

Gibson County Council Regular Session Meeting March 12, 2024

The Gibson County Council met in regular session on March 12, 2024, 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 (absent)
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 - February 13, 2024, minutes were approved as written.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Sheriff Vanoven gave Council the monthly reports; there were no questions. The February jail average population was 88. Employment statistics were also reviewed; there is a need for three Correction Officers and Dispatchers; they have part-time people taking these spots. They have one Community Corrections Officer and one Deputy opening. The Sheriff ran through all the things his department is doing to prepare for the Solar Eclipse Weekend, as they will be working hard to keep Gibson County safe over this long weekend, and a large police presence will be noticed during this weekend. They are holding meetings with multiple departments/agencies to review the plans; there will be no paid time off allowed over this weekend.

Health Department – Administrator Shade gave Council the monthly reports; there were no questions. They will be doing food inspections over the eclipse weekend.

EMS – Director Pond presented February reports to Council. Council Member Clark asked about EMS staffing; the EMS department is fully staffed at this point with part-time employees for backup. Council Member Overton asked if hospital transfers get turned over to insurance; Director Pond explained sometimes, patients must sign off on financial responsibility for runs not medically necessary. Council Member McGraw asked about EMS plans for the Eclipse; Director Pond explained that EMS will be staffing all trucks so they can be spread throughout the county. They are establishing backup routes during the eclipse weekend since main routes could experience heavy traffic and possible backups. They will also try to cover events as they happen, and on Monday, the day of the eclipse, all trucks will be stationed in multiple areas.

GC Redevelopment TIF District Report - Jim McDonald – Attorney McDonald told Council they now must provide this report defined by the legislature. He reviewed the TIF pass through to the Council as well as the neutralization areas. The annual spending plan is a new component; it must be compiled by December 1, 2024. The spending plan must be provided to Council, Commissioners, and DLGF. The RDC members have changed. Joe Williams has replaced David Lewis as the non-voting member of the School Board. There are three TIF Locations: Owensville North expires in 2037 and carries debt service, VUTEQ expires in 2043 and carries debt service, and TMMI will expire on 12/20/2025, which will cause assessed values to hit in 2026. The revenues & expenditures were reviewed with Council as well as debt service. Allocation projects were outlined as Ft. Branch Library, 2nd Avenue Road Project in Princeton, Princeton Water Line Project, and Toyota YMCA. Council Member Schleiter asked who can use the Ft.

Branch Library. Attorney McDonald does not know the specifications of the library. Larry Michel thinks you can get a library card from Ft. Branch or Haubstadt, and they are interchangeable. Council Member Overton feels you must live in the township to be allowed use of the library. The cash balances of TIF funds were presented. A listing of parcel numbers was provided; this list shows parcels that included the TIF District. Council Member Clark asked about long-term funding for Patoka Township TIF District that ends in 2025; he wonders if this TIF District has overspent. Attorney McDonald explained they are balancing the Toyota perimeter road trying to determine if the assessed valuation will be going up or down. The animal shelter has requested TIF funding, but they are unable to approve this project, currently, because of a shortfall. Council Member Clark asked if there will be \$10,000,000 remaining to repave the Toyota perimeter road; Attorney McDonald replied no, only approximately \$8.5 million. Council Member Overton urged them to get this on the books versus approving new projects. RDC Member Larry Michel feels some of these roads will be done this summer and next summer. Council Member Clark feels the Toyota perimeter road is the most heavily traveled road in Gibson County and this road should take priority. He feels this money was to be used for this specific situation and it should have been preserved rather than spent on projects.

Jail Project –George Ballard, Owners Representative told Council that work has been busy because weather has been good. Air handlers and concrete walls are installed, jail pods will be delivered toward the end of March. Windows (bullet resistant) are installed in the sheriff's office; dry wall is now being installed as are bullet resistant walls. You can see the corrugated steel walls being installed near Brumfield and Prince that will go in with the pods and the sheriff's office. Council Member McGraw asked about the removal of the old jail; the old jail is still slated to come down per Owner's Representative Ballard.

