
Gibson County Council
Regular Session
March 9, 2021

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

Members Present: Included Vice-President Craig Pflug, Councilmen William McConnell, Derek McGraw, Dan Beard, Michael Stilwell. President Jeremy Overton was present via Zoom. Vice-President Pflug presided over the meeting.

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 Vice-President Pflug.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman McConnell made a motion to accept the Minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting with a second by Councilman McGraw. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentation of Clerk's Report

Clerk's Report Month Ending December 2020

Motion was made by Councilman McGraw to accept the Clerk's Report with a second by Councilman Riley. Motion passed 7-0.

Special Consideration – Judge Jeffrey Meade

Judge Meade requested approval from the Council to use money from the Probation Computer Fund (2003-04-0442) to purchase a gun for the Bailiff. Motion by Councilman McGraw to approve the purchase with a second by Councilman Beard. Motion passed 7-0.

Judge Meade explained to the Council that Knox County Courthouse has a top-notch security system. He urged the Council to stop by there and look at it. Also, he discussed the options of building designs for the Probation building. Judge Meade stated that if the EMS building was included on the property that this will greatly reduce the available parking. With that Judge Meade turned the meeting over to Dave Stallings from Landmark Design & Engineering to give updates and discuss options for the new Probation building. Mr. Stallings stated their part of the Courthouse security system is complete and ready to go to the attorney to get the package ready for bid. He stated pricing had not changed. He also stated he has been in discussions with Empire Contractors and Arc Construction concerning the building. Mr. Stallings presented plan drawings 3.1, 3.1A, and 3.1B. He also presented plan drawing 3.1C which is for a standalone EMS Ambulance Base. Councilman McGraw and Councilman Riley brought up discussion about the change in total cost of this building project if the EMS building was built on

another lot the County owns. Mr. Stallings stated that the cost would not really be that much more making it a stand-alone building. EMS Director David Pond stated he would like to be included in the talks about the EMS building. Also, he stated he feels that we have much need for this building as the population increases and the runs increase. Mr. Pond stated he had not seen the drawings prior to tonight but he feels we need more sleeping quarters for the EMT's. President Overton questioned if a basement would be feasible for possible storage. Mr. Stallings explained that it would come at a cost because of the necessary designs to make it ADA compliant. He did not recommend putting in a basement. Councilman McGraw asked Public Defender Lisa Moody how much money we could get back through a grant. Ms. Moody stated we could get up to 40% back however she has to apply for it and 40% is not guaranteed. Councilman Stilwell questioned the necessity of a new EMS building. Councilman McGraw stated about renting the Councilman McGraw stated that we have rented the current EMS building from the hospital since 1981. Mr. Pond brought up the fact that the current building is not energy efficient. Vice-President Pflug asked Mr. Pond to find out the cost involved with the current building such as rent and utilities. Judge Meade recommended building the Probation building without the EMS building at this time. Vice-President Pflug stated he felt that design 3.1A was what everyone would like. He also confirmed the reimbursement with Ms. Moody about the reimbursement. She stated she would be able to apply when the project got underway, and she would need copies of all invoices. Councilman McGraw made a motion to allow the Commissioners to start work on the Probation building with a budget not to exceed \$950,000.00 from the Cumulative Building Fund. Councilman Riley seconded. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilman McConnell abstaining.

Department Reports

EMS – David Pond

Mr. Pond stated the EMS service had 242 runs for the month of January. Vice-President Pflug asked about the collection agency that was working on collecting billing. Mr. Pond stated the collection agency was still working on collecting the information and will be doing last year first.

Councilman Stilwell questioned if the EMS building was put on the backburner for now. Councilman McGraw stated it needed more work to decide what type of building is needed. Vice-President Pflug concurred and reiterated that Mr. Pond would like to be part of the discussions on the new building.

Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Tim Bottoms

Sheriff Bottoms stated he had passed out information concerning statistics for his department. He stated that the highest inmate count during the month was 101 and today (3/9/2021) it is 92. Councilman Riley questioned if any inmates had been sent out because of the COVID outbreak. Sheriff Bottoms stated no one has been sent out unless their time was up or they bonded out.

Health Department – Judy Adams

Ms. Adams distributed the statistics for the Health Department for the month. She also distributed information about the COVID vaccination eligibility. She thanked the County departments that have helped at the vaccination clinic.

Old Business

Rick Reed – Gibson/Elliott Solar Project

Mr. Reed with Tanaska explained that there has been a slight change in location of the Gibson Solar project. He also discussed he had been met with a lot of residents with questions about the solar project. Mr. Reed stated that he was here today to get the Council's blessing for preliminary approval and to do this. Councilman Riley questioned about the location of the panels and Mr. Riley stated it would not go outside of the designated area. He also stated that it is larger than the Elliott project. Vice-President Pflug questioned if the changes in the map had changed from the February meeting. Mr. Reed agreed and said they pulled back so they will have more potential. Vice-President then asked if the next meeting should be an evening meeting at a different time for the public. Vice-President recommended having an evening meeting would be appropriate to have. He also suggested the Toyota Events Center at the Gibson County Fairgrounds. Mr. Reed asked if we wanted to set a date. Mr. Paul Waters with Gibson County Economic Development Corporation stated he would help arrange the venue. Councilman Stilwell made a motion to hold the Gibson Solar EDA meeting on March 29, 30 or April 1 at 6:30 p.m. Second by President Overton. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Mary Solada with Dentons Bingham Greenebaum LLP requested the Preliminary Resolution be passed and signed today. She stated this Resolution was not binding. Councilman Stilwell made the motion to sign the Preliminary Resolution. Vice-President Pflug inquired about the shift of the numbers as far as if it has moved more out of Patoka Township. Ms. Solada asked Mr. Jarrod Pitts with Tanaska to explain about the shift in placement of the solar panels. Mr. Pitts stated that there would now be more in Union Township and less in Patoka Township. He stated they would be happy to work with Baker Tilley to update the numbers. Vice-President Pflug stated he did not feel it would hurt to do the Preliminary Resolution, but it should be noted that it could affect the Townships differently than originally stated. Motion was made by Councilman Stilwell to move forward with the Preliminary Resolution with the understanding we needed to have updated numbers for the Townships. Second by Councilman McGraw. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Waters asked to address the Council. He stated that the GCEDC was supportive of this project.

Additional Appropriation Adoption

Total of \$62,697.00 (\$50,370 – Superior Court Reporter, \$12,327.00 – Part-time for the Prosecutor's Office) for Personal Services. Motion to approve the Adoption for Additional was made by Councilman Riley with a second by Councilman McGraw. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilman McConnell abstaining.

Vice-President Pflug brought forth another Additional Appropriation for advertisement. This is for radio equipment and tower for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$21,680.00 to come out of the Riverboat Fund. Motion to approve for advertisement was made by Councilman McGraw with a second by Councilman Riley. Motion passed 7-0.

New Business

George Pickersgill, Gibson County Veterans Service Officer

Mr. Pickersgill stated the DAV van used to aid Veterans in getting to doctor's appointments is wore out. He has been working with Toyota on securing a van. Toyota has offered to donate a new Sienna minivan by way of a grant to the Gibson County Veterans Service. Mr. Pickersgill also stated that there would be excess money received that could possibly be used on the Veterans. He requested a Resolution to establish a fund to accommodate this grant.

Councilman McGraw stated he thought that a line item needed to be made. Ms. York stated she would set up a new fund would be all that would be needed. Councilman McGraw made the motion to set up the fund and line with a second by Councilman Beard. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Pickersgill explained that there would be a ceremony accepting the new van around the 31st of the month.

Scott Martin, Surveyor of Gibson County

Mr. Martin wanted to remind the Council their overtime had been cut however he was wanting to see about getting an Intern for the summer. He stated the type of Intern they needed required more money and he requested to be able to offer up to \$15.00 per hour. Mr. Martin was asking for \$7,200.00 for approximately 3 months. Ms. Williams stated an additional \$600.00 should be added for taxes. Councilmen McGraw and Pflug were concerned about paying someone \$15.00 per hour. Mr. Martin reiterated that competition was tough and he needed to be able to offer more money. Councilman Stilwell made a motion to approve the hire of a Summer Intern not to exceed \$7,800.00. No second was made and the motion died. Councilman Pflug asked if Councilman Stilwell would like to modify his motion and he declined. Councilman McGraw then made a motion to fund the Intern position at \$10.00 per hour. Second was made by Councilman Riley. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. York stated we needed a motion to advertise for an Additional Appropriation for \$7,800.00 out of General Fund. Councilman McGraw made the motion with a second by Councilman Riley. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilman McConnell abstaining.

Mr. Martin also asked for another Additional Appropriate in the amount of \$35,000 for the hiring of an additional Surveyors to do Section Corner work. Councilman McGraw made the motion to advertise the Additional Appropriation for money from the Section Corner Perpetual Fund to be used for additional Surveyors for Section Corner work. Councilman Riley seconded. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilman McConnell abstaining.

Princeton Library – Brenda Williams, Head Librarian

Ms. Williams explained the library was nearing completion and an open house would be held at 1:00 p.m. on April 11, 2021. She encouraged the Council and all in attendance to come and see the renovations.

Bill McConnell

Councilman McConnell discussed redistricting and how budgets will be affected. He also discussed how this will affect the assessed values. Councilman McConnell also discussed how desperate we need the solar panels.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilman McGraw with a second by Councilman Riley. Motion passed 7-0.


Minutes from the March 9, 2021 Meeting



Jeremy Overton, President

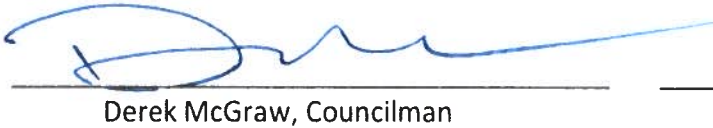


Craig Pflug, Vice-President

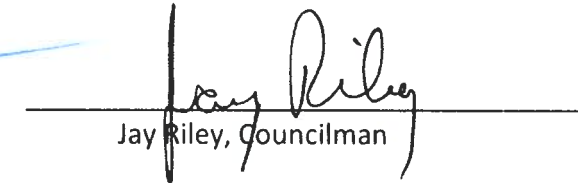


Dan Beard, Councilman

William McConnell, Councilman



Derek McGraw, Councilman



Jay Riley, Councilman



Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 

Mike Watkins, Gibson County Auditor

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
April 6, 2021

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on April 6, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Prayer was led by Commissioner Montgomery followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call by Auditor Watkins:

President Warren Fleetwood – Present
Vice-President Kenneth Montgomery – Present
Commissioner Mary B. Key – Present

Auditor Watkins noted a quorum was present.

MINUTES: The minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Key motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS:

PAUPER CLAIMS	\$929.00
CAW - 1	\$51,338.74
CAW - 2	\$25,000.00
CAW - 3	\$22,603.51
CAW - 4	\$83,757.80
INNKEEPERS DISTRIBUTION	\$10,719.60
BLIGHT CLAIMS	\$644.36
WHEEL SURTAX AND ED PLATE DISTRIBUTION	\$74,984.57
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$160,567.41
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$2,848.96
PAYROLL	\$348,644.47
COUNTY GENERAL	\$241,703.01
HIGHWAY	\$315,234.71
SHERIFF	\$45,262.45
ACH	\$114,181.78
CAW - 5	\$20,784.84
COURTS	\$15,017.67
TOTAL CLAIMS PRESENTED FOR 4/6/2021	\$1,534,222.88

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve claims presented for payment, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Department Reports were presented

EMS Director Pond presented report for the month of March.

Sheriff Department – Sheriff Bottoms presented a written report on the jail to Commissioners.

Health Department - Director Hornby told Commissioners they have been busy with COVID vaccines at the fairgrounds. They will be hosting a vaccine clinic on Saturday at the Fairgrounds to administer the 1-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, plus they received 1200 doses of the moderna vaccine. They plan to travel to the jail, OCU, and other businesses to administer these extra moderna vaccines. They are having vaccine clinics at the Fairgrounds on Wednesdays from 9 am – 7 pm and Friday from 8 am – 4 pm. They will be conducting COVID testing at the Fairgrounds on Monday-Tuesday-Thursday. They are receiving their new computer server, after the old one crashed.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Ambulance Bids Opening: Crossroads Ambulance Sales from Middlebury, Indiana submitted a bid in the amount of \$183,810 which includes allowances of \$7,000; \$2,000 for a previous customer discount and a \$5,000 trade-in allowance. The next bid was from Fire Service, Inc., from Indianapolis, in the amount of \$207,620 which includes an allowance of \$4,000 for a rebate plus a \$3,000 for trade-in. Attorney Spindler recommended the Commissioners take the bids under advisement until next meeting. Commissioner Key motioned to take the bids under advisement, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

COVID Medical Leave Update: Auditor Watkins asked the Commissioners to revisit this topic after they had extended this leave in January with plans to revisit in March. Currently, the County has no one off on COVID leave. He has also learned that other Counties are discontinuing this leave. Auditor Watkins recommends the County cease the COVID Medical Leave, which has been available for employees for the past year. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to cease COVID Medical leave, seconded by Commissioner Key. The motion passed 3-0.

Water Softener Request by Sheriff Bottoms Sheriff Bottoms presented the requested warranty to Commissioners after he had previously requested permission to repair or replace. The cost to replace is \$15,627.57; Sheriff Bottoms has the funds to replace this item in his jail budget in the plumbing, electrical, and maintenance line; Commissioners feel he should use this budgeted money first. If/when he runs low on funds, in future, he can request the Commissioner's help at that time. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the purchase from the jail budget, seconded by Commissioner Key. The motion passed 3-0.

Chamber Director, Patty Vanoven - Heritage Days – requested permission from the Commissioners to use the Courthouse lawn, as usual, for the festival, as well as blocking out 4 parking spots on each side (16 totals parking spots) of the Courthouse for ease of the vendors. Commissioner Key motioned to approve both, use of the lawn and the 16 parking spots, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote 3-0.

Ms. Vanoven questioned the new courthouse security and wondered if this will be an issue, as the festival always uses the basement bathrooms. Commissioners do not feel the new security will be an issue this year, however, warn that only the South entrance will be open for entry. Commissioner Key motioned to allow use of the bathrooms by the public at the festival, via the south basement doors only, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

The festival will have opening ceremony on Friday (9/17/21) at 5:30 p.m.; she invited the Commissioners, and all elected officials, to this event, as they will mark the Festival's 40th anniversary.

Fred Kuester Request Subdivision Review Ordinance Waivers

Commissioner Key motioned to approve the appeal to the subdivision plat presented by Mr. Kuester, not the waiver, based on a review and the Harrison Monument being referenced, which is the monument in question. The issue at hand is the plat itself, not the section corner. The Commissioners have no say on section corners. Section corners are perpetuated by the County Surveyor and Indiana Code. Mr. Kuester has appealed to have the plat accepted and Commissioner Key is approving the appeal on the plat itself,

seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. There was no further discussion on this matter; the matter was passed with a 3-0 vote.

Gibson County Comprehensive Emergency Management Updated Plan: Commissioners have reviewed a copy of this annual renewal, which requires signature of Commissioners before submission to the State.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bill Tuley request financial assistance for Senior Citizens Center Air Conditioners

Mr. Tuley was unable to attend, however, Executive Director, Julia Rahman was present. Ms. Rahman reviewed a few benefits provided by the Senior Program including transportation, socialization, and meals; she shared the center's calendar of events, as well. She went on to explain the aging HVAC system, the need for a new system, the age and deterioration of the building and repairs needed on the parking lot. Ms. Rahman requests Commissioner's consideration of this information during COVID relief fund planning. Commissioner's thanked Ms. Rahman for the useful information.

Major Medical Leaves (2) was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Key, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

State of Indiana Mask Advisory: The Governor has lifted the mask mandate for COVID-19 and issued an advisory. The advisory requires a mask in all government buildings and advises the use of a mask in public places. The Health Department encourages and recommends the use of masks, especially in large crowds. County Attorney Spindler recommends Courthouse screening being fulfilled through the Health Department be lifted and the Judges be delegated as decision makers on entry requirements. Commissioner Key feels the County should follow the state mandate and all residents should respect others and try to keep themselves and others healthy. President Fleetwood feels all Gibson County residents should be on board to follow the advisory; watch out for others, respect others, and show patience during the trials and tribulations we are all faced with at this time. He feels everyone should take precautions and stay vigilant. Sheriff Bottoms will require masks in the jail. The Health Department would like to see more of the County vaccinated before the masks are dropped. Commissioner Key motioned to follow the State's advisory plus mandate masks in all county buildings and jail, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote on this matter is 3-0. Commissioner Key motioned to relieve the Health Department of their screening obligations, at the Courthouse, at the conclusion of the current week, and delegate the courthouse entry policy to the Judges and Attorney Spindler with help and guidance provided by the Health Department; seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. This vote was 3-0.

Southern Hills Crossing: Mr. Phil Reinbrecht of Reinbrecht Construction was present to verify the Commissioners had all paperwork required to move forward on this subdivision approval. After Health Department Director Hornby contacted Mr. Ben Dye on this, it was discovered this application is still at the State level awaiting approval. Once the permit is received back from the State, it will move to the Subdivision Committee and then on to the Commissioners. They told Mr. Reinbrecht something might be available for a May Public Hearing.

Acknowledgement of TIF Management Annual Report: Commissioner's acknowledged receipt of this report.

American Rescue Funds: It has been deemed that Gibson County has been awarded \$6,527,956; ½ of the money will deposit in May of 2021 and the remainder will deposit in May of 2022. They funds must be used prior to 2024. The Commissioners feel a team should be assembled so careful planning of expenditures can be made. Debbie Bennett Stearsman of the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana suggested to County Attorney Spindler the creation of a Resolution 2021-04 providing a response to the COVID related recovery funds. Attorney Spindler read the Resolution to

Commissioners and the crowd. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

With no further discussions, Commissioner Montgomery motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote to adjourn is 3-0.

Minutes from the April 6, 2021 Meeting.

Warren Fleetwood, President

Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President

Mary B. Key, Commissioner

ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor