

Gibson County Council Regular Session Agenda March 08, 2022

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on March 08, 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, 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 8, 2022, minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – February 2022 report was acknowledged by the Council.

Clerk's Report – December 2021 report was acknowledged by the Council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Sheriff Bottoms gave the Council his monthly reports; there were no questions. They are nine Jailers short and have no applications.

Health Department – Director Hornby gave Council their monthly reports; there were no questions. COVID-19 has slowed down. They will be cutting back on the testing site and vaccine clinics after spring break. They have received the school liaison grant in the amount of \$440,000 for two years, but if the money is not used, it can be extended past the two-year period. She hopes to use the grant money over 5-6 years. They will be going to schools assisting with physicals and vaccine clinics. She has a nurse she used during COVID that is willing to shift into this School Liaison Nurse. Additionally, she would like the part-time COVID employee to cross train as a Sanitarian and Food Inspector. The position will lower their current rate of pay from \$15 down to \$12.50 unless the Council agrees to adjust the rate of pay. She wonders if she could use the grant funds to change the part-time position rate to \$15 per hour. She asked for the Council's blessing on this. She would like to start this cross-training in April, after the testing site and vaccine clinic close. Councilman Pflug would like something in writing expressing the need to keep the rate at \$15 per hour. He requested an email be sent to all Council Members and the Auditor showing the job description and pay rate request. This person will shadow the Sanitarian as the Sanitarian is using PTO, and there is no backup to the position. This position will get busy this summer. The Sanitarian is not required to have a degree, as far as she can find. The current employee started this position 31 years ago with on-the-job training. There is an annual training session held by the State. Director Hornby explained to Council about legislation passed recently on septic systems. The new legislation will turn a lot of responsibility over to the State, rather than the local's; it is in the transition phase and IDOH will start doing this as a team effort.

Jail Project – Princeton City Council has approved the rezoning for the proposed jail construction. On March 16, 2022 RQAW and Duke will meet to discuss onsite power poles and the use of efficient power. On March 22, 2022 they will close in on the design. Then on/around April 8, 2022 bid package #1 will disburse; it will include the pad, steel, and roofing materials for this project.

EMS – Director Pond presented Council his February reports; there were no questions. Director Pond said when his 2022 budget was submitted, he had requested \$13 per hour for the part-time clerk. This position has been employed several years without raises. Wendy Williams told Director Pond this

position will raise to \$12.50 per hour, like all part-time people. Councilman Pflug asked for a job description plus a proposed adjustment to the rate of pay. Director Pond told Council that this position is an administrative assistant and has a lot of different jobs. Next Director Pond requested his people be paid for every hour worked; he said everyone wants to know what has been learned from Baker Tilly on a new LIT tax. President Overton explained the requested CARES money is not a viable solution to fix 2022. As he learned from Debbie Bennett-Stearsman, this money can only include certain hazard and overtime pay. He invited any department head to work with Debbie Bennett-Stearsman on this hazard pay. He then explained his discussion with Baker Tilly regarding the public safety tax; one tax is a PSAP tax for construction and staffing of a PSAP center; 90% of this LIT revenue would come to the County but it cannot be used for the EMS problem. Another component of LIT might be a public safety local income tax. Baker Tilly felt this revenue could generate an additional \$525,000 per year. It does not solve the 2022 problem, as it would not start collecting until 2023, if the ordinance is passed before October 31, 2022. This tax must have cooperation between the civil cities and towns. An Income Tax Council would be formed by members of the County, Cities, and Towns and they would have to vote on this; the municipalities would receive portions of this money. It is a process; and must be started by June to give the other entities time to talk and move forward. President Overton explained that the Council is not sitting on a pot of money, their goal has always been to not have to borrow money. He went on to explain the unfunded liabilities the County has with accumulated sick days and the Sheriff's pension. He feels the County should take a hard look at this new tax with Baker Tilly; however, he hates to establish another tax when inflation is so bad. President Overton would like to see if bonuses could be added with the ARPA money. Premium pay can be issued with this money; Debbie Bennett-Stearsman will work with the Council on this matter. President Overton read a letter from Debbie Bennett-Stearsman identifying premium pay. There is a meeting on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. and he encouraged the EMS group to attend the meeting as this might be a way, they could get more funding in 2022. Councilman Riley told President Overton they have over \$20 million in requests for the \$6 Million in ARPA money revenue. Director Pond brought a representative from Warrick County to talk about the LIT Tax. He told the Council the EMS industry is in a world of hurt right now. The EMS field no longer have a surplus of people. He feels the new tax was well supported in Warrick County. They started paying for the 24 hour shifts about 10 years ago. They took the overtime into consideration and adjusted the hourly rate to ensure the overtime rate does not kick their annual salaries way up. The EMS in Warrick County has been hospital owned for approximately 10 years; the county pays a flat supplement to the hospital. Director Pond told the Council he does not feel they will find anyone to take over this County's EMS. A flight nurse from St. Vincent spoke next. Councilman Pflug feels the Warrick County model is what the Council needs to look at, as it sounds like it is working. He wonders if they would be willing to share the template they use. Director Pond feels, if they receive the current rate of pay, and ensure payment for every hour they work, the current staff can be attained. Director Pond begs Council not to cut the EMS pay when they implement the new rates of pay. Councilman McGraw told Director Pond that would not even be considered or discussed. President Overton feels this is moving in the right direction; he will attend the ARPA meeting on Thursday to try and get them a fix for this year. Director Pond feels there is a time limit on this as his people are getting offers all the time. He wants a commitment from the Council today. Councilman Pflug feels the tax must happen. Director Pond wonders if there are any funds that can help pay them for every hour this year. Councilman Pflug again requested the Warrick County salary schedule and template to know how much is needed for this year's pay plus they will go to the meeting on Thursday to try and get ARPA money commitment to pay this year. President Overton would like to have a meeting with Warrick County and St. Vincent. Director Pond asked if they would get this started; the Council requested he go to the Commissioners to get the ball rolling.

