
Gibson County Council
Regular Session
June 9th, 2020

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

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

This meeting was broadcast utilizing Zoom and the Commissioner’s Facebook page.

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

Approval of Minutes

from May 12th, 2020 were approved as submitted.

Presentation of Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer’s Report month ending 05/31/20 was acknowledged as received.

Presentation of Clerk’s Report

Clerk’s Report month ending 03/31/20 was acknowledged as received.

Department Reports

Sheriff Tim Bottoms submitted his reports to the Council. They have 93 incarcerated today. Work Release opened back up yesterday and there are 3 in work release.

Public Defender’s Department update was received from County Attorney McDonald. He told Council the Board has taken resumes for the Chief Public Defender. The Board did hire Lisa Moody as the Chief Public Defender, which has been sent to the State. They are currently working on office space and will be using the building being renovated for the Probation Office. The staff for this Department has not yet been hired. This Board will hold another meeting this week to finalize the department and send it to the state.

Old Business

- Additional Appropriation for the Public Defender Department of \$200,000 has been advertised. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this additional, seconded by Councilman Stillwell. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.

- Salary Schedule – Amendment #4 – Public Defender Department/positions have been added. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this amendment to the salary schedule, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.
- Jail Update – County Attorney McDonald gave a jail update. He introduced Rick Conner, Architect from American Structurepoint, hired by the Commissioners to serve as the Principal in Charge of the new jail. Every project American Structurepoint (AS) enters into, has a Principal in Charge. He will oversee the project from the beginning until the end or the door opening. The current jail has 2 DOC non-compliance reports plus one lawsuit, thus the reason behind exploration of this project. AS and Mr. Conner's plan is to build consensus around one solution to the problem, then design, and finally construct at the lowest price possible. Mr. Conner has studied the Needs Assessment Report; from that report they will do the following things:
 - Review the broad data that drove the projected bed count.
 - Review the current facility.
 - Further develop the current consensual drawings.
 - Check construction costs listed in the manual.
 - Develop a staffing analysis.
 - Develop an operating cost for the facility.
 - Look at ideas to utilize portions of existing jail.

Continuing the jail committee could be very helpful in order to arrive at a plan that will make sense for Gibson County. This could be considered the Pre-Design portion of the plan and might take 6 weeks or so; but not rushed, as everyone should be comfortable with the preferred option. The Design portion of the plan might take 6-9 months. Once plans are complete, construction bids will be let. Construction could take 12-18 months.

The Architect will help the County navigate the pending lawsuit. County Attorney asked the Council how often Mr. Conner should report back to them. Mr. Conner's email will be provided to Council for direct questions. Councilman Overton asked Mr. Conner about using a Clerk of Works versus the Principal in Charge. Mr. Conner stated that there are a couple of options the Council can review, and he will get all of that together. He did tell the Council the time is right to build, as items are priced right.

Councilman Overton asked if Baker Tilly had been consulted regarding the finances. County Attorney McDonald told the Council they should oversee the funding for this jail. Everything done requiring money will have to be approved thru the Council. Mr. Conner says he understands operating costs are significant; he will look closely at five years of operating history costs. Because a jail is a 24/7 operation; every staff position will be multiplied by 3 to cover the around the clock operations.

Councilman Pflug asked where American Structure was based; they are based out of Indianapolis, but they have an office in Evansville. Councilman Pflug asked if AS would be doing the jail design; Mr. Conner confirmed. Councilman Pflug asked what other jail

projects AS had been involved. Mr. Conner says the most notable one, would be Vanderburgh County's jail project. He was involved in the evaluation of the current jail design. As of lately, they have outgrown that jail and they are looking at various options for expansion.

New Business

- Commissioners request Additional Appropriation for Legal Services and Liability Claims totaling \$245,132. County Attorney McDonald presented a list of additional appropriations the Commissioners are needing; he asked that Admin Vore step in to help answer questions. Councilman Overton asked about the mental health transfer into legal fees and if those legal fees had already been paid. Admin Vore answered that legal fees began coming in after the APC was reformed in January and legal fees have been paid. County Attorney McDonald has also experienced an increase in fees due to the formation of the APC.

Councilman Overton asked if the \$58,310 was what was needed or was it replacing the legal fees. Admin Vore replied that it was replacing mental health transfer into legal fees. County Attorney McDonald and Admin Vore explained that the liability claims line is in the red because every lawsuit filed has a \$15,000 deductible, no matter the outcome; unbeknownst to them. Councilman Overton is of the opinion that the Attorney Fees for APC should be paid from EDIT; he feels the Commissioners should have asked for the money before spending it. President Riley agrees with Councilman Overton. County Attorney McDonald asked for clarification and if the Council agreed to request an Additional Appropriation for the Liability Claims. The Council felt that line would need an additional appropriation.

County Attorney McDonald explained that his legal fees are for all different aspects of the County such as the new Public Defender Department getting set up or the health department calling him more in recent months. Attorney McDonald will separate his APC billings so that prior fees can be corrected and going forward, can be paid from EDIT. The Commissioners will submit a new EDIT plan and separate out all APC legal billings to be corrected and paid from EDIT. Admin Vore does not feel there is any extra money in the EDIT budget and feels an Additional will be needed to cover the APC Legal Fees. The mental health transfer to legal fees will be reversed out. Councilman Overton motioned to table this item for further review, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Pflug asked the Auditor to be aware that the APC funding source would be EDIT. EDIT should be reviewed to see how much money is available as it appears an Additional will be required to pay these legal fee expenditures.

- CF-1 for Tax Abatement – Western Indiana Energy Rural Electric Membership Corporation – Paperwork was submitted during the extension and considered on time. Councilman Stillwell motioned to approve this abatement, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.

- Sheriff's Salary – The State mandates salary increases to this position annually. The increase goes into effect on July 1st, 2020. This was included on the Salary Amendment #4.
- Sheriff Bottoms requests a Transfer of \$3,000 from 05-01-23 Communications Officers (Balance \$105,206) into 05-01-11 Sheriff Wages to cover 07/01/2020 wage increase. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve this mandated salary increase and transfer to cover the increase, seconded by Councilman Overton. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Pflug asked if the Prosecutor's Salary would need adjusted; the Prosecutor is paid from the State, thus no adjustments.

- Auditor requests additional appropriation from fund 1216 (Balance \$49,086.31) in the amount of \$3,675 for glass shields on all desks in the Auditor's office for a COVID-19 layer of protection. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the advertisement of this additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Overton. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Beard asked if this could be reimbursed by the CARES Act. The Auditor explained that is being investigated at this time; she has contacted Terry Hedges regarding this.

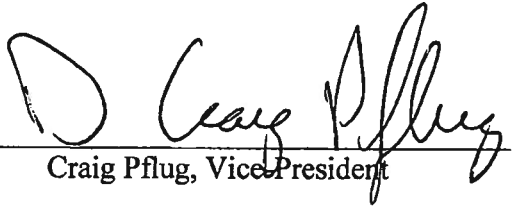
Clerk requests a transfer of \$3,800 from 1000-01-01-22 Severance into Part Time 1000-01-01-21 to cover shortages. The person set to receive severance used more PTO days than anticipated, and left severance with extra money. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.

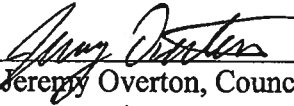
- Councilman McConnell talked about the census; he reminded everyone the importance of being counted; he expressed his concern with this year's Property Tax Draw. Lastly, he reminded persons living in areas with internet problems to please complete the online survey; as the Broadband Grant is very competitive and all input is needed from County Residents.
- Councilman Pflug has tried to spread the word in East Gibson about broadband grant opportunities by using the Churches and School Corporation's one-call system. He asked the other Council Members to try this approach in order to get the word out.

Councilman Pflug motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes from the June 9th, 2020 meeting

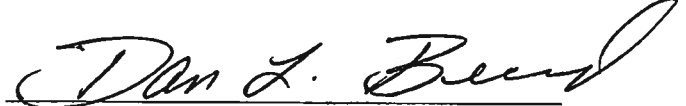

Jay Riley, President


Craig Pflug, Vice President

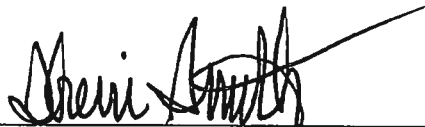

Jeremy Overton, Councilman

William McConnell, Councilman


Derek McGraw, Councilman


Dan Beard, Councilman


Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 
Sherri Smith, Gibson County Auditor