

Gibson County Council
Regular Session
December 15, 2020

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on December 15, 2020, at 9:00 AM at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: Included President Jay Riley, Vice-President Craig Pflug, Councilmen William McConnell (absent), Jeremy Overton via zoom, Derek McGraw, Dan Beard, Michael Stilwell (absent), and Gibson County Auditor, Sherri Smith.

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

Special Consideration

 Judge Krieg requested Court Services Coordinator; Probation Secretary and Probation Secretary Drug Court be moved from Fund 2001 into General Fund Probation Officer Line 1000-41-01-16 thru the end of the year. His fund 2001 Superior Court User Fees is in the red. These people will move back into Fund 2001 on January 1, 2021. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this payroll change, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

Judge Krieg requested an out of series transfer to cover upgrades to video equipment and sound panels in the Courtroom. They will move \$38,300 into the Equipment line 1000-41-04-41. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman McGraw. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

Auditor Smith asked Judge Krieg who is going to put the bid out for the Probation Department. She told the Judge she had not seen any bids on this. He feels Dave Stallings is working on this matter, and this was confirmed by Mr. Stallings. He has not bid the project; a new set of building plans, for the green field project, must be completed before it can be bid. Judge Krieg turned the Courthouse Security item over to Judge Meade.

Judge Meade discussed courthouse security; a draft of the South side of the Courthouse was presented to show changes that might take place with the installation of this security. Judge Meade would like authorization to advertise for bids on this project. He would also like to add two (2) new Merit Deputies to run the system. He would also like to hire BCS for their professional services. President Riley asked Judge Meade if he planned to move the upstairs Deputy to cover this. Judge Meade told the Council it will take 2 Deputies to run the machine at the entrance to the Courthouse. EMA Director Hedges told the Council Courthouse Security Plans began in approximately 2007 and he feels there is grant money available to help get this started. He plans to apply for a grant from Homeland Security in about February. Judge Meade

turned the floor over to Andrew Beitler and Jason Buchanan representing BCS to discuss this matter further. They presented some cost estimates on this project and answered questions from the Council. They also asked that David Stallings, Architect from Landmark, step in on this discussion. Mr. Stallings and BCS representatives compared cost estimates and agreed to an ending cost. A new generator will have to be bid, as the current 400-amp generator does not have the 1200-amp capacity to support the project. The current generator will be repurposed. Councilman McGraw asked for the balance in the Cumulative Building Fund; it has a balance of \$1,900,000. All technology parts of this project will be "professional services" provided by BCS. The design professional services will be provided by Landmark. Demolition on the south side of the courthouse will be bid, as will components such as wheelchair lift, doors, generator, etc. will have to be bid. Commissioner Key requested the Council approve a dollar amount for this project so they can move forward on it. Councilman McGraw motioned to support the Courthouse Security Project with a not to exceed amount of \$605,000, to be paid from the Cumulative Building Fund; an additional appropriation will be discussed in January, seconded by Councilman Beard. Mr. Stallings will put the bid together and Auditor Smith will advertise. They feel the Commissioners should move forward with bid advertisement. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

2021 Meeting Schedule

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the 2021 meeting schedule, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

November 10, 2020 Regular Council Minutes

November 17, 2020 Special Joint Session Council and Commissioners Meeting

December 1st, 2020 Special Joint Session Council and Commissioners Meeting

The meetings were approved as read.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

October 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report was acknowledged by the Council.

November 30, 2020 Treasurer's Report was acknowledged by the Council.

Presentation of Clerk's Report


September 30, 2020 Clerk's Report was acknowledged by the Council.

October 31, 2020 Clerk's Report was acknowledged by the Council.


Department Reports


Sheriff Bottoms presented reports to the Council; there were no questions.


Old Business

 Additional appropriation has been advertised for CUM Building Fund \$27,675.00 and County General Fund \$75,705.00 for a total of \$103,380.00. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve the Cumulative Building Fund Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$27,675 to pay the \$27,675 invoice from Landmark on the Probation Department Architectural Design, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0.


Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the General Fund Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$75,705.00, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0.


 Health Department COVID Nurse Contract-Contract has been reviewed by County Attorney McDonald, as well as Frost, Brown, Todd. It was decided that these are W-2, temporary employees and the Nurse Manager will not be held to the part-time limit on hours.


 Health Dept Grant – Director Hornby feels the County can receive another grant for COVID-19 in the amount of approximately \$108,000. She would like to upgrade her server and phone system with this grant. The estimate to upgrade the service is \$82,000 from Parrish; phone upgrade is \$6,820. They have spoke to the State and they will allow these purchases with the COVID-19 Grant. She feels it is imperative to get approval on this as this grant must be allocated by December 31, 2020. She also proposed a new mobile vaccine trailer in the amount of \$37,020. They just received word from the State that they were approved for a \$40,000 Grant that will help cover the cost of vaccine clinic staff. President Riley is not in favor of the mobile vaccine trailer; he feels this is a large expense to sit 6-months out of the year and a temporary need. Councilman Pflug wonders if the Health Department could rent buildings from the community rather than spend the large amount on the trailer. The Council feels the purchase of a refrigerator to hold vaccines is a wiser expenditure. Councilman McGraw approved expenditure of the \$108,000 COVID-19 grant money with purchase of the server, phone upgrade, 2 refrigerators, and advertisements, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0.


 Elliott Solar Farm Tax Abatement – The Council has a copy of the proposed Economic Development Agreement. The Economic Development Agreement payment has increased from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. This farm has increased from a 150-megawatt farm to now a 200-megawatt farm. Councilman Pflug has spoke to the Assessor and the property the solar panels sit upon will be classified as utility, instead of the current classification of Agricultural Land. He then asked for the plan for the storm water runoff, as he feels this is very important, in the fact the new panels will change the drainage of the area and he want to ensure property owners are protected. Tim Ochs, Attorney with Ice Miller explained this is not addressed in the Economic Development Agreement. It is taken care of thru local laws and drainage plans, which must be

submitted to the County Surveyor. Councilman Pflug wants to ensure someone stays on top of this issue. Councilman Pflug also wondered about inserting language specifying the depth and whereabouts of the buried lines. Superintendent Lewis says the County Highway Department has specifications on this through an Ordinance. Councilman Overton feels Elliott Solar Farm has been very thorough and accommodating; he is comfortable to move forward with approval of the abatement. He thanked Councilman Pflug for his extra homework and attaining the extra money for Economic Development, which he feels can be put to a good use. A Gibson County resident (Larry) asked if the County felt it necessary to give this abatement; he feels they might be overused. He also wonders the advantage of receiving the economic development money in lieu of the abatement. He wonders how many new jobs this might create. President Riley answered the jobs questions. Then Elliot Solar Farm Representative explained the jobs further and explained this information had already been shared in public hearings. Councilman Pflug explained this is not a typical abatement. This abatement differs because the Company is offering the Economic Development money. This changes the dynamics as this money can be utilized for any lawful purpose. It is money the County would not have, if not for the project. Councilman Overton tried to explain that the property tax revenues would not be realized by the County, however the Economic Development money would be a gain. Jim McDonald advised that Farmers from the Elliott Solar Farm area have been in favor to lease this ground in order to increase their annual income, they signed voluntary leases. This project does not only benefit the county and its tax rate, it is a benefit to the citizens that live in this area. He also discussed the additional Economic Development revenues the County will gain from this project. Attorney McDonald want to ensure everyone see the big picture for this project. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the 5-year, 100% abatement as presented, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 4-0 vote, with Councilman Pflug abstaining from the vote because he is a landowner in this area. Next, Mary Solada, Attorney for the Project, asked the Council to also approve the SB-1 and the Economic Development Agreement. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve both documents, seconded by Councilman Overton. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 4-0 vote, with Councilman Pflug abstaining from the vote because he is a landowner in this area.


 Amendment #7 Salary Schedule – COVID related changes at the Health Department and Testing Site. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve this amendment, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

 Amendment #8 Salary Schedule – 27th pay for 2020 was added into the schedule, as it was decided by pay this payroll on Thursday, 12/31/2020, instead of waiting until Monday 1/4/2021. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this amendment, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

 Structurepoint Invoice – This invoice payment was tabled at the November meeting. The Council is not in favor of further design work on a project the County cannot afford. Councilman Overton is afraid payment of the invoice will signal more design work from Structurepoint. Councilman Pflug motioned to pay the invoice as it is owed, from Fund 1233, providing Attorney McDonald send Structurepoint a letter asking them to halt further work until approval is received from both the Commissioners and the Council, seconded by Councilman McGraw. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.


 KDDK Invoices – Payment for \$78,266.15 for Zoning; there is a date on the Statement of 11/12/2020 and Councilman Overton asks if anyone knows if there will be any other invoices to follow this. Commissioner Key thinks this is the last invoice. Attorney McDonald and Commissioner Key feel they have made it clear to KDDK to halt all work on Zoning, so the County does not incur any additional fees. Attorney McDonald tells the Council there have been no BZA nor APC meetings, all zoning meetings have been cancelled. Councilman Overton and Pflug agree the 2021 Budget for EDIT Fund has a line containing an appropriation of \$105,000 for APC/Zoning. The Council feels this is an EDIT expense, however there is not enough EDIT money to pay this now. The Council feels this invoice should be paid from the EDIT line in January 2021. Councilman Overton motioned to table the payment of the invoice until January 2021, seconded by Councilman Pflug. Auditor Smith will call KDDK and advise them the invoice will be discussed in the January council meeting. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

New Business

 CARES Act Reimbursement Resolution was done so the payroll expense reimbursement paid thru Fund 8210 in the amount of \$632,793.25 could be reimbursed to the General Fund. Once this money moves into the General Fund, normal appropriation procedures will apply, and Fund 8210 will revert to \$0. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this resolution, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.


 Community Corrections Budget 2021 – Michael Owens presented his 2021 Budget to the Council


Princeton Library – Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the recommendation from the Library to re-appoint Cindy Petty to another 4-year term, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.


 Terry Hedges – Laptop for the Commissioners or Kay to use Zoom; and to be kept in Kay's office. Terry requests the laptop be purchased with COVID-19 funds. The Council explained that this would need an additional appropriation because the COVID Funds are now a part of the General Fund. Terry Hedges / Jim Allen submitted a blueprint to build a building to

house COVID supplies and the ambulance base that is now house at Gibson General Hospital. They want the Council to consider this building be paid with COVID 19 funds. Terry feels this money will be taken back by the State if the money is not used. Wendy explained the COVID Funds were used by the County to reimburse payroll; that payroll came out of general fund. Councilman Overton asked Terry if he has documentation from the State that they will reclaim the funds if not spent by December 31, 2020. Terry presented some paperwork from IFA dated June 24. The Auditor's office feels the Resolution receipting the money into general fund concludes the COVID-19 funds. Auditor Smith tells them the laptop can request an additional appropriation advertisement in January. Councilman Pflug requests that this information be verified for accuracy.

Highway Superintendent Lewis told the Council he had an employee resign and he requests permission to replace this position; there is a true need for this position. The Council gave their okay to advertise for replacement of this position.

 Community Corrections Budget – Michael Owens presented his 2021 Budget for Council approval. The DOC approvals come later in the year, thus the reason they fall behind everyone else. They kept their salaries the same as last year, like the rest of the county. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve budgets for Funds 9122; 4913; and 1123 for 2021, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

 McDonald Law Jail Project Invoice – Councilman McGraw motioned to approve payment from Fund 1233. \$10,255 will be transferred from Professional Services into Legal Services and the invoice will be paid from the Legal Services line, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

