
Gibson County Council
Regular Session
September 8th, 2020

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on September 8th, 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.

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

Approval of Minutes

Budget Meeting 07/15/2020 – Regular Meeting 08/11/2020 – Budget Meeting 08/11/2020 - Budget Meeting 08/20/2020 – Budget Hearing 08/27/2020 - all minutes were approved.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

August 31st, 2020 was acknowledged by the Council.

Presentation of Clerk's Report

June 30th, 2020 was acknowledged by the Council.

Department Reports

Health Department reports were submitted to the Council.

Sheriff Bottoms submitted his monthly reports to the Council.

Old Business

- No Old Business on the Agenda.

New Business

- Superior Court requests a de-appropriation of \$23,000 from 41-01-31 Pauper Attorneys and \$2,000 from 41-01-33 Interpreter Services for a total of \$25,000. Councilman Overton motioned for this de-appropriation, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Pflug motioned for the advertisement of this de-appropriation, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.

- Circuit Court requests a de-appropriation of \$10,074.00 from 36-03-14. Councilman Overton motioned for this de-appropriation, seconded by Councilman Pflug. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Beard motioned for the advertisement of this de-appropriation, seconded by Councilman Stillwell. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.
- Both de-appropriations will go towards the request for an additional appropriation for Department 43 (Public Defender). This is a new fund that started up on July 1, 2020. The Department's current budget is \$300,000; however, they still need another \$50,000 for the remaining of 2020. The department was waiting to pay all pauper attorney fees from Circuit and Superior to see how much they would have remaining in order to move those funds over to Public Defender. Chief Public Defender Moody now requests a net additional appropriation of \$15,000 to complete her 2020 Budget. The Council motioned to advertise for a total additional appropriation of \$50,074. Councilman Stillwell motioned for this advertisement of additional appropriation, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.
- Paul Waters, GCEDC, introduced a zoom call from Tenaska. Tenaska and Capital Dynamics are working together on the proposed 200-megawatt Elliot Solar Project in the Francisco area. Capital Dynamics will be the project owner; one of the largest investors of renewable energy in the world. They own 3,000 megawatts of solar, which makes them the 2nd largest owner of US solar projects. Tenaska is the developer, based out of Omaha, Nebraska. They have developed 10,500 megawatts of energy projects. This project is going to produce low-priced electricity to power 40,000 homes. The solar panels will be no higher than 12' high and be connected to the Francisco Vectren Substation. The project has a 35-year life span, with hopes to be completed by December 2022. This is a \$170 million investment with 14 months of construction and approximately 288 jobs. When complete, there will be 11 employees; 4 direct and 7 indirect. There are 30 active solar projects of similar size in Indiana. The Companies reviewed the SB-1 (Statement of Benefits) with the Council. They also reviewed a map showing the project area, including the Economic Revitalization Area (ERA). GCEDC Director Waters, informed Council that Tenaska and Capital Dynamics are compensating Ice Miller and Baker Tilly to produce information for the County. County Attorney McDonald asked the Council to join the Commissioners in a joint special session meeting on September 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Gibson Circuit Court room to hear more on this project. The meeting will be informational only, no decisions will be made in this meeting. This will allow the Council time to study the SB-1 and return to the meeting with questions. Councilman Overton motioned to allow the special session meeting, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.

- GCEDC Director Waters asked the Council to establish an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) based on the map presented by Tenaska/Capital Dynamics, as the Commissioners have already approved it. An ERA must be established for property tax abatement to be considered. Director Waters explained that if the project falls apart, the ERA will go away and there will be no binding components. Councilman Pflug asked if the Council has always had to approve these ERA's as he has no recollection of this process. TBIN was established as an ERA a long time ago. Councilman Overton motioned to allow GCEDC to move forward in establishment of this ERA, seconded by Councilman Stillwell. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 6-0, with Councilman Pflug abstaining from the vote, as he is a property owner in this area. County Attorney McDonald explained that the Council was confirming a declaratory resolution to establish the ERA District. This resolution will be advertised, and a public hearing will be held; a confirmatory resolution will be done on this ERA as a final step.
- Judy Adams was present to discuss a grant opportunity for the Health Department. They have received a grant through the CARES Act for approximately \$100,000 to upgrade their IT department. Parrish will be quoting this upgrade; a spending report will be submitted to the State by October 1, 2020. This amount will have to be spent by December 31, 2020 or forfeit the unspent amount back to the State. The spending report will be emailed to the Council. The Council approved this grant with a motion from Councilman Overton, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.
- ISDH is going to provide the Health Department with a \$100,000 grant to administer a free COVID-19 test site, which will replace the Optum test site at the fairgrounds. A grant through United Way will pay rent on the Toyota Events Center at the fairgrounds. The site will be open 10-6 weekdays, except on Wednesday (closed); and Saturday 10-2. The staff will be contracted; 3 persons on duty always. The State will furnish all supplies, including the computer, MIFI, and programs. They will be paying the RN \$25 per hour; Medical Assistants \$17.50 per hour; and Clerical \$15 per hour. The site will open in October and run thru June 30, 2021. The Budget for the \$100,000 will include \$90,000 for salaries; \$10,000 for payroll taxes. Hiring will not begin until a contract has been received and signed. The Council approved proceeding with this grant, providing details as they progress with a motion from Councilman Pflug, seconded by Councilman Overton. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.
- Lastly, the Health Department has been told by ISHD they must be on call 24/7 for schools. They asked the Council for direction on handling this 24/7 nurse requirement. The Council does not feel Director Hornby can receive overtime pay; however, hourly employees are entitled to overtime pay. The Council asked the Health Department to devise a plan, or two, for presentation at the next Council meeting for approval. They

suggested checking with neighboring Counties of Gibson's size on their plans of action. The Health Department should track the overtime in order to try and receive CARES Act reimbursement.

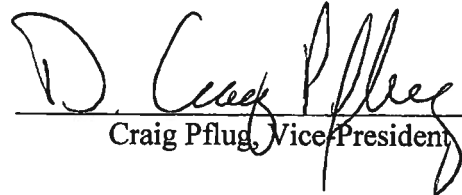
- BZA Appointment by the Council – this is one appointment; it cannot be an elected official; nor an APC member; person must live outside corporate limits of Gibson County cities and towns. The Council invited interested persons to contact their representative before the October Council meeting; appointment will be made in the October meeting.
- Treasurer O'Neal requests transfer of \$750.00 from 03-03-65 State & District Meetings, \$250.00 from 03-03-63 Dues, \$400 from 03-03-13 Mileage, and \$200 from 03-03-12 Postage for a total of \$1600 into 03-02-61 Office Records to update the Treasurer's backroom. Councilman Overton motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Council Pflug. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.
- Sheriff Bottoms requests a transfer in General Fund 1000 of \$14,000 from 05-01-23 Communications Officers into 05-01-28 Overtime. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Beard. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.
- Sheriff Bottoms requests a transfer of \$1,000 in Fund 1222 Statewide 911 from 01-01-10 Communications Officers into 01-01-08 Part-time. Councilman Pflug motioned to approve this transfer, seconded by Councilman Overton. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 7-0.
- Councilman Pflug expressed concern regarding the Extension Office's Ag Educator job opening. He suggested the local office reach out to Purdue to see why the position has not been filled. He also would like to question if there is refund of the fee paid to Purdue, since the County is not fully staffed.
- Paul Waters, GCEDC Director told the Council of a grant award from OCRA in the amount of \$250,000 to help businesses affected financially by the pandemic. Oakland City and Princeton businesses have both been awarded this grant in earlier months, therefore they do not qualify to apply. The business must have less than 25 employees to qualify for a maximum award of \$10,000.
- County Attorney McDonald told the Council that the Public Defender and Probation Departments Building have been approved to advertise for bids for renovation. He has also been advised by the jail project's Architect of an upcoming report in the next couple of weeks. A Special Session Meeting might be arranged to hear those report details. No forward movement has been made on the jail project's Construction Manager. Councilman Overton and Pflug expressed the importance to move on this matter, as the earlier this position is in place, the more savings potential for the County.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by a motion from Councilman Pflug.

Minutes from the September 8th, 2020 meeting.



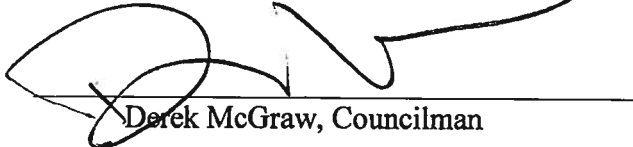
Jay Riley, President



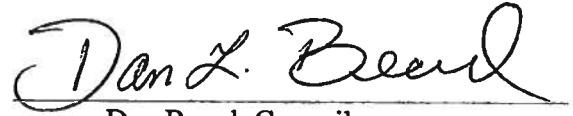
Craig Pflug, Vice President

Jeremy Overton, Councilman

William McConnell, Councilman




Derek McGraw, Councilman



Dan Beard, Councilman



Michael Stilwell, Councilman

Attest: 

Sherri Smith, Gibson County Auditor