Animal Shelter Update – Sharon Werne gave an annual report and told them they took in 530 animals in 2023; 238 were dogs and most were strays. The non-adopted animals are not euthanized for space. They had a hoarding incident last year and this caused a parvo outbreak in the shelter because of the ventilation system. Everything had to be bleached, but they only lost one puppy. The county provides vehicles, a building and most of the salary for one part-time and three full-time employees. Emmy Corporation, a 501-C-3 conducts a lot of fund raising, which helps to support animal service activities. They also received a grant from the Community Foundation which has been extremely helpful. Ms. Werne handed out paperwork on the proposed new shelter. They were awarded \$800,000 in ARPA money to construct a new building. Emmy Corporation has set aside \$200,000 to add to the \$800,000. However, they have found that \$1,000,000 is not going to be enough. The minimum build will cost \$1,700,000, but with the septic system, radiant heating, they feel they need \$2,000,000. They feel the building that has been drawn is what the County needs to run an efficient shelter. The proposed 60x160 building will be three times larger than the current building; they will have a sprinkler system and Gibson Water would provide the water at this building. They will have 38 kennels for dogs; they currently only have 16. The new building will have separate ventilation systems for dog and cat quarantine areas, and this will help reduce the spread of disease. They will have a grooming room, quarantine room, low cost spay/neuter room, a garage, a secure holding/drop off area, meet/greet room, and a cat area which will include a screened porch. They hope to add fencing for play areas and a temporary storage area for livestock. They feel this could also be adapted as a K-9 training/staging area. They are working with Economic Development to get the Ready 2.0 Grant; they will know in June about this grant; \$350,000 is the most that can be awarded. They have not sought county money at this point, other than ARPA; they are seeking other options first. This could be a 2-phase project, which costs more, but may be necessary so ARPA money is used within the expenditure guidelines.

Derek McGraw exited the meeting in the middle of Ms. Werne's discussion.

Personal Service Transfer Requests:

Fund 9121 requests a transfer	from	11300 Part-time	(\$ 5,000)
	and	12307 Group Insurance	(\$10,000)
	into	12303 Overtime	\$15,000
Fund 1176 requests a transfer	from	11308-531 Light Equip Operator	\$ 400
	into	12300-531 Severance Pay	

Council Member Stilwell made a motion to approve transfer requests, seconded by Council Member Riley. The vote was 5-0.

Out of Series Transfer Requests:

Fund 1200 requests a transfer	from	33603 Investigator Fees	\$ 928
	into	12307 Group Insurance	

Council Member Riley made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Council Member Clark. The vote was 5-0.

Additional Appropriation Requests to Advertise – Fund 4913-31700 Community Correction Project Income request an additional appropriation in other services/charges in the amount of \$48,000 for additional drug testing.

Council Member Riley made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Council Member Stilwell. The vote was 5-0.

Fund 4100-30101 EMA Prepare/Women’s Foundation request an additional appropriation in other services/charges in the amount of \$5,000 to pay for First Responders Class.

Council Member Riley made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 5-0.

Additional Appropriation Resolution for Owensville Montgomery Township Fire Protection District was presented to the Council for approval. OMTFPD requests an additional appropriation in their general fund in the amount of \$220,000.

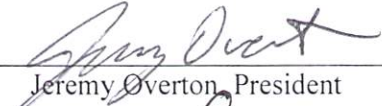
Council Member Riley made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Member Clark. The vote was 5-0.

Council Member Overton thanked Matt Holden for his help in getting the Community Crossings Grant straightened out. The County hopes to receive this grant in the 2nd round of 2024.

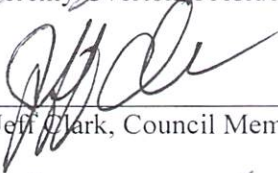
Gibson County Chamber of Commerce Director Vanoven told all political candidates about the upcoming legislative forum at the Farm Bureau Ag Breakfast this weekend; she wanted everyone to know they must be on the agenda to speak.

Councilman Riley motioned to adjourn.

Minutes from the March 12, 2024, meeting



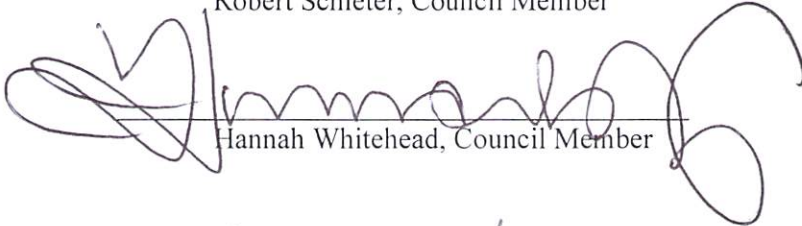
Jeremy Overton, President




Jeff Clark, Council Member



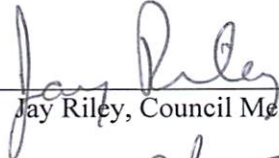
Robert Schleiter, Council Member



Hannah Whitehead, Council Member



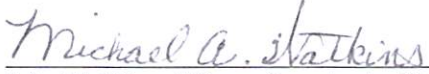
Derek McGraw, Vice- President



Jay Riley, Council Member



Michael Stilwell, Council Member

Attest: 

Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor