

Gibson County Council Regular Session Minutes February 14, 2023

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on February 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Council Members Present: Jeff Clark, Derek McGraw, Jeremy Overton, Jay Riley, Robert Schleter, Michael Stilwell, and Hannah Whitehead

Also present were 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 – January 10, 2023, minutes were approved as written.

The Council acknowledged the Treasurer & Clerk's Reports.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Health Department – Administrator Shade told the Council they would like to find a person to step into the Sanitarian's position as the person in the position is retiring soon. The Sanitarian is still on staff and can help train this position.

Council Member McGraw made the motion to hire a replacement to retiring Sanitarian, seconded by Council Member Riley. The vote was 7-0.

Next talk ensued about bringing back the retiring Sanitarian as a consultant/contractor and that rate of pay. A motion was made by Councilman McGraw to pay him \$15 per hour, seconded by Councilman Riley; Councilman McGraw rescinded the motion as they will discuss this with current Sanitarian.

Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Vanoven told Council the average inmate rate is 93. He provided an accolade to Roger Ballard and the Prosecutor's office on a recent child molestation case. This department has ordered cars, but they have not made it to the line for production. He will recheck his order before next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Prosecutor Office Requests New Line for a F/T Receptionist – Prosecutor Cochran is back in front of the Council this month after Councilman McGraw requested a written job description for the new full-time Receptionist position and the amounts of pay to be distributed from the different funds. Prosecutor Cochran provided this information to the Council and does not feel this will cost the county, as their supplemental, incentive funds can fund the position. The current part-time receptionist will move from part-time to full-time. The full-time effective day is Monday, February 20, 2023.

Council Member Riley made the motion to approve the new full-time position, seconded by Council Member Clark. The vote was 7-0.

Jail Project – George Ballard, Owners Representative gave Council a brief on the project. Cable lines are being moved for the project. 130 loads of dirt, in one day, were hauled into the project area. There was a clinic torn down with a fence around it; this was given to the Highway Department or Animal Shelter. They stabilized the ground yesterday by tilling some type of product into the dirt that will make it like

concrete. This will allow them on the ground all the time, even in wet weather events. Pilings will begin soon, and they hope to start foundations in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Assistant for Clerk's Office – Clerk Sherri Smith came before the Council to request approval of hiring an Administrative Assistant in her office. This is technically a First Deputy position, but the person would remain in the Union, thus the name Administrative Assistant. The job description was emailed to Council Members prior to the meeting. She would like First Deputy salary for this position. Councilman Riley feels this should be taken to the Union to assure the Union will back this, as this is a union position at non-union pay. Councilman McGraw agrees with Councilman Riley's stance, as it becomes a sticky point. Councilman Overton asked why this person would not want to become a first deputy; the person does not want to come out of the union. This person will continue in their current duties plus pick up Administrative Assistant's duties. Clerk Smith does not want to add another body to this office; thus, she wants to utilize current staff and she does not want this person to lose their union status. Councilman Clark wonders if this is allowed and wonders if this will cause a restructuring event. Clerk Smith is trying to keep her office status quo as far as number of employees. Council Member McGraw made the motion to table, seconded by Council Member Stilwell. The vote was 7-0.

New Truck Request by Maintenance/Building Manager - Andy Schafer came before the Council to request a new vehicle for his position. Councilman Riley explained that ARPA funds might provide a new vehicle to a department that can hand down a used vehicle. Administrative Assistant to Commissioners, Judy Adams told Council EDIT Fund is prepared to fund this purchase and Andy is also hoping to get a snowplow for the vehicle. The cost will be approximately \$45,000. Council Member McGraw motioned to approve the truck purchase request from EDIT Funds by moving from another line into a vehicle line, seconded by Council Member Stilwell. The vote was 7-0.

