

**Gibson County Council
Regular Session Meeting
June 13, 2023**

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on June 13, 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, 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 - May 09, 2023, minutes were approved as written.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Health Department – Administrator Shade gave Council their monthly reports; there were no questions. 2024-2025 Local Public Health Funding plans were also presented to the Council. This funding will enhance public health if Commissioners opt into the plan.

Sheriff Vanoven gave Council the monthly reports; there were no questions. The average jail population is 85.

OLD BUSINESS

Jail Project –George Ballard, Owners Representative told Council they are installing walls, steel, and concrete. The completion timeline might extend out to October 2024. Council Member McGraw asked if the old jail was still coming down; that is still the plan.

GIS Director Defunding – Council Member Overton told everyone that at the last meeting he felt the GIS Director’s employment was hanging in the balance. The Commissioners have now approved the hiring of the GIS Director. This occurred at the Commissioner’s May 16, 2023, meeting. Council Member Stilwell wonders if this could be a future problem. Council Member McGraw feels the salary ordinance could take care of this by putting the GIS Director under the Surveyor. Surveyor Martin feels this is a good plan. Council Member McGraw thanked the GIS Director for hanging in there during the turbulence; he assured him he has a job and apologized for the confusion. The Council will move the GIS budget into the Surveyor’s budget, as they feel this is where this position belongs. Council Member McGraw asked if the Surveyor is comfortable allowing this person into his budget even though he might work for various other departments; Surveyor Martin agreed to this change. Council Member Clark feels this needs moved to the Surveyor immediately. The Commissioners have voted to put the GIS Director under their budget; however, Council Member Overton & Clark do not feel they can do this until it is proposed and approved by the Council. The Council agrees to move the GIS Budget into the Surveyor budget. The Salary ordinance will be amended, and the GIS Director’s entire budget will be moved under the Surveyors’ budget. Commissioners Burns asked who oversees the Salary Ordinance; Council Member McGraw replied that the Council does the Salary Ordinance.

Council Member Clark made a motion to advertise an additional appropriation in the amount of \$56,000 for the Surveyor, seconded by Council Member Whitehead. The vote was 7-0.

Budget Dates Discussion – A letter was sent to Council with 2024 budget dates: Council will meet on July 19th for an all-day meeting with department heads listening to their budget requests. August 8th,

immediately following the Council Meeting, Council will review updated budget requests. August 16th at 9 a.m. will be the last review of the 2024 budget before the first hearing on August 30th at 9:00 a.m. September 12th at 10:00 a.m., or immediately following the Council meeting, an adoption hearing will be held for the 2024 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Buckskin Properties / Smith Creek, Inc. Abatement Request – Tammi Hack with GEDC received a phone call regarding this abatement request. The company has two locations: one in Buckskin and one near New Albany. They would like to expand in Gibson County; Ms. Hack is in favor of this expansion. Dennis Tepe from Smith Creek was present to explain the expansion. Smith Creek took over the old Peabody wash plant facility. They take in pre-consumed hardwoods, such as pallets and construction debris, and recycle it to make engineered bedding, landscaping products, and wood fuels instead of sending it into the landfills. They take a large amount of wood waste from Toyota and their subsidiaries. They process ½ billion yards of material per year at the local facility. They locally employ 8 people at this time; they might add one more with the expansion. They are paid \$18-\$20 per hour. They train them to be equipment operators; they are all local; six are from Gibson County, one is from Warrick County. There are not a lot of jobs in Barton Township, but this is a steady business that has grown in the eight years they have been in business in Gibson County. They are adding more concrete and personal property equipment, which will increase their property taxes. The screening machine currently used needs to be replaced, as it is 10 years old. It will be replaced with a \$300,000+ piece of equipment. If they cannot grow this business and receive this abatement, they might be forced to move the process to New Albany, rather than Buckskin. Assessor Beadle has looked at parcel/business; they had a previous abatement of 5 years at 20%. They did everything they were supposed to do and have employed more than originally stated; she feels they are a good company. The other abatement concluded a few years ago. This is not going to be voted on today as the Council would like to see dollar amounts on this abatement. Council Member McGraw made a motion to table this abatement request, seconded by Council Member Riley. The vote was 7-0.

Additional Appropriation Resolution

Fund Name: GENERAL Fund
 10000 Personal Services \$12,331
 30000 Other Services/Charges \$25,000
 Total \$37,331

Fund Name: MRU Fund
 40000 Capital Outlays \$ 6,210

Council Member Riley made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Member Stilwell. The vote was 7-0.

Personal Service Transfer Requests:

1000 General Fund, Election 0104 requests	from	11415 Primary Board	\$ 600
	Into	11606 Janitor	
To cover janitorial services on Saturday voting & Election Day			
1000 General Fund, Jail 0380 requests	from	10201 Corrections Officers	\$40,000
	Into	12303 Overtime	
To cover Overtime			

Out of Series Transfer Requests:

Fund 2502 Prosecutor’s Deferral Fund, request	from	41201 Vehicles	\$ 2,020
	Into	31609 Moving Expenses	
To pay for partitions for the Prosecutors Office			

Council Member McGraw made a motion to approve transfer requests, seconded by Council Member Riley. The vote was 7-0.

Sheriff's Pension Fund – Council Member Riley feels the Sheriff's Pension Fund has a \$17,000 deficit at this time and he wanted Council to know this might come up for action. For now, they will sit back and see how it shakes out. Council Member Overton says they were contributing the same amount as PERF, and the fund had been overfunded. He feels they will move forward with the same funding as prior years, as it was cut back last year to fund the EMS changes.

Treasurer O'Neal - Treasurer O'Neal told Council they are awaiting State approval to make settlement to the units of Gibson County. The Treasurer's office has approximately 2,000 unpaid spring parcels. She told Council that Trust Indiana is currently earning a rate of 5.1%; on a \$15,000,000 investment. She also has \$10,000,000 invested in a 2-year certificate of deposit at German American Wealth, the interest deposits into the main back account and is receipted into the general fund; this investment has a fee. Council Member Overton feels the money should all be invested in Trust Indiana since there are no fees and great rates.

Chamber Director Vanoven invited everyone to ribbon cuttings.

June 16th River Oaks

June 21st Zia Smoke BBQ

June 23rd LRA Consulting

June 29th Waschsalon

She also wanted to make the public aware that Salvation Army Major Chris is moving to another location; a celebration will be held on June 24th.

Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn.

Minutes from the June 13, 2023, meeting



Jeremy Overton, President

Derek McGraw, Vice- President



Jeff Clark, Council Member

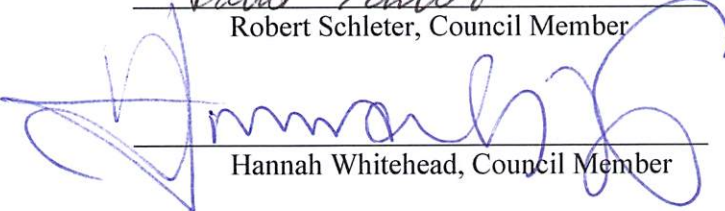
Jay Riley, Council Member




Robert Schleiter, Council Member



Michael Stilwell, Council Member



Hannah Whitehead, Council Member

Attest: 

~~Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor~~
Kristy YORK, 1st DEPUTY