

# Gibson County Council Regular Session Agenda June 14, 2022

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on June 14, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy to Auditor, Kristy York, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy to Auditor, Wendy Williams

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

**Approval of Minutes** - May 10, 2022, minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report** –April & May reports were acknowledged by the Council.

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

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Health Department** – Director Hornby gave Council the monthly health reports; the test site will close at the end of month and people can pick up home testing kits for free at the department. The extra nurse and clerical person will end at the end of June for the vaccine clinic. The nurse will move into the school grant liaison position. The budget is \$68,000 for the year; and the nurse will be paid \$25 per hour. The covid numbers are up again; a nursing home in the area had an outbreak and experienced 2 deaths. The health department board decided last night to keep the tent and RV where they are for now to see what direction COVID takes.

**Highway Dept** – Superintendent Johnson told Council they will begin chip/seal tomorrow.

**Sheriff Bottoms** gave the Council his monthly reports; there were no questions. They are still experiencing an employee shortage and cannot get applications.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Jail Project** –George Ballard, Owners Representative told Council that Commissioners extended the contract with Garmong. They received bid package #1 for steel, roofing, and jail pods; the bids came in at \$2,503,225. This bid was more than expected, as prices are just high at the time.

**ARPA** – Debbie Bennett-Stearsman requested the Council appropriate the ARPA money. She told the Council about the Core Group's work thus far and explained the final rule allowed the County to declare the entire amount as lost revenue, allowing the county to spend the funds on county projects. In May 2022, the core group had a final meeting to recommend allocations. One thing the core group recommended was an allocation of \$800,000 for essential worker pay. Debbie also requested the remainder of the funds be appropriated as \$27,000 for grant administrator pay and \$2,441,433 for other services and charges.

**Additional Appropriation Resolution** – After Council approved the advertisement of requested additional appropriations and proper advertisement was completed, the Council approved a resolution allowing an additional in the amount of \$864 in Other Services and Charges in the 4102 EMA Donation Fund and \$18,000 in Other Services and Charges of Enhanced Access Fund 1154. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 7-0.

**Salary Schedule Amendment #3** –this amendment altered the EMS pay for a 24-hour shift, which also changed their hourly rates. It allowed the Commissioner’s Administrative Assistant part-time Trainer (Kay Vore) to be paid at a different part-time pay rate. It also added a supplemental pay for the Health Department Administrator to pay from fund 1159.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 7-0.

**Jason Spindler – Jail Property Purchase Payment** – Attorney Spindler is ready to close on the monument property, which must be purchased for the jail project. There is \$500,000 in the Jail Bond Payments line of the EDIT Fund; the Council requests \$350,000 be moved into a land acquisition line for an interim loan to the Gibson County Indiana Facilities Building Corporation. When bonds are issued, this money will come back into the EDIT Fund. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the transfer and loan, seconded by Councilman Riley . The vote was 7-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Prosecutor Cochren requests a new Investigator Position** – Prosecutor Cochren requested the Council consider creating a new position as investigator in his office in 2023. He is introducing this position to the Council prior to 2023 budget meetings. This position is considered under Indiana Code and allowed. Several counties have this position. They will have a multi-faceted job description with full police powers. Prosecutor Cochren explained that manhours expended in discovery by his office, which is the obligation of the Prosecutor, is turned over in a timely fashion. His office handles 1300-1400 cases per year and this officer will help manage and understand that obligation. He believes this position will help save the county money as well as help with security in the North Annex. He feels this could be paid from the deferral money (Fund 2502), but they are going to work it up in the general fund as well, as it is unknown how long Fund 2502 can carry the position. Councilman McGraw feels this position is needed; he has worked with Prosecutor Cochren extensively on this position. This is not to replace the Sheriff’s Department’s Detectives, as all departments he works with has very good, competent detectives and this does not imply they are not doing their job; it is a systematic approach. The salary for this position would be about \$55,000 with benefits, which sets within a range between the Princeton Police Detective, Indiana State Police Detective, and Sheriff’s Department Detective.

### **Personal Service Transfer Requests:**

Judge Krieg requests a transfer from 41 01 23 Overtime into 41 01 20 Part-time Courtroom in the amount of \$500.

Health Fund 1159 requests a transfer from 01 01 15 Public Health Nurse/Administrator into 01 01 24 Admin Supplemental Pay in the amount of \$5,000.

Sheriff Bottoms requests a transfer in the Jail 32 01 15 Correction Officers into 32 01 19 Overtime in the amount of \$10,000.