Holiday/OT Pay for the Sheriff's Department/Jail/911 Fund – Sheriff Vanoven came before the Council to request that holidays worked be added to their paid holiday schedule. For instance, on January 1st, employees did not receive holiday pay because it is not the observed holiday. Sheriff Vanoven requests that if working the holiday, it be paid. The Commissioner's have approved this change. This change is for 24/7 employees and when the adopted holiday does not fall on the observed day. They want to ensure the Council is on board for this action. If they work the holiday or observed holiday, they will receive holiday pay for one or the other, but not both. The Council does not have any issues with this change.

Owner's Representative Stipend for George Ballard – Sheriff Vanoven requested the Council pay a stipend for this position. The amendment will pay \$500 per month until the end of the construction. This is paid from the soft costs of the jail project. Councilman Riley asked if this duty will be conducted outside his normal work duties. Councilman McGraw agrees with this move as bringing in a new rep could be damaging to the project.

Council Member Riley made the motion to approve the stipend of \$250 per pay for the remainder of the jail construction project, seconded by Council Member McGraw. The vote was 7-0.

Hiring of GIS Director – Surveyor Martin requests permission to replace this position after a resignation letter has been received from the current director. Councilman McGraw gives a head nod on the hiring of this position. They are gathering a committee so the replacement can be found. Council approves hiring a replacement.

Request To Forgo the \$1000 Less Pay For New Employees – Commissioner Montgomery requested the Council remove the lower salary and start all new employees at the hired rate. Councilman Riley says this \$1000 less replaced a complicated system. Also, the new person hires in at the same rate as an experienced person that is training the new employee; he does not feel it is fair. The Council can waive the lower amount for select, experienced employees. The highway department must have people with CDL's, and they are typically experienced; Councilman Riley does not feel this means they are experienced. However, it was explained that CDL's are an extensive operation and deters people coming on board for them. The Council chose to leave the current policy in place. The Commissioners and Council must agree to wave this lower salary amount for beginning employees.

Salary Ordinance Amendment #1 – This Salary Ordinance Amendment will add the Chief Deputy position and take the number of Patrolman to 10.

Council Member McGraw made the motion, seconded by Council Member Riley. The vote was 7-0.

Out of Series Transfer Requests-

1222 Statewide 911 Fund, requests	from	11002 Com Officers	\$5,000
	into	35104 Digital Voice Log	

Council Member McGraw motioned to approve the above out of series transfer, seconded by Council Member Clark. The vote was 7-0.

Encumbrances from 2022 into 2023

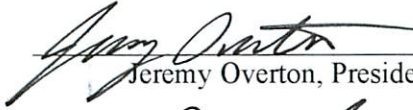
General Fund Non-Payroll Items	\$ 239,483.72
General Fund Payroll Items	\$ 81,437.35
Non-General Fund Totals	\$ 147,607.67
Non-General Payroll Items	\$ 4,239.29
ARPA Funds Carryover	\$5,639,107.74
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$6,111,875.77

Council Member McGraw motioned to approve the above encumbrances, seconded by Council Member Riley. The vote was 7-0.

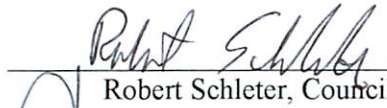
Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events - Patty Vanoven invited elected officials to open houses and ribbon cutting ceremonies. A Political Forum will be held at the Gibson County Farm Bureau Breakfast. All elected officials are invited to speak. They are also proud to announce a Women's Regional Conference at Gibson County Fairgrounds. She thanked the ARPA group for their support of Go Gibson.

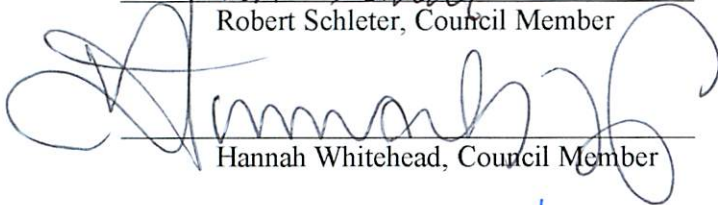
Council Member McGraw motioned to adjourn the meeting.


Minutes from the February 14, 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