OLD BUSINESS

Additional Appropriation Resolution – The Auditor has advertised the following additional appropriations and now requests approval to add the following additions to the 2022 budget.

Fund 1136 Cumulative Building, Capital Projects is receiving an additional of \$1,090,000 for Probation Building Construction.

Fund 1213 CASA GAL Matching Grant, Other Services/Charges is receiving an additional of \$6,000 for Legal Services.

2004 Circuit Court User Fees, Other Services and Charges is receiving an additional of \$2,500 for a door renovation.

Fund 4913 Community Corrections Project Income, Personal Services is receiving an additional of \$9,100 for 2022 salary adjustments.

Councilman Riley motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation Resolution, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 7-0.

2022 Salary Amendment 1– This amendment was presented to Council after they voted on amending the 2022 salaries in the February 8, 2022 meeting. Councilman McGraw made the motion to accept the salary ordinance amendment, seconded by Councilman Clark. - The vote was 7-0.

Funding Approval for Courthouse Security – Attorney Spindler explained to Council that Empire had low bid of \$289,000 for a portion of the Courthouse Security upgrade; they will provide power to conveyor and walk-thru scanner, card swipe passageway, and an ADA platform lift. Attorney Spindler requested that Council approve the low bid to be paid from the Cumulative Building fund, which is appropriated.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the low bid, seconded by Councilman Clark. The vote was 7-0.

Attorney Spindler assured funding was secured for the probation building; the additional appropriation has been acted upon.

NEW BUSINESS

Personal Services Transfer Request

EMS discussed a new employee classification at the February meeting. EMS Director Pond requests the following transfer to accommodate the new position. Fund 1000 47 01 16 Paramedic, ADV EMT, EMT I, will transfer \$18,000 into the new appropriation number 47 01 22 EMR First Responder.

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

Additional Appropriation Request to Advertise – The following departments have requested additional appropriations be advertised.

- General Fund Auditor is requesting \$10,000 for Overtime in 1000 02 01 19.
- Fund 1131 Sales Disclosure requests \$11,000 to purchase a computer, printer, & toner
- Fund 1159 Health Department requests \$10,000 for legal services.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the advertisement of additional appropriations in all funds, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 7-0.

- The Auditor is requesting \$407,350 to replace the financial system software and property tax software. The financial software is 22 years old. Money options include:
 1. CARES money \$500,000.00 General Fund Current Balance \$7,566,742.00
 2. EDIT Money \$2,599,242.00
 3. Riverboat \$592,146.00 We receive approximately \$90K each year
 4. Rainyday \$346,000.00 no future revenue expected
 5. Auditor Ineligible \$44,803.00 no future revenue expected
 6. Auditor's Plat Book \$73,368.00 This fund collects \$10 for every deed; in 2021 the fund collected \$21K
 7. ARPA \$ \$3,268,933.00 Expect matching amount in May

The Council agreed to take a combined \$100,000 out of the Auditor Ineligible Fund and Plat Book Fund; \$100,000 could be paid from Rainy Day Fund and the remainder \$207,350 could be paid from the Riverboat Fund.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the advertisement of an additional appropriation in these funds, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 7-0.

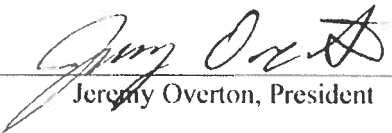
Encumbrances for 2021 into 2022 – A total of \$899,557.15 encumbrances have been completed.

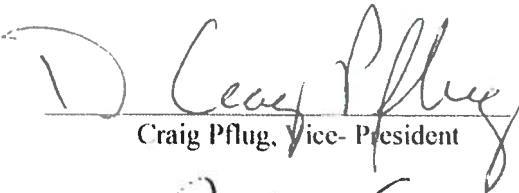
1112	\$237,342.52	General Non-Payroll	\$165,332.56	
1222	\$18,217.81	General Fund Payroll	\$242,627.66	
1169	\$115,500.00			
1224	\$9,389.01			
2004	\$42,399.49			
2502	\$4,491.75			
Non-General Payroll	\$64,256.35			
TOTAL	\$491,596.93	TOTAL GENERAL	\$407,960.22	= \$899,557.15

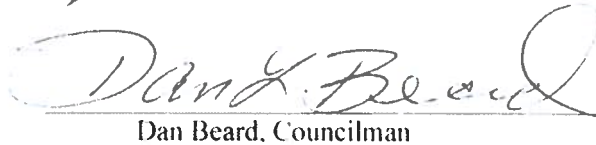
Councilman McGraw motioned to approve encumbrances, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 7-0.

Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn.

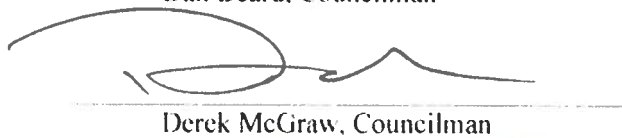
Minutes from the March 8, 2022 meeting.

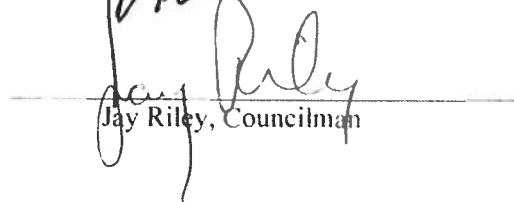

Jeremy Overton, President


Craig Pflug, Vice-President


Dan Beard, Councilman


Jeff Clark, Councilman


Derek McGraw, Councilman


Jay Riley, Councilman


Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 
Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor