
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
January 24, 2023

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on January 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

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

Members Present: Commissioner Nick Burns, Commissioner Warren Fleetwood, and Commissioner Kenneth Montgomery

MINUTES: The minutes from the January 10, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

CLAIMS: Total Claims Presented on 1/24/2023 were \$3,583,541.92. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve claims presented for payment, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Clerk and Treasurer’s reports were acknowledged by Commissioners.

2023 Organization of Commissioners – Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to nominate Commissioner Montgomery as President, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to nominate Commissioner Burns as Vice President, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

Appointments for 2023 – The appointment listing is included with the minutes. One of the changes was Danny Lefler was appointed by Commissioner Montgomery to the Redevelopment Board, in place of Mark Iunghuhn. Attorney Spindler asked Commissioners to move this to the bottom of the agenda so he could research something. At 7:02 p.m. Attorney Spindler told Commissioner they could approve the appointment list. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve the list of appointments, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Department Reports

Health Department – Administrator Shade gave reports for this department. The Commissioners veered off department reports and went to 2023 Organization and Appointments.

Sheriff Department – Sheriff Vanoven gave reports to Commissioners; the jail has been having some COVID cases and they have protocols in place to limit visitors and they are doing extra cleaning to prevent the spread. Sheriff Vanoven recognized Deputy Logan Lashbrook for his quick response and help in preserving a life until the patient could arrive at a hospital for further evaluation. Sheriff Vanoven thanked Gibson County Council and Commissioners for allowing all departments to be equipped with quality tools to enable them to do their jobs.

EMS – Director Pond presented reports to Commissioners. He thanked Commissioners and ARPA Committee for allowing them to purchase new equipment. They now have emergency generators at all EMS stations. They expect to receive 2 new ambulances this year. They have equipped the ambulances with power-load devises and LUCAS devises, which assists with CPR.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Jail Update – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners that a full body scanner has been ordered for the new jail. The federal report was mailed on January 19; no news is good news.

CenterPoint Energy – Attorney Spindler told Commissioners the Park Board recently approved a permanent easement at Hopkins Park with compensation of \$13,000. CenterPoint is also requesting a temporary easement of .9 acres for 10-months with compensation of \$10,000. He would like Commissioners to add this to the February 21, 2023, agenda.

BCS Project Update – Andrew Beitler provided this update. They continue to work on the Courthouse Security, North Annex, and Probation Defender Office. Attorney Spindler confirmed the Probation Defender Office would be operational by the end of February, however Mr. Beitler could not speak for Parrish Consulting. He told Commissioners the access controllers for doors are still in transit. The North Annex main level has everything approved installed, except cameras and the basement is on hold. Mr. Beitler confirmed with Commissioners that Stephanie is his contact for the North Annex; he would like to have a contact at the Courthouse. He explained they sometimes are under deadlines they need quick decisions. Commissioner Montgomery feels Stephanie might be a good contact for the Courthouse as well. Andrew Beitler also explained that Commissioners need to assign someone as Administrator for the access codes. Commissioner Fleetwood agrees someone should be an administrator and then the Administrator could make assignments for each building. Commissioners did not make an official assignment on the Administrator.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

BCS Agreement – Andrew Beitler explained the maintenance agreement, which remained unchanged from the previous year. Most of the Courthouse work is slated to be complete by February.

Debbie Walker 2-Mile Radius – Ms. Walker lives at 1047 S. 250 W Princeton, and she is in the 2-mile buffer zone of Princeton corporate limits. She explained that living in the 2-mile radius, does not provide an opportunity to vote in municipal elections for those officials that have control over the land use or development in their neighborhoods. She feels this is taxation without representation which goes against all of US Citizenship laws. She requests that Commissioners revoke the 2-mile buffer zone, otherwise allow these persons to vote and run for the office in the municipal elections. She has spoken with many Indiana counties that have revoked these buffer zones. She provided Indiana Code to Commissioners, which shows the code allows Commissioners the authority to revoke the buffer zone without the City’s permission. Randy Hall told Commissioners he does not live in the buffer zone but feels the City will annex the buffer zone and then adopt another 2-mile buffer. Commissioner Montgomery understands her concerns and would like to investigate the situation before making any decisions. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to table, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The motion carried 3-0.

Major Medical Leave (1) was approved by the Commissioners with Commissioner Fleetwood making the motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Place of Grace- Commissioner Fleetwood told everyone about this women’s ministry that is providing great services for women of Gibson County. They can provide one on one counseling and offer many support groups including bible studies, prayer support, educational opportunities, abuse discouragement, depression, divorce, grief, loss, healing of memories, incarceration related issues, relationships, parenting, self-esteem, and spiritual growth. Commissioner Fleetwood feels it is important to get the word out about this group.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to adjourn the regular meeting and opened the Finance Meeting. The vote to adjourn is 3-0.

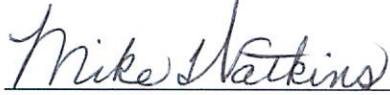
Minutes from the January 24, 2023, Meeting.



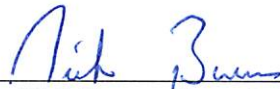
Kenneth Montgomery, Commissioner



Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor



Nick Burns, Commissioner