

# Gibson County Council Regular Session Agenda May 10, 2022

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on May 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

**Members Present:** President Jeremy Overton, Councilmen Dan Beard, Jeff Clark, Derek McGraw, Jay Riley, and Michael Stilwell. Vice President, Craig Pflug was absent. Also present were Auditor Mike Watkins, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy to Auditor, Kristy York, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy to Auditor, Wendy Williams

The Council opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Kay Vore was acknowledged for her approximate 50 years of service to the County. She will be retiring on May 31, 2022.

EMS acknowledged the passing of one of the very first Gibson County EMS employees, CL Mitchell.

**Approval of Minutes** - April 12, 2022, minutes were approved as written.

**Clerk's Report** – March 2022 report was acknowledged by the Council.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Health Department** – Director Hornby gave Council the monthly report; there were no questions. Things are slowing down for them; the testing site will be open until June 30, 2022. They have numerous home test kits they can pass out. Septic's are getting very busy again; Director Hornby will help cover the position of the Sanitarian while paid time off is used.

**Sheriff Bottoms** gave Council the monthly reports; there were no questions. Sheriff Bottoms talked about the fuel storage again; at last meeting, Councilman Pflug suggested checking into an above ground storage. Quotes were presented for options to repair the current system as well as replacement of underground storage to above ground. Commissioners chose to repair the underground storage. The total cost will come in just under \$20,000. The Commissioner's budget will be covering this cost.

**EMS** – Director Pond presented April reports to Council; there were no questions. Director Pond asked permission to applaud Kyle Wade upon completion of his paramedic training. He also requests permission to move Kyle from EMT into the Paramedic level. They had a paramedic resign a while back, leaving a vacancy and this would fill the vacancy.

**Public Comment:** Mark Fehrenbacher of 801 E. Locust Street, Ft. Branch was present to discuss property taxes and spending. He told Council that his property taxes have increased each year, including this year at 13%; he is going to hit the property tax cap very soon and feels a lot of residential property might be in his same boat. He feels when a lot of residential property hits the cap, it will make for difficult budgeting. He feels Ft. Branch has lowered their tax rate and he is wondering if all the taxing units should consider lowering their rates, while keeping the amounts steady due to the rising cost of reassessments.

**Jail Project** –George Ballard, Owners Representative told Council that bids are extended out an extra week.

## OLD BUSINESS

**EMS Salaries** – President Overton has had visits with Warrick County EMS and AMR to look at their salary structures. He explained it difficult to find comparable EMS salary structures as many are

privatized. President Overton put together a proposal for salary adjustments for the requested 24-hour paid shifts. Councilman Clark questioned the annual increase; President Overton explained the annual salary's will increase by approximately \$10,500 - \$11,500 per person, while keeping their same benefits. President Overton feels this will put Gibson County EMS into a good position to attract employees. President Overton thanked the EMS employee for his help with the calculations. Rick Voyles told President Overton that an overwhelming majority of the EMS was in favor of the new rate structure. They will go thru the contract and make changes from days to hours, so they are standard. This will be a salary ordinance amendment and will be enacted with the first full pay of June. Councilman Riley and all the other council members thanked President Overton for all his work on this project. Councilman McGraw motioned to accept the presented salary changes to EMS, pending the contract vote and Commissioners approval, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Recorder Thompson to Hire 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy** – The recorder has the money appropriated in the budget for a First Deputy and she would like to move forward on hiring a replacement . The Council approved this request.

**BCS Communications – Andrew Beitler** –is present today to discuss the Probation Building. He has met with Lisa Moody and Amy Ellis on this plan. They have the phone equipment listed for the office, the emergency paging and sound masking, fiber boring to the site, all data cabling and wall jacks, access controls including the doors on the perimeter and 2 interior doors, all offices will have panic buttons routed into dispatch, and cameras on the exterior and interior common area, video conferencing equipment set for zoom or MS Teams and all the TV's that will be required for this, all incorporated into the new security at courthouse and the north annex. Mr. Beitler requests approval on this to move forward and order equipment, it was approved back in 2020, but the building site and designs changed. Per Attorney Spindler, this is not built into the budget and feels this will need to go thru competitive bidding process. President Overton asked if fiber boring is being incorporated into the new jail project. He suggested they discuss this with Garimong and/or RQAW.

### **Personal Service Transfer Requests**

Recorder Thompson requests a transfer from 04 01 15 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy into 04 01 18 Part-time Wages in the amount of \$10,000.

Kay Vore requests a transfer from 30 01 14 Secretary into 30 01 15 Part-time Employee in the amount of \$2,700.

Councilman Riley motioned to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Clark . The vote was 6-0.

### **Out of Series Transfer Requests**

General Magistrate 40 03 41 Guardian Ad-Litem transfer of \$4,000 into 40 02 24 Office Supplies for the construction & furnishing of the Magistrate Court/Chambers space.

2509 Problem Solving Court requests to transfer \$8,000 from P/T Clerical 01 01 12 into 03 03 03 Travel, Training, & Dues.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

**Additional Appropriation Requests** – EMA Director Hedges requests \$864 additional appropriation in Fund 4102 to pay for CPR & CERT Training classes (Other Services & Charges) in 4102 01 03 30; the fund has \$864.

1154 Recorder's Enhanced Access Fund needs \$18,000 in Other Services & Charges 01 03 30 to pay for subscriber's fees for the remainder of the year. The fund has \$63,000.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

**Kay Vore Retirement** – Kay announced her retirement; they request permission to replace her. She will come back as a part time employee to train the new employee. Councilman McGraw approved \$15 per hour wage for part time employment, seconded by Councilman Stillwell. The vote was 6-0.

**Barnes & Thornburg Invoice** – Kay has an invoice for the Southern Hills Subdivision. They are going to explore insurance coverage on this item, as it is a lawsuit. President Overton feels they should make a transfer to cover this expense. The Commissioner’s should find a line in EDIT to pay this expense when the Commissioners general budget runs dry. They will need to sacrifice something in EDIT to pay this.

**Salary Amendment #2**– was presented; it changes the rate of pay for the part time health department employee that will shadow the sanitarian and food inspections (Environmental Specialist). It will put their rate of pay at \$15 per hour, instead of the normal \$12.50. The amendment also changes the part time employee in the office of EMS to \$13.00 per hour, rather than the \$12.50 normal rate. Bill McConnell’s name was also removed and replaced by Jeff Clark  
Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the Salary Amendment #2, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

**Financial Plan (5 Year Plan) from Baker Tilly** – A 5-year financial plan was compiled in 2018 and paid by TIF; the Council has requested that RDC pay a not to exceed amount of \$40,000 for this report again, as the TIF is expiring in 2025. President Overton feels if RDC denies payment, the item will come back to Council for payment.

**Compensation Committee** – President Overton feels it would be a good idea to reestablish this committee. He would like to discuss and review before passing. The Committee would be comprised of 3 County Council members, the County Auditor, and the Payroll Deputy. The Committee would serve in an advisory capacity to the County Council and would be responsible for monitoring the salary ordinance administration and making recommendations to the County Council for any new employees or position requests, salary adjustments or pay policy amendments. If a department wanted to reorganize, they would go to this board. They would review the job descriptions and establish implementation processes. The Committee would present the changes at council meetings. President Overton asked for thoughts on this, the EMS situation opened the door for this change. Rick Voyles understands this process and feels it would be a good idea.

**Health Department Administrator** - The Council established a supplement for this position in 2021 and wanted to continue it in 2022. Director Hornby told Council that fund 1159 had received administration fees from vaccinations and she felt this fund could pay the additional \$5,000. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this supplemental \$5,000 payment, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

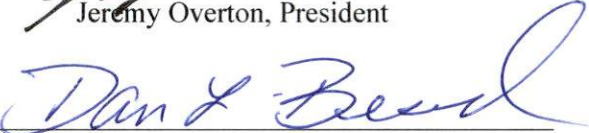
**Sheriff 2023 Salary** - Sheriff Bottoms asked how the Council wanted him to figure the 2023 wage for the Sheriff. Councilman Riley feels it is based on the Prosecutor’s pay and the Council intends to continue with this process.

**ARPA Meeting** - ARPA will meet again next week; ARPA will only fund County projects; they are within \$500,000 of meeting the budget. Department heads will have until September to make requests; a point system will be used to award the projects. The first project requests will be awarded prior to reviewing any new projects. Director Hornby is meeting with a local realtor as she previously requested \$350,000. The new application will ask if they have a bid or concrete project amounts, no estimates will be awarded.

Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn.

Minutes from the May 10, 2022, meeting

  
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Jeremy Overton, President

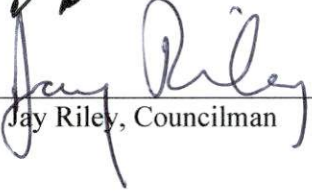
  
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Dan Beard, Councilman

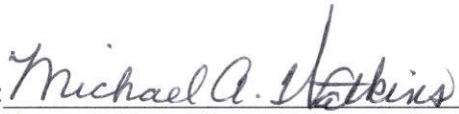
  
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Derek McGraw, Councilman

  
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Michael Stilwell, Councilman

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Craig Pflug, Vice- President

  
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Jeff Clark, Councilman

  
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Jay Riley, Councilman

Attest:   
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Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor