
**Gibson County Council
Regular Session
April 13, 2021**

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on April 13, 2021, at 9:00 AM at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: Included President Jeremy Overton, Vice-President Craig Pflug, Councilmen Dan Beard, William McConnell (absent), Derek McGraw, Jay Riley, Michael Stilwell

Also Present: Mike Watkins, Auditor of Gibson County, Kristy York, 1st Deputy to Auditor, Wendy Williams, 2nd Deputy to Auditor

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited and led by President Overton.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 9th and special meeting on March 30, 2021 were approved as written by the Council.

Presentation of Clerk's Report

Clerk's Report Month Ending January 2021 was acknowledged by the Council.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report Month Ending February and March 2021 were acknowledged by the Council.

Presentation of TIF Report

The 2020 TIF Report was acknowledged by the Council.

Special Consideration for Judge Krieg and Judge Meade

Additional Appropriation Advertisement Judge Krieg requested movement of 2 people over to General Fund Payroll. A new department will be established for Probation; it will be Department 42. One employee will move fully to the General Fund, while another employee will be split ½ from Fund 2509 and ½ from General Fund. An additional appropriation will be required to fund this move. Councilman McGraw motioned to advertise this additional appropriation for the General Fund Dept 42 and 30 in the amount of \$70,600, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

Personal Services Transfer Judge Meade requested a transfer in his General Fund 1000 36 personal services. He has someone on leave, he would like to use some money allocated in this line, 36 01 18 Probation Administrative Assistant, moved into 36 01 31 Probation Part Time in the amount of 7,000. Councilman Riley motioned to approve this transfer in personal services, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

Courthouse Security - Judge Meade feels the Architect is closing in on completion of the specifications. A request for an additional appropriation was made to hire 2 deputies to work in this area. They intend to start these deputies in July and get them trained before the security system is in place. The Sheriff will give current deputies the option of moving into this position; he will then need to hire 2 replacements. The Sheriff will not agree to move the current bailiffs, as those bailiffs need to stay in the courtrooms. This new Security staff will stay at the entry doors checking people into the courthouse; 1 will start moving around the courthouse when entry slows. Councilman Overton asked if the two new hires could

be classified as bailiffs and placed on PERF, not the Sheriff's Pension. The Judge feels this is between the Sheriff and the Council; the Sheriff feels these new deputies should be merit deputies. It is the hopes of the Judge to install facial recognition software at the entrance to help find people with outstanding warrants, thereby giving the deputies the power to arrest those with these outstanding warrants. Councilman McGraw feels this should be handled today. A motion for an additional appropriation will be made after other additional appropriation requests are heard.

Additional Appropriation Advertisement for Extension Office Request - The Extension Office is requesting part time help to assist with 4-H at the fair. Councilman Pflug feels this line should be restored at \$4500. It will be included in a motion for advertisement for additional. The Ag Extension office is still short 1 person, the County pays for this position thru fees paid to Purdue (3 full time positions paid thru this payment). Councilman Pflug hopes this person is reinstated soon, or credit allowed from Purdue. Andrew Hays, the new Extension Office CED, told Council they do have a verbal agreement from a candidate to fill this position, however, no start date at this time. He hopes their turnover rates are minimized and this is the last time for this conversation.

Additional Appropriation Advertisement for Maintenance Request Andy Schafer, Maintenance Director, requests his part-time amount be reinstated at \$6,000. This, too, will be included in the additional appropriation advertisement request.

Additional Appropriation Advertisement - General Fund Councilman McGraw motioned to advertise \$80,850 as an additional appropriation in the General Fund for 2-Sheriff's Deputies (Dept 05); part-time for Extension Office (Dept 23); and part-time for Courthouse Maintenance (Dept 31); plus, all FICA/Med and any benefits in Dept 30 seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

Mike Cochren – Request Permission to Replace IV-D Attorney – Council approved the request.

Department Reports

EMS – Director Pond presented his March report to the Commissioners. He told Council the two bids for the ambulance had been taken under advisement; it will be voted on in the next Commissioner's meeting.

Sheriff – Sheriff Bottoms told Council there were presently 82 in the jail; work release is not being used at this time, due to COVID, but will start again in May. They are using the work release people to help in the jail. Four new jailers have been hired; 2 have started, 2 will begin on 4/19/2021, they are still short 5 jailers and 1 dispatcher, deputies are fully staffed.

Health Department – Director Hornby gave her 3/2021 report. She told Council about their new server; they will be using quick books moving forward. They have been busy with vaccines; they will travel to OCU for a clinic today, using the moderna vaccine. They administered 2,456 vaccines in March. They are still COVID-19 testing at the Fairgrounds on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday until the grant expires in June. They are vaccinating on Wednesdays and Fridays. Gibson County still has COVID cases. Septic systems are a hot topic, especially in subdivisions. Food inspections are still happening. She requested that everyone still be vigilant in masking up. They will continue to pay for the screening at the Courthouse until the Deputies take over July 1, 2021 or until other guidance from the Judges, Commissioners or Council is given.

Kay Vore – Pollock and Sanders Invoices – Kay has an invoice from Mr. Sanders and asked the Council to advise on where to pay this. They advised her to pay from Fund 1233. She also asked about payment to Pollock Law Firm and was instructed to pay from County General, Department 30, outside attorney line.

Old Business

Rick Reed – Gibson/Elliott Solar Project 2nd Public Hearing on Abatement Request - Mr. Reed asked the Council how to get closure on this project with positive outcome. He is very passionate about the County and the Project. The Project will bring a large economic shot to Gibson County. He has met with a lot of locals working on this project and he would like to see a profitable outcome on this 280-megawatt farm; a \$1.2 Million project. He told the Council they have a power purchaser for this project. They have adjusted the project to meet the public and landowners' concerns. Tim Ochs, from Ice Miller, told the County they are still in talks with Tenaska to bring the best deal back to the County. He suggested this be continued until the County is ready to approve the plan. The Council is trying to do their due diligence before approving this project. It was learned at this meeting that the solar panels will be depreciated as 5 years MACRS property, but they will have a useful life of 35 years. There will not be a split tax bill sent out; they will be assessed with solar panels on the land. The lease signed by owners will provide for Tenaska to pay the difference. This can change annually and Assessor Beadle wonders who will be doing this calculation. She was told this will be arranged between the Company and the landowner; there will be substantial changes to the tax statements. Tenaska will spend time with the Assessor to verify the process. A follow-up meeting with the Committee, Baker Tilly, and Tenaska will follow in the next few days. This Public Hearing will be resumed on 5/11/2021 after the 9:00 a.m. Council Meeting in the Commissioners Room of the North Annex.

Additional Appropriation Resolution Adoption – Advertisement has been made for the following Additional Appropriations: General Fund 1000 \$7800 in personal services; Riverboat Fund 1191 \$21,680 in Capital Outlays; and Surveyor Corner Perpetuation Fund 1202 \$35,000 in Capital Outlays. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the additional appropriations, seconded by Councilman Stillwell. The vote was 6-0. The resolution will be signed by the Council.

2021 Salary Schedule – Amendment #2 \$7,000 was added to the extra-hire for Surveyor at \$10 per hour. The Assistant Court Reporter being hired to replace the retiree is placed on a separate line to show that is for 2021 only. The part-time position in the Prosecutor's office was added at a rate of \$10.00 per hour or \$12,327 per year. Councilman Riley motioned to approve the salary schedule amendment #2, seconded by Councilman Pflug. The vote was 6-0.

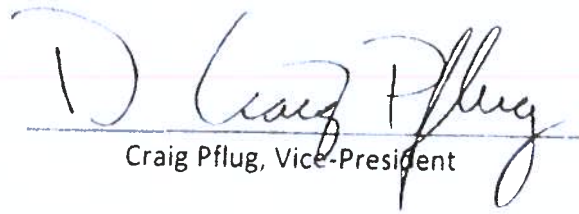
Additional Appropriation Request for County User Fee Fund 2509 Problem Solving Court This fund requires Council approval only. This is where the Judge is requesting to move ½ to General Fund and paying the other ½ from this Fund. This salary was being paid from another County User Fee, Fund 2505, but it no longer has the funds to sustain an employee's salary. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the additional appropriation in this fund in the amount of \$30,024, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

Councilman Overton read a letter submitted by Council McConnell on the solar farm.

Adjournment This regular session is adjourned, the Public Hearing will be reconvened on May 11, 2021 immediately following the regular session County Council Meeting, which begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the North Annex.

Minutes from the April 13, 2021 Meeting

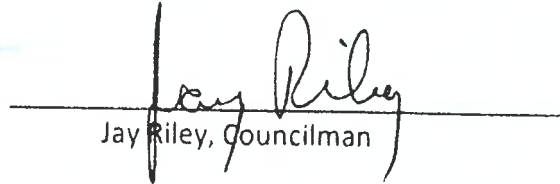

Jeremy Overton, President


Craig Pflug, Vice-President



Dan Beard, Councilman

William McConnell, Councilman


Derek McGraw, Councilman


Jay Riley, Councilman


Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 
Mike Watkins, Gibson County Auditor