 Highway Department request transfer of \$6,000 from 1176-02-02-22 Calcium Chloride into 1176-04-03-63 Road Equipment, to cover road equipment expenses, and Highway Department request transfer of \$2,000 from 1176-02-02-22 Calcium Chloride into 1176-04-03-62 Truck & Tractors, to cover truck and tractor expenses. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the Highway Department transfers, seconded by Councilman Overton. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

County Health Department request transfer of \$1,030 from 1159-01-03-25 State Travel into 1159-01-02-11 General Office, to pay for a laptop; Health Department requests transfer of \$2,390.00 from 1159-01-01-17 Part time into 1159-01-01-71 Social Security/Medicare to cover overtime; Health Department requests transfer of \$1,250.00 from 1159-01-01-17 Part Time into 1159-01-01-23 to cover Overtime. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the Health Department transfers, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

EMS request transfer of \$20,000 from 47-01-18 Overtime EMT into 47-01-17 Overtime Paramedics, to cover paramedic overtime for the rest of the year; EMS requests transfer of \$10,000 from 47-01-18 EMT Overtime and \$10,000 from 47-01-14 full Time Paramedic TOTALING \$20,000 into 47-01-17 Overtime Paramedics. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the EMS transfers, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

VET Services request transfer of \$745.24 from 27-03-15 Travel and \$20 from 27-03-90 Training TOTALING \$ 765.24 into 27-02-60 Supplies, for unused travel and training funds (COVID). Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Highway Department request transfer of \$60,000 from 1135-01-03-91 Other Contractual into 1135-01-02-31 Materials, to cover material expenses. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Clerk requests transfers of \$450.00 from 1000-21-0115 General Election Board and \$225.00 from 1000-21-0117 Election Tabulation for a total of \$675.00 into 1000-21-0119 Special Deputy, for Absentee Voting to correct election payments. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Prosecutor requests transfer of \$3,200 from 1000-08-01-18 Social Security into 1000-08-01-19 Retirement-Perf to finish the year. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Community Corrections requests transfer of \$279.36 from 9121-01-01-18 Worker's Compensation into 9121-01-01-15 FICA to finish to year. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

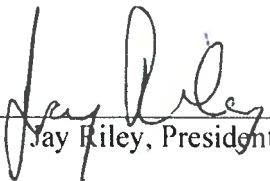
County Extension requests transfer of \$2,500.00 23-03-13 Auto-Travel into 23-02-60 Office Supplies. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

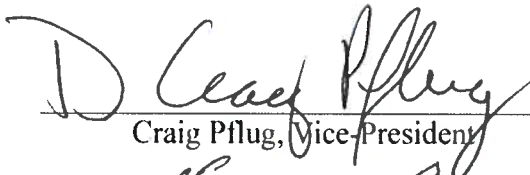
County Extension requests transfer of \$815.00 from 23-03-53 Computer Maintenance; \$300.00 23-03-60 Building Rent; \$750.00 from 23-03-91 Professional Improvement and \$1,000.00 from 23-03-13 Auto Travel for a total of \$2,865.00 into 23-04-22 Equipment to purchase new office furniture for 4H Educator and replace others. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

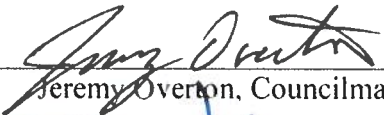
Commissioner Key presented an invoice from Landmark for Courthouse Security. The Council feels this has already been addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

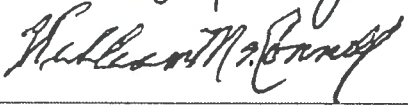
With no further business, Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting

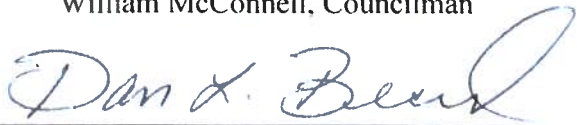

Jay Riley, President


Craig Pflug, Vice-President


Jeremy Overton, Councilman


William McConnell, Councilman


Derek McGraw, Councilman


Dan Beard, Councilman


Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 
Mike Watkins, Gibson County Auditor