend to demolish the old jail as there are plans for this area and it will also help alleviate current parking problems; he feels the Council will be highly disappointed if they do not demolish it as was originally planned; the site was chosen with the future in mind. This same idea was presented to the City of Princeton.

Union Clerical Issue – Sheri Greene, is the Union Steward for Teamsters Clerical Contract. The union members understand that Clerk Smith has requested a chief deputy to the clerk, a union position, be added into the 2024 budget. Sherri went to Clerk Smith yesterday to talk to her about this; she explained there are no positions in the contract for a first deputy or a chief deputy. There are no supervisory positions in the contract.

Health Department – Administrator Shade told Council she presented her July report; there were no questions. She would like to add one new employee to the new health department budget. Other health departments and the state recommend adding stipends into the budgets. This way, if the budget is cut, she can cut the stipends. The state is suggesting this due to the added duties of the health department. She wants to spread the stipends to the entire staff of the Health Department. With the new state changes, people will be able to obtain their birth certificates anywhere in the state. She feels the new health initiatives might enable her to help with Director Pond’s training request earlier in this meeting. The health department is still in need of a new building; part of this money can help with that. She will provide job descriptions to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Request – Assessor Beadle requests approval to replace an employee with a second deputy, the position has the money in the budget. If the person has experience and level II certification, she wonders if they can waive the \$1,000 less beginning salary.

Council Member McGraw made a motion to waive the beginning salary, seconded by Council Member Clark. The vote was 6-0.

Personal Service Transfer Requests:

1000-0161 General Courthouse requests	from 12303 Overtime	\$4,000
	Into 11300 Part Time	
1000-0005 General Fund Sheriff request #11	from 12300 Severance	\$6,000
	Into 11300 Part Time	

Council Member McGraw made a motion to approve personal services transfer requests, seconded by Council Member Clark. The vote was 6-0.

Out of Series Transfer Requests:

Fund 1000-01 Clerk request To cover gas purchased for Assessor’s van	from 44400 CirCt Computer Maint Into 31500 Travel	\$ 125
Fund 1000-0104 Elections request To finish office renovations in election office	from 11415 Primary Boards Into 35201 Office Renovations	\$3,000
Fund 1000-0005 General Fund/Sheriff request #15	from 37104 Maint Contract Computers from 42202 Office Furniture into 32401 Gas	\$1,500 \$1,100 \$2,600
Fund 2502 Prosecutor’s Deferral Fund requests To cover deficit and provide for remainder of yr.	from 36300 Dues/Subscriptions from 30203 Expert Witnesses into 22000 Supplies	\$1,238 \$2,500 \$3,738

Council Member Stilwell made a motion to approve out of series transfer requests, seconded by Council Member Schleiter. The vote was 6-0.

Additional Appropriation Requests to Advertise

Fund 1000 GENERAL LOC 001 Clerk See Deappropriation in Elections to cover meeting expenditures for Clerk/Court Conf	Other Services/Charges	\$ 500
Fund 1119 Clerk’s Records Perpetuation	Other Services/Charges	\$ 22,780
Fund 1233 LIT Correctional/Rehab Facility Fund	Capital Outlays	\$656,650
Fund 1237 Opioid Restricted	Other Services/Charges	\$ 98,715
Fund 1238 Opioid Unrestricted Council Member made a motion to approve advertisement of additional appropriations, seconded by Council Member. The vote was 7-0.	Other Services/Charges	\$ 7,552

Fund 4201 Jail Bond Construction ’22	Personal Services Other Services/Charges	\$ 8,060 \$ 27,709
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Council Member McGraw made a motion to approve advertisement all additional appropriations, seconded by Council Member Clark. The vote was 6-0.

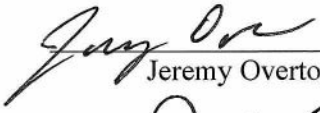
DEAPPROPRIATION

Fund 1000 GENERAL LOC 104 Election	Other Services/Charges	(\$ 500)
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Chamber Director Vanoven – The Chamber will have a showcase at the fairgrounds; she invited the community to the event on August 15, 2023 from 4-7 p.m.

Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn.

Minutes from the August 8, 2023, meeting



Jeremy Overton, President



Jeff Clark, Council Member

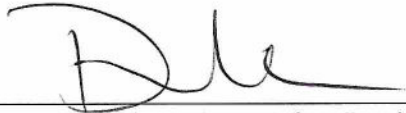


Robert Schleiter, Council Member

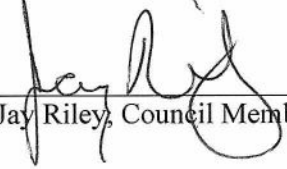
Hannah Whitehead, Council Member

Attest: 

Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor



Derek McGraw, Vice- President



Jay Riley, Council Member

Michael Stilwell, Council Member