Councilman Riley motioned to approve the transfers, seconded by Councilman Stillwell . The vote was 7-0.

**Additional Appropriation Request to Advertise** – Judge Krieg requests \$125,000 additional appropriation from 2501 Jury Fees to pay for Magistrate Ricker’s Courtroom & bench in line (Furniture/Fixtures) 01 04 42; the fund has \$223,102.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the advertisement of this additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Riley . The vote was 7-0.

1176 MVH Fund requests \$3,500 in Other Services & Charges 01 03 22 Travel to pay for Engineer’s & Superintendent’s travel expenses. The fund has \$2,216,085. Council looked at the budget for a place to

transfer, rather than grant an additional. They will transfer from department 02 01 19 Severance Pay into a new line for travel in department 02 (02 03 22 Travel Expense).

Councilman Pflug motioned to approve this transfer only, not the advertisement for an additional, seconded by Councilman McGraw . The vote was 7-0.

8951 ARPA fund requests to be appropriated by Debbie Bennett Stearsman in the amount of \$3,268,933 to 01 01 47 \$800,000 for essential workers pay; 01 03 30 \$2,441,433 Other Services ; and 01 03 32 \$27,500 for grant administrator contract. The core group will pick the projects, then they will do in-line transfers from the other services & charges line.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 7-0.

EMS requests \$10,800 in line 47 03 50 (Other Services & Charges) to pay for Malcon Services.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the advertisement for this additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Pflug. The vote was 7-0. Director Pond thanked the Council for their help on adjusting the EMS shift change and salary adjustments.

Sheriff Bottoms requests an additional in the amount of \$30,000 to cover Sheriff's OT in line 05 01 28; he will reduce the Jail Correction Officers line 32 01 15 to cover the \$30,000 additional.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the advertisement of an additional and a reduction in appropriations for the Sheriff, seconded by Councilman Beard . The vote was 7-0.

**JRAC Team Appointment - Derek McGraw** – This is in coordination with Pre-trial Services; therefore, Councilman McGraw will accept this appointment and Council considered this appointment complete.

**Health Department** – Director Hornby requests permission to install a new security system, payable with grant funds. Councilman Riley suggests she wait until the ARPA money award before approving this security system. Councilman McGraw feels she could buy the equipment before the grant expires, but not have it installed. Council agreed that she should purchase the equipment but hold on the installation. Director Hornby also requested permission to fill the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy position as this employee moved to another department. The Council requested this in writing.

**Jim McDonald – Ft. Branch Library Bridge Loan** – Attorney McDonald, is representing Ft. Branch Library as they were awarded a \$3.7 million project from TIF money thru the Redevelopment Commissioner. The RDC will make a \$400,000 payment this year, then they will not receive anymore money from RDC until Jan 2024, thus, they are seeking a bridge loan from United Fidelity to move forward with the project. Attorney McDonald is advising the Council of this plan as the bank might request documents in the future to back the RDC commitment and he did not want to surprise the Council with this information. Library Representatives requested a motion from the Council approving the library's intent to seek a loan, not to exceed the RDC money. The motion came from Councilman McGraw, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 7-0. Attorney McDonald reiterated this will not cost the county, but the County does need to approve the library's intent to seek the loan. Loan repayment will be the library's responsibility as will all interest incurred.


**Jim McDonald – Princeton EDIT Board Appointment** – A Princeton Economic Development Board needs an appointment; Council recommended Derick McGraw for this appointment.

Attorney McDonald requested that the EMS be put on the July 12th agenda for the EMS building.

Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn.

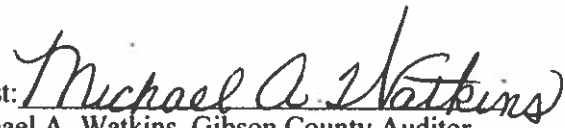
Minutes from the June 14, 2022, meeting

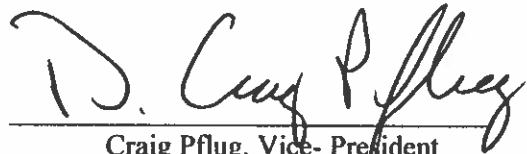
  
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Jeremy Overton, President

  
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Dan Beard, Councilman

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Derek McGraw, Councilman

  
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Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest:   
Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor

  
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Craig Pflug, Vice- President

  
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Jeff Clark, Councilman

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Jay Riley, Councilman