
Gibson County Council
Regular Session
September 14, 2021

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on September 14, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. 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: 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 President Overton.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 10, 2021, regular meeting was approved as written by the Council.
The minutes of the August 10, 2021, budget meeting was approved as written by the Council.
The minutes of the August 19, 2021, budget meeting was approved as written by the Council.
The minutes of the August 26, 2021, budget public hearing was approved as written by the Council.

Presentation of Clerk's Report

Clerk's Report Month Ending June & July 2021 were acknowledged by the Council.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report Month Ending July 2021 was acknowledged by the Council.

Department Reports

EMS - Director Pond gave his August report to the Council. They collected \$255,000 in August; the office has been working to get prior months collected. The Commissioners recently approved a Malcon Agreement; they will collect this department's excise fuel tax and Medicaid reimbursements. They will go back 3 years on the Medicaid collections. The company will charge ½ of the collection received. This money will refund to the general fund; the check will go directly to the Treasurer's office.

EMA – Director Hedges reported on FEMA recently approving the Hazard Mitigation Plan; this plan will remain in effect for the next 5 years before an update will be required. Director Hedges gave the Council information on Message Signs. He would like to use CARES money in the general fund to purchase about 5 of them at an approximate cost of \$65,000. He received five quotes on these signs; he chose the company located closest to Gibson County with the lowest amount. Posey and Spencer are both using these signs and had good things to say about them. He would like the Council to consider the purchase of 1 to 5 of these signs.

Highway Department - Superintendent Johnson was present in case the Council had questions regarding his 2 transfer requests and 1 additional appropriation.

Health Department - Director Hornby submitted her August report to the Council. She gave them COVID stats for the year. The County is having the second highest percentage of infection ever, and first highest since November 2020. There were five deaths in August. This month there have been 433 cases, averaging out to 33.3 per day. The Department tested 1083 people in August. The public has been very appreciative to have the free testing site. It is by appointment now due to large amount of testing being

conducted. Anyone wanting to test can register for an appointment at [Coronavirus.in.gov](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov). Due to the high rate of infection in the County, the State Department of Health has been in and out of the County, doing free drive thru testing and vaccines without appointments. Director Hornby presented the Council with a brochure they are providing to anyone that calls with questions or requests for guidance. The Health Department has applied for the local health maintenance grant for 2022. They have shifted some funding to put more in communicable disease and education; COVID cannot be funded from this grant. Some of the things they plan to educate on include vaccinations, lymes disease, TB, Hepatitis A, and Narcan. They will use the current staff for this grant and provide a separate after-hours phone. The Council had no objections to this grant application. The grant can carry over.

Old Business

Additional Appropriation Public Hearing and Resolution Adoption - Advertisement has been made for the following additional appropriations in the amount of \$51,800 in the General Fund for Personal Services, plus a reduction in appropriations in the General Fund in the amount of \$33,600. This is net change to the general fund in the amount of \$18,200. Details of the additional and reduction are as follows: Jail, line 32 01 15 Correctional Officers will reduce by \$33,600; the Sheriff line 05 01 28 Sheriff Call-out Overtime will add \$33,600; the Auditor's General Fund Department 02 will add to line 02 01 16 \$8,497; benefits will pay from Dept 30, lines 30 01 21 FICA \$647, 30 01 22 Perf \$1,201, and 30 01 23 Insurance \$5,155. Lastly, the General Fund, Dept 50 for Prosecutor's office, line 50-01-15 part-time \$2,700.

Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this additional appropriation net amount in the General Fund of \$18,200, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

President Overton reminded all Gibson County units of government to abide by the maximum levy growth quotient of 4.3%, as provided by the State.

