
**Gibson County Council
Regular Session
October 12, 2021**

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on October 12, 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, and Michael Stilwell.
Also Present: 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 September 14, 2021, meeting was approved as written by the Council.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report Month Ending July, August and September 2021 were acknowledged by the Council.

Department Reports

EMS – Director Pond began his reporting process to the Council and Councilman Pflug entered the meeting. He wanted the Council to know their collections are \$220,000 more than at this time last year plus billings are up over last year as well.

Old Business

Additional Appropriation Resolution Adoption

Advertisement has been made for the following Additional Appropriations:

\$12,000 has been advertised in Fund 1176 Motor Vehicle Highway in line 04-03-91, Other Current Charges to cover cost of Mounts Electric thru the year end. Councilman Pflug requested a copy of the contract at the last meeting and President Overton did receive a proposed amendment to traffic signal maintenance via email the day after it was requested. The maintenance contract has been in effect since February.

Councilman Pflug questioned whether this is the same traffic signal expenditure the Commissioners are concerned about, however after reviewing the emailed amendment, he does not feel this is the same issue, as this expenditure concerns maintenance, not the actual installation of the stop light; since neither the Commissioners nor the Highway were present to answer questions, Council felt this additional appropriation approval should be carried into the next council meeting dated November 9, 2021.

Councilman Riley motioned to table this item pending additional information, seconded by Councilman Pflug. The vote to table was 6-0.

\$16,000 has been advertised for an additional appropriation in the General Fund for Sheriff (Dept 05), line 05-04-30 Computers/Servers.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

\$85,000 has been advertised in Fund 1136 Cumulative Building in line 03-03-35 for Probation Building. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

Byron Sanders Invoice – Byron Sanders has an invoice that needs paid from Fund 1233. Line 01-03-16 Schematic Design has money to transfer. The Council would like a transfer made from Schematic Design into Pre-Design Services.

Owner's Representative for Correctional Facility Construction – George Ballard announced a public meeting of the Steering Committee meeting on October 19, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. He also told Council the application with Duke Energy for energy incentives had been approved and they will be working with RQAW. This program could save the county between \$10,000-\$40,000. Mr. Ballard presented a contract to the Council for his Owner's Representative duties. President Overton asked what phase he was currently in and what the "not-to-exceed" amount would be for budgeting purposes. Mr. Ballard has been working with the Commissioner since August and he feels they are in the design phase. There will be a few phases to work through, but he is uncertain on the amount needed to budget. The Council asked him to bring this phase amount to them at the next meeting.

New Business

Request to Advertise for Additional Appropriation - Ft. Branch-Johnson Township Public Library – Library Director Laura Happe requested an \$85,000 additional appropriation to reimburse their operation fund for the purchase of land near the current Ft. Branch Library for expansion. She explained they are going to get \$35,000 from their Rainy Day Fund 201; the fund has \$87,752.43 in cash. The other \$50,000 will come from their Rainy Day Capital Project Fund 421, which has \$50,316.11 in cash. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this advertisement for additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Pflug. The vote was 6-0.

Additional Appropriation Request to Advertise – Fund 4050 Redevelopment Authority, line 01-03-33 Professional Services has never been appropriated as it is a new fund. The Fund has \$6,750 and request advertisement of the full amount on this line. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this additional appropriation advertisement, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

Transfer in Personal Services – A request comes from Community Corrections Grant Fund 9122, in line 01-01-13 Part time/Overtime to move \$116.35 into 01-01-12 Field Officer. This will cover a deficit balance. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this Personal Services Transfer, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

EMS requested two transfers from Personal Services as such: 1000-47-01-14 F/T Paramedics into 1000-47-01-17 O/T Paramedics in the amount of \$40,000
1000-47-01-16 P/T Paramedics/A-EMT, EMTI into 47-01-18 O/T A-EMTs in the amount of \$20,000. Both lines are low in funds.

Director Pond told Council his department is up approximately 450 runs this year over last year, plus COVID has ran thru their department, leaving the department in a struggle this year. He reminded Council that this line had been used to transfer to the Part-time Clerk line at the beginning of the year. Councilman McGraw wanted to ensure this money was available to move and the lines would not end up in a deficit before year-end; Director Pond felt certain the money was available. Councilman Pflug questioned why some employees are high in overtime and wonders how they can sustain with that many hours; Director Pond feels several things need changed to prevent this situation. Councilman Overton asked how Director Pond feels he can get people to work at straight pay rate if they do not want to work now at an overtime rate? Director Pond does not feel the Council is understanding his restructuring plan. He feels a new pay structure will help maintain the current workforce. He feels people are not as interested in working with the department nowadays because the pay scale is lower than they can find in factory jobs, etc. and those jobs do not require the schooling nor are they as stressful as the EMS field. He feels this is a nationwide problem and to help, he would like to see the legislature consider increasing the Medicare/Medicaid

reimbursements. He requested everyone in the room to reach out to their Senators/Congressional members about this topic. Councilman McGraw works in the emergency personnel field, and he is fully aware of the difficulty in filling shift shortages. Councilman McGraw feels the reason for overtime now is shift shortage; he wonders how that is going to be fixed, as even if they pay the employees for 24-hour shifts, he feels there will still be shift shortage. He feels the proposal must be fixed by the Commissioners first, as the Council does not work with the contracts, and it is not fixing the shift shortages. Councilman McGraw feels if the contract is amended to Director Pond's suggestion, the County will still find themselves in a monetary shortfall due to shift shortage. Currently the department is experiencing approximately 3 shortages per week, which is more than at the beginning of the year. Director Pond suggested he meet privately with Council so he can better explain his suggested changes to the department. More discussion ensued and Councilman Riley wondered if this money is moved from full-time into overtime, would the overtime lines run short before year-end. Director Pond feels he has reviewed this thoroughly, and he feels he will have enough money. Councilman McGraw wants to ensure accurate tracking on overtime lines. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve both Personal Service Transfers, seconded by Councilman Stillwell. The vote was 6-0.

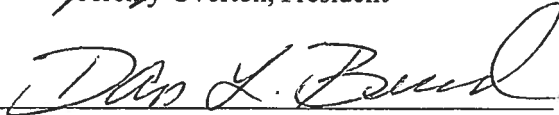
Public Hearing for South Gibson Community & Teen Center, Inc. Ordinance 2021-06 – Attorney James McDonald opened the Public Hearing to present Ordinance 2021-06 to the Council seeking approval to provide the Ft. Branch Gym with a forgivable loan in the amount of \$4,030,000. Approval of this ordinance will allow Gibson County RDC to issue a forgivable note, like the YMCA forgivable note. The money is out in the future, so this Ordinance will be used for a bridge loan. Once this Ordinance is approved by the Council, it will go back to the RDC. The project has been approved by the Commissioners, the Redevelopment Board, and the Economic Development Commission. Councilman Riley stated he would like to see more of a joint effort on the project instead of only TIF. Attorney McDonald advised the Council that there have been at least 6 other public meetings over a 6-month period in which the public could have made public comment on this matter. Today, he is seeking approval to issue a note only, as RDC has already approved the project's money. This note is an agreement between the Gym and County that says the County will pledge TIF revenue to the project as outlined in the Ordinance. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this note, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

Adjournment – With no further business, Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn.


Minutes from the October 12, 2021 Meeting



Jeremy Overton, President



Dan Beard, Councilman



Derek McGraw, Councilman

Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 

Mike Watkins, Gibson County Auditor



Craig Pflug, Vice-President

William McConnell, Councilman



Jay Riley, Councilman