
Gibson County Council
Regular Session
December 14, 2021

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on December 14, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the North Annex meeting room.

Members Present: President Jeremy Overton, Vice-President Craig Pflug, Councilmen Dan Beard, William McConnell (absent), Derek McGraw (absent), Jay Riley, and Michael Stilwell.
Also Present: Mike Watkins, Auditor of Gibson County, Kristy York, 1st Deputy to Auditor, Wendy Williams, 2nd Deputy to Auditor

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited and led by President Overton.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting were approved as written by the Council.

Presentation of Clerk's Report

Clerk's Report Month Ending September 2021 was acknowledged by the Council.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Reports Month Ending October and November 2021 were acknowledged by the Council.

Department Reports

Sheriff Bottoms gave reports to Council.

EMS - Director Pond gave his November runs to Council plus a few other statistics. They now have a collection rate of 44%. The Administrative Assistant had asked about purchasing computers from the CARES fund in a prior meeting. She has the new computers and would like to be reimbursed from the CARES fund. This was supposed to be a transfer of funds and it is too late to get an additional appropriation for 2021.

Health Department – They are vaccinating children on Thursday and COVID vaccinating on Tuesday and Wednesday. Director Hornby thanked the Council for their new trailer, they love it, it is working great. The building for the Health Department has a handicap ramp, which is proving very difficult for the elderly to maneuver. The board would like Commissioners and Council to know they would like a new building. This building was supposed to be a temporary building. It is very hard to respect patient confidentiality and they are running out of room. They would like to work towards a new building.

George Ballard – Parker Excavating tore down the old Good Samaritan building.

Special Consideration for Judge Krieg and Public Defender Moody – Judge Krieg is here to request the Judges Supplemental pay for 2022 as Judge Meade requested last month. Judge Krieg is getting \$9,000 less than his colleagues. He feels there are places to pay for this without charging taxpayers, except for the Public Defender. For the Public Defender's office to receive the reimbursement from the State, the supplement must be paid from the General Fund. He feels this county has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars on things they have control over. He is on the Judicial Board of Directors and the Chief Justice recognized the great things this county is doing to help this system. Judge Krieg turned the floor over to Public Defender Moody to speak on how the public defender program is working out for the

county. She had compiled her annual report as of the 3rd quarter, so the Council had a good look at what is happening with this program. The budget for 2021 was \$718,586; they have spent \$503,388. She feels they will end the year under budget by approximately \$35,000. They should receive reimbursement of 40% of these expenses which will leave a net expense for the County of \$428,647. County General paid \$450,000 for pauper attorneys in 2020, therefore, the program has saved the County money. It does cost a lot of money to provide this required pauper service. She has another fund named Supplemental Public Defender Fund and this is money the Judge's order clients to pay every time a public defender is appointed. There is a pre-trial grant that is paying into this fund as well. The murder trial cost \$96,000; these fees were paid from this supplemental fund. A final annual report will be submitted once it is compiled. Judge Krieg and Public Defender Moody explained that this is an example of what the Judges are doing to try to keep costs down. Thus, they would like an additional appropriation in 2022 to fund the supplemental judge's wage. Pike County receives these supplements, and Judge Krieg feels if they can do it, then this county can do it as well, without costing the taxpayers. He feels most other counties have this supplemental wage, which was taken away from Gibson County approximately 16 years ago. Judge Krieg explained that the Judges have had years in which they did not receive pay raises. Councilman Beard asked County Attorney Spindler if the County could stop paying the supplemental. Attorney Spindler feels there would be no issue as he cited a court case in fact.

Attorney Spindler explained the plan to let bids for the Probation Building very soon; they will open the bids on January 14, 2022. This building will be constructed on the Jackson Furniture Building plot; they hope for good bids. The Probation Department is trying to move into the new rental location on Broadway & Hart Street, past home of the bank building. They hope to get them into the new location by the end of week so renovations on the Magistrate Chambers can begin.

Old Business

Jim McDonald and Laura Happe on Ft. Branch Library – The RDC have approved expenditure of funds on the library. This is same process used for the YMCA and the Ft. Branch Gym. Attorney McDonald is simply introducing the project to the Council today as they will present the economic development loan for the Ft. Branch-Johnson Township Library expansion project. Ms. Happe, Library Director explained this project will be used to add 9,000 square foot of space to the library as well as making the building ADA compliant. They could break ground by May 2022. They will come back to the January 2022 meeting to ask for a vote; they requested to be put onto the January agenda.

2022 Salary Ordinance - Attorney Spindler says the Collective Bargaining Agreement has been approved by the Master Office Clerical and the Highway Department. Changes in the Highway Department's contract include sick days no longer require a doctor's excuse if using two or more days. Juneteenth and Presidents Day were added to both holiday schedules: Personal days increased from three to five on both contracts. Major medical increased from four weeks to six weeks total and now also added the spouse and children, as well as paternity leave. The 6-week leave can be taken intermittently if the doctor orders as such. They added four 10-hour days during the Daylight Savings Time to the highway's contract, instead of the five 8-hour days. Bereavement days added diversity of use; they can be used anyway they are needed, plus one day can be reserved for use anytime during the year. On the Highway Contract, employees will have the option to take pay or compensatory time. Comp time can accumulate up to 240 hours, but employee must use it by the end of the year or be paid out by the County. Councilman Overton asked if non-union employees would have the same benefits. He was told that the Judges and Courts have their own handbooks and are almost identical, with some minor changes. The EMS contract has not begun negotiations. This language will need to be approved by ordinance by Commissioners. A Commissioner is delegated to negotiate this contract. Councilman Overton has asked for updates on this contract from Commissioner's Montgomery and Fleetwood. He reiterated this statement to Commissioner Montgomery at the November meeting, and again, he feels they have been blind sighted. He feels it very troubling that they removed the doctor's certification, as this only helps vet the sick policy. They fear the extra time off will hinder shift coverage in all departments. Councilman Overton is unsure what the taxpayer received in this process. He feels it would be irresponsible of the

Council to approve the salary ordinance for 2022 until this contract is approved. David Pond, EMS Director told Council this contract is re-balancing the contract back to approximately 2010. The Council asked Attorney Spindler to clarify whether compensatory time will be paid at straight time or time and a half, and it was explained that this affects the highway department only. It was explained that the compensatory time is booked at time and a half per the highway department Superintendent Johnson. Councilman Pflug asked if straight time is then paid for the comp time. They were allowed to keep the comp time they had banked, but they could not accumulate any additional. Auditor Watkins feels his office will have a very difficult time tracking all of this. Councilman Overton reiterated that he felt the Council would have a role in this contract. Councilman Riley asked if a clause could be added to the comp time stating that it can only be used if it does not cause a staffing issue. He fears this will delay snow removal, etc. Attorney Spindler does feel it should be added to the contract for clarification. Auditor Watkins wonders if a PTO bucket could be added, rather than separating all of it. The bucket would include vacation, sick, major medical and personal. Short term disability requires a four-week major medical leave before kicking into short term disability. A calculation has been done on a long-term employee; they would only work 184 hours per year. Director Hornby feels she will have to hire people to fill staffing shortages. Councilman Overton feels a lot of undue stress will be placed on elected officials to run their office. The council does not feel they have enough information to move forward. It is hard to project if there will be enough money to make it thru the year on the current budget. They feel this contract is going to impact the 2022 budget immensely and cause staffing issues. Councilman Stillwell would rather see the employees get the money, as a past department head, it is difficult to run a department with all the paid time off. A salary ordinance must be adopted to continue to pay in 2022. The courts have mandated changes that must be paid, and elected officials cannot be increased once the salary ordinance is approved. Councilman Overton has a 2021 salary ordinance that includes 2022 mandated changes plus raises for the elected officials minus the Council and Commissioners. The Council hopes the Commissioners will hear the Council's concern and this will allow the elected officials to contact commissioners with their concerns for the contract proposal. Councilman Stillwell wonders if a cost analysis could be done on this new contract and Councilman Overton wonders if they could seek legal counsel and a consultant to do the analysis. While the Council trusts Attorney Spindler they feel it might put him in a bad situation to represent both Council and Commissioners. The Council wonders if the Commissioners ask for a contract revision, then will it go back to employees to revote; Attorney Spindler feels it would go for another vote.

Councilman Stillwell motioned to approve a raise for elected officials, except Council and Commissioners plus incorporate mandated raises while all others will remain the same, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 5-0.

The Council also wanted to add the judges' supplemental pays as presented by Judge Krieg for the Circuit and Superior Judges; Magistrate, Prosecutor; Chief Deputy Prosecutor, and Chief Public Defender. Councilman Riley motioned to approve the Judges supplemental pays as presented by Judge Krieg for 2022, seconded by Councilman Stillwell. The vote was 5-0.

Recess - The meeting was recessed for 5 minutes and reconvened at 10:48a.m.

New Business

PERSONAL SERVICES TRANSFER REQUEST

Fund 1000 Dept Sheriff	05 01 29 P/T \$6,000 and 05 01 36 Severance Pay	\$4,000
To cover the December O/T & Holiday Pay	INTO 05 01 28 Overtime	\$10,000
Fund 1000 Dept Jail	32 01 15 Correction Officers	\$14,000
To cover Holiday/December OT	INTO 32 01 19 Overtime	
Fund 1000 Superior Court	41 01 23 Overtime	\$200
	INTO 41 01 41 Guardian Ad Litem/CASA	
Fund 1000 EMS	47 01 14 F/T Paramedics	\$8,000

	INTO	47 01 17 Overtime Paramedics	
		47 01 14 F/T Paramedics	\$7,000
	INTO	47 01 15 F/T AD/Basic EMTs	
		47 01 14 F/T Paramedics	\$16,000
	INTO	47 01 18 Overtime AEMTs	
Fund 1222 - 911 Fund		01 01 10 Communications Officers	\$4,200
To cover the December O/T & Holiday Pay	INTO	01 01 07 Overtime	
Fund 9122 Com Corrections Grant		01 01 13 P/T and O/T	
To cover 2021	INTO	01 01 15 FICA	\$1,500
<u>OUT OF SERIES TRANSFER REQUEST</u>			
Fund 2004 Circuit Court User Fee		04 04 41 Probation Equipment	\$7,500
For Magistrate Courtroom Remodel	INTO	03 03 75 Probation Materials Miscellaneous	
Fund 1000 Dept Veterans Service Office		27-03-15 Travel	\$250
	INTO	27-02-60 Supplies	

Councilman Riley motioned to approve all transfers, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 5-0.

Additional Appropriation Resolution Adoption - Advertisement has been made for the following additional appropriations:

Owensville Carnegie Public Library Resolution

A reduction in General Capital Expenditures	(\$139,500)
Rainy Day Fund 201 Capital Expenditures	\$46,500
Thyra Mauck Gift Fund 411 Capital Expenditures	\$93,000

Gibson County Resolution

General Fund-EMS Dept 47	Personal Services	\$30,000
	Supplies	<u>\$7,900</u>
	TOTAL	\$37,900
Covered Bridge Fund	Other Services/Charges	\$3,300
Circuit Court User Fees	Other Services/Charges	70,000
Operation Pull Over Fund	Personal Services	\$10,000
Park Grant	Capital Improvements	\$199,396.62
Gibson Solar Project	Other Service/Charges	\$57,200

Councilman Stillwell motioned to approve all additional appropriations by resolutions, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 5-0.

Oakland City Library Board Trustee Appointment – The board recommended Cynthia Blough-Retana and Dr. Terry Gehlhausen. The Council felt either would be a fine choice, thus the Council chose Ms. Blough-Retana since she was listed first. President Overton will sign off on this appointment.

EMS Transfer Request – Councilman Pflug motioned to transfer from EMS personal services into durable equipment to pay for computers in the amount of \$3,410.82, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 5-0.

Wendy Williams asked for permission to cover shortfalls in personal services, so the year does not end in the red. The Council will allow those transfers up to \$5,000. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve such transfers, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 5-0

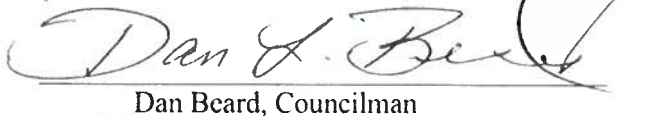
Adjournment - Councilman Riley motioned to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 6-0.

Minutes from the December 14, 2021 Meeting



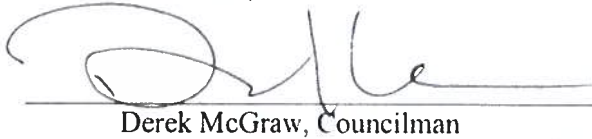
Jeremy Overton, President

Craig Pflug, Vice-President

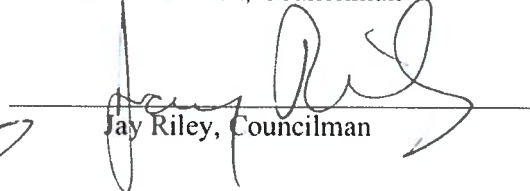


Dan Beard, Councilman

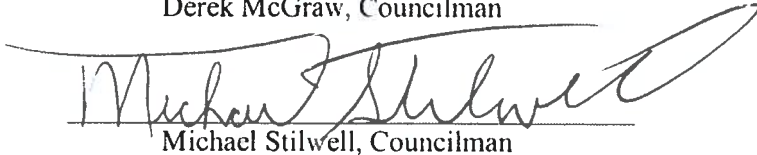
William McConnell, Councilman



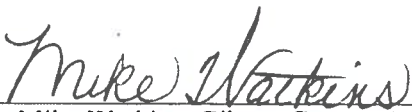
Derek McGraw, Councilman



Jay Riley, Councilman



Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 

Mike Watkins, Gibson County Auditor