New Business

Ft. Branch Gym Project Attorney James McDonald was present at this meeting as a representative of the Redevelopment Commission. The County Commissioners passed the Ft. Branch Gym Project on to the RDC a few months ago and the RDC recently granted them \$4,030,000 for this project. This project is set for Public Hearing on 10/5/2021; at that time, they will propose Commissioners approve a Resolution for an Economic Development Bond (EDB) in the amount of \$4,030,000. The EDB is a forgivable loan, provided with TIF dollars. The project will be allocated after allocation of the YMCA project. Bill Knapp explained the project to Council. He has been with the gym since 1983, which is when this gym changed from the school corporation to a private gymnasium serving the public. He has served as the President of their Board of Directors since early 1990s and the board consists of non-compensated volunteers. He presented an illustration, their plan for improvements and goals. The building is mostly original and dates to 1938. He listed all the programs hosted by the gym. A couple of improvements were reviewed by Mr. Knapp including the addition of an ADA accessible ramp on west end and ADA restrooms. Mr. Knapp asked the Council to approve the forgivable loan and offered to answer any questions. He told the Council this is the only funding they have, aside from the gym rentals. An anonymous company has offered to contribute \$50,000 of labor. Attorney McDonald told the Council that RDC encouraged the Board of Directors to update their budget to assure they can cover their operation and maintenance costs. Mr. Knapp told the Council that since 1983, they have covered their cost and feel they can continue. Councilman Pflug asked if they feel the YMCA will take away business. It is felt that the YMCA will partner with them; the facility is open to anyone. Mr. Knapp assured the Council the \$4,030,000 investment is a good investment; he assured the Council they are financially solvent. Mr. Knapp feels this facility will draw more rental than it is currently as it will be available for a broader variety of activities. There is currently a Senior Community Center in Ft. Branch; this will be an additional Community Center and the only center that can be utilized for recreation.

Invoice Payment and Additional Appropriation Request to Advertise - Kay Vore asked Council for permission to pay an RQAW invoice, she will pay from Fund 1233. She then questioned an invoice from Landmark Engineering. According to Attorney Spindler they have been diligent in recent weeks. This invoice payment will require an additional in Cumulative Building in the amount of \$85,000. The Council would like to advertise for an additional appropriation in Cumulative Building Fund (1136). Councilman McGraw made a motion to advertise this additional, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

Probation Office Building Construction –A tabulation of bids recently received on construction of the Probation Building was shared with the Council. No other questions or actions were taken.

Personal Services Transfer Requests

Fund 1000-51 Health from 51-01-01 Hourly/PT Employees into 51-01-02 Public Health Nurse/Administrator for \$5,000 to cover extra pay for Health Nurse Administrator. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

Fund 1176 Highway from 01-03-92 Contractual Services into 01-01-17 Overtime/Administration to cover Administrative Overtime for \$3,000.

Fund 1176 Highway from 02-01-13 Light Equipment Operators into 02-01-18 Overtime to cover overtime pay in the amount of \$5,000. Councilman Stillwell motioned to approved Fund 1176 personal services transfers, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

1000-47 EMS from 47-01-14 F/T Paramedics into 47-01-17 O/T Paramedic because 47 01 17 is low on funds. The amount of transfer is \$30,000. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve this this transfer, seconded by Councilman Pflug. The vote was 6-0.

The EMS is fully staffed at this time, but they are low on part time employees. Full time employees usually fill the overtime. COVID hit them hard this year. They are trying hard to fill part-time positions, which is not unique to Gibson County, it is state-wide. Less and less people are going into this field and until wages increase, this is a continued problem. Director Pond does not feel this is his fault, the problem is everywhere; he feels new people are more interested in their paycheck rather than their insurance or pension. Director Pond does not feel anyone else in the County brings as much money into the county as the EMS department; he feels this department is treated unfairly. He doesn't feel his employees get paid for every hour they work. He feels the Council should give this department more support. Director. Pond feels everyone in the County gets the same insurance and perf, however his employees do not get paid for every hour they work. Most people work 2080 hours per year while his department works 3200-3400 hours per year. He wants to raise the pay for part-time employees to be the same as full-time people. President Overton would like the Director to project/market the positions appropriately. President Overton told everyone the County's insurance pays \$9.91 per hour. President Overton feels Director Pond should understand the total benefits package and sell that package to his current and prospective employees. President Overton confirmed to Director Pond that steps are being taken to improve the pay and after reaching out to other ambulance services, he found this county offers a nice employment package. Councilman Pflug tried to explain the budgeting process to Director Pond and explained that things cannot be changed all at once. He told him they are listening, and they are trying to make some accommodations.

Out of Series Transfer Requests

General Fund Department 47 EMS requests to transfer from 47 04 22 Durable Equipment into 47 03 60 Station Repairs in the amount of \$3,000. This transfer will replace funds that will be needed for station repairs. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve this this transfer, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

General Fund 1000 Jail line 32-03-51 requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$16,000 because funds are low. The Sheriff had to pay to replace a water softener because Commissioners would not pay for this item. Council asked if he could make an out of series transfer from 32-01-15 in the amount of \$16,000. There is extra money in this line, as all positions have not been filled this year. Sheriff Bottoms agreed to transfer, instead of asking for an additional. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve the out of series transfer, seconded by Councilman McGraw. The vote was 6-0. The new water softener will be moved into the new facility. Councilman Riley asked how many jailers they were short. Sheriff Bottoms reports they are still 8 Jailers short. According to Mr. Ballard, they will try to make the new facility as manpower efficient as possible, but a count cannot be quoted at this time.

Requests to Advertise for Additional Appropriations

General Fund 1000 Sheriff line 05-04-30 requests an additional amount of \$16,000 to move existing software to new server; they already have the server. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve advertisement of this additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman McGraw. The vote was 6-0.

Highway Department Fund 1176 line 04-03-91 requests \$12,000 to cover the cost of Mounts Electric thru year end. Per Superintendent Johnson, the contract has increased. Councilman Pflug asked if Superintendent Johnson would provide a copy of Mount's contract at the next meeting, as well as a list of road maintenance so they know what roads were paved and chip sealed this year. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve advertisement of this additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Pflug. The vote was 6-0.

Salary Ordinance Amendment #5 - The amendment covers paying a stipend to the Health Department Administrator. The Council feels her employees were compensated by being paid overtime and they would like to compensate Director Hornby for extra efforts during the pandemic. The amendment also changes the pay rate for Paramedics, Advanced EMT's, and Intermediate/Basic EMT's. The Prosecutor's Office part-time hourly wage is also addressed in this amendment. Councilman Riley motioned to approve the salary ordinance amendment #5 effective immediately, seconded by Councilman Beard. The vote was 6-0.

Ordinance on Property Acquisition - County Attorney, Jason Spindler presented the ordinance to the Council; Commissioners acted on this matter at their last meeting. This process follows state statute and pertains to the Correctional Facility. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Pflug. The vote was 6-0.

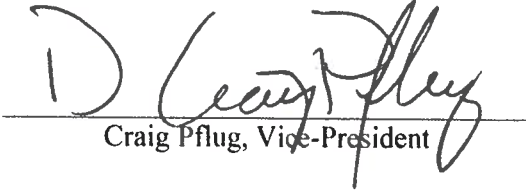
Owners Representative for Jail Construction George Ballard presented a job description to the Council. He recently worked with RQAW on a plan to keep the existing Community Corrections building operating while in construction phase. He is proposing to keep the current kitchen and laundry facility. He will be at all meetings to give updates on the progress. He feels the new facility will be great when finished. The Commissioners approved Mr. Ballard as the Owners Representative; he would like the Council to consider a reasonable amount of pay for this position, as Commissioners had approved the contract at \$75 per hour. He requested any compensation the Council is willing to grant, but he does not expect \$75 per hour. In June of 2023, new inmates must be in the new facility; this is a granted extension and he does not feel any other extensions will be granted. A new facility is the only thing that will settle the federal lawsuit. Terry Hedges asked if this facility would have a new communications center; Mr. Ballard says they will have a new communication center, but the plans are not concrete at this time. President Overton asked for a paper version of the Owners Representative agreement, Mr. Ballard feels the Commissioners granted a verbal agreement. President Overton will provide a copy of Byron Sander's agreement and they will work together to develop a new agreement for Mr. Ballard for presentation at the next Council Meeting. Mr. Ballard has been working as a part time Sheriff Deputy, and County Attorney Spindler told Mr. Ballard he did not see any issues if continues in this role.

With no further business, Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn.

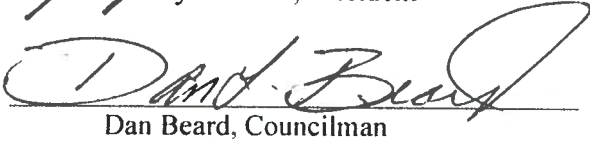
Minutes from the September 14, 2021, Meeting



Jeremy Overton, President

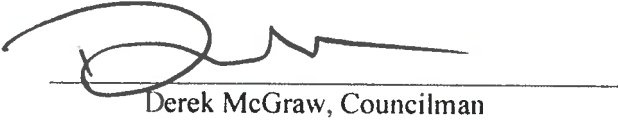


Craig Pflug, Vice-President

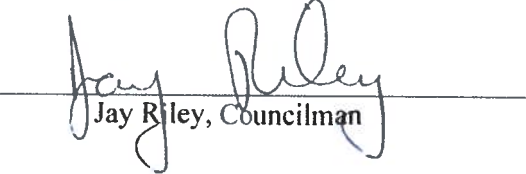


Dan Beard, Councilman

William McConnell, Councilman



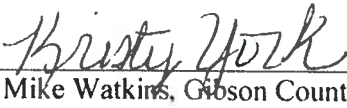
Derek McGraw, Councilman



Jay Riley, Councilman



Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 

Mike Watkins, Gibson County Auditor