

# **Gibson County Council Regular Session Meeting July 09, 2024**

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on July 09, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Southwest Annex.

**Members Present:** President Jeremy Overton, Vice President, Derek McGraw, Council Members: Jeff Clark, Jay Riley (absent), Robert Schleiter, Michael Stilwell, and Hannah Whitehead  
Also present were Auditor Mike Watkins, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy to Auditor, Kristy York, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy to Auditor, Logan Vickers and Lynda Cumberland.

The Council opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Approval of Minutes** - June 11, 2024, minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer / Clerk Report** –reports were acknowledged by the Council.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Sheriff Vanoven** gave the Council the monthly reports; there were no questions. The average jail population was 85. Staffing report shows there are two deputy positions open; Corrections has three openings; dispatch has four openings. Council Member Clark asked if more dispatchers will be needed for the new office. Sheriff Vanoven says the new jail has a dispatch room separate from the jail; they will need more dispatchers because jailers will not be able to assist.

**Health Department** – Administrator Shade gave Council the monthly reports; there were no questions. Vehicle quotes will be provided at the next meeting.

**Clerk's Office**– Clerk Smith wanted to bring the Council up to date in the Clerk's office. She has opened the Clerk's office to the public. This office now has a backup bookkeeper, as they handle a lot of money. Commissioners requested that she move the crank cabinets out of the courthouse basement; she traded out this expense by making renovations to her office. She encouraged the Council to stop and check out these renovations. She is now working on the election division. She has been working on the transparency of this office. They have 550+ followers on the facebook page and hope to grow this number. She has made emergency action plans for all voting locations, and consolidated voting sites in Princeton; they vote at the Toyota Events Center. She hopes to consolidate polling locations in other places they see fit to do so. They are working on training the poll workers; including the set up and tear down of election equipment. In the fall of 2023, the Secretary of the State offered a grant; she applied and received the full amount requested. They will use the grant to get a new phone application for the Clerk's office. The public will be able to access this application very soon; it can be used for many things provided by the Clerk's office. The grant will assist them having a non-partisan booth at the fair so they can educate the public about the Clerk's Office and hopefully register more people to vote. The Secretary of the State's Office was represented in this booth on Monday night and will be back on Thursday. They plan to work a booth at the State Fair; Sweet Corn Festival and Watermelon Festival and in 2025, they will add the Haubstadt Summerfest to their list of festivals they plan to attend. Clerk Smith has volunteered for a post-election audit, which is the first audit on this voting equipment. There will be a primary election recount soon, she is waiting on the date; Judge Shively from Vanderburg has been assigned the case. Earlier this year, the state offered fifteen scholarships to attend Ball State CEATS Program. CEATS stands for Certificate in Election, Administration, Technology and Security. Three Gibson County Clerk's Office employees/elected official were awarded full scholarships to attend the Ball State training, which consists of 17 total classes. They are looking at software program to take elections to the next level and hope to have some grant money to help

pay for this. She applauded her staff, as she has a great group. Council Member Schleiter asked which polling locations they were looking at relocating. Clerk Smith is looking at polling locations in Hazleton, and Somerville and considering the elimination of one polling location in Ft. Branch and Owensville due to their proximity to one another. She feels the Somerville location has security issues and can possibly combine with a church in Mackey; and Mt. Olympus gym might be moved to a church to enhance the location.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Jail Project** –George Ballard, Owners Representative told Council that all concrete block work is done, furniture is ordered for the building, kitchen equipment has been installed. They are waiting for one piece that is stuck in customs; they cannot train until that piece comes in. The kitchen staff has been working in the basement and doing a great job, without air conditioning. The old jail will be razed.

**BCS Contract** – BCS Representative, Jason Buchanon was present to discuss the changes to the contract. All the new equipment installed had a one-year service agreement, now the one-year agreement has expired, and all that new equipment goes under contract. The fire alarms were included in the packet and must have a contract; everything else is optional although necessary. Council Member Schleiter asked if the Commissioners were aware of the \$80,000 increase that would come to them. This contract includes replacement parts on hand so there is no downtime or emergency fees, and it is not mandatory, but avoids downtime. The Commissioners have signed the contract and they have it in their budget. Council Member Schleiter felt the high price tag could have been explained. Mr. Buchanon feels the change was lost in translation since it took a couple of years to complete the project.

**EMS** – Administrative Assistant Mason wanted to return to the Council and request they be allowed to move from the part-time clerk position to a full-time position. Logan feels the cost of this move will be: Salary \$16,729; FICA/Medicare will require \$1,280; Perf will require \$2,376; and insurance will require \$10,208. Assistant Mason feels they can possibly move money in the approximate amount of \$5,000 to support the difference in part-time and what is needed for the remainder of the year. The council will need to approve the position and the salary transfer from part-time to full-time. Council Member Stilwell made a motion to approve making the part-time position a full-time position, seconded by Council Member Schleiter. The vote was 6-0. Next, Council Member Schleiter motioned to transfer from the EMS part-time line into a full-time Second Deputy Clerk line, seconded by Council Member Stilwell. The vote was 6-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Approving Personal Property Abatements** – Assessor Kim Beadle was present to discuss this topic with the Council. All four Companies comply, and she recommended the Council approve them. To ensure they have met all compliance requirements, the companies must complete a CF-1 to show they are compliant; Kim has a CF-1 for all four companies. Council Member McGraw made a motion to approve all four abatements, seconded by Council Member Whitehead. The vote was 6-0.

**IC3-1-12-22b Clerk Per Diem** – Clerk Sherri Smith was present to tell the Council about new legislation HEA 1328. This allows the Clerk an additional \$2500 per diem in even year elections only, including this 2024 year if it is added to the salary ordinance. She already receives a per diem of \$1,000 based on IC 3-7-12-22a for a Clerk serving as a voter registration officer. She can transfer this money for 2024. In 2025, there will not be per diem. In 2026, it will be budgeted. Council Member Whitehead motioned to advertise the additional appropriation, seconded by Council Member Schleiter. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

**Sheriff Vanoven** – Presented an ordinance that he would like to be advertised. DOC housing money deposits into general fund and he would like this money deposited into its own fund. This fund will help soften the blow of the cost of the new jail.

Council Member McGraw made a motion to advertise the ordinance, seconded by Council Member Whitehead. The vote was 6-0.

**Additional Appropriation Resolution** – was presented to the Council.

Fund Name: General Fund

Other Services/Charges            \$20,000

Fund Name: K-9 Fund

Supplies                                \$10,000

Other Services/Charges            \$10,000

Council Member Clark made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 6-0.

**Personal Service Transfer Requests:**

Fund 1000-06 Surveyor requests	from	11122 GIS Director	\$ 4,000
	into	11301 Part-Time/Overtime	
Fund 1000-301 EMS General Fund requests	from	11409 F/T Paramedic	\$18,000
	into	11700 Administrative Assistant	
Admin Asst is doing scheduling, where in past, it was one of the EMTs or Paramedics			
	from	11409 F/T Paramedic	\$200,000
	into	11510 F/T Advnc'd/Basic EMTs	

Lost several Paramedics, only able to hire EMTs.

Fund 1000-380 Jail General Fund Requests T#14	from	11312 Captain	\$ 15,000
	into	13400 UPH Part-time	
T#15	from	10201 Correction Officer	\$ 10,000
	into	11300 Part-time	
T#16	from	10201 Correction Officer	\$40,000
	into	11300 Part-time	
T#17	from	10201 Correction Officer	\$30,000
	into	12303 Overtime	

Fund 1161 Health Incentive Fund (State Funded)	from	11300 Part-Time	\$12,480
	into	11702 Receptionist/Secretary	
Created a new position (receptionist); will no longer need part-time			
	from	12106 Counselor/Educator	-\$17,534
	into	10401 FICA	\$ 2,400
	into	12500 Perf	\$ 3,068
	into	12307 Group Insurance	\$12,066

To fund benefits for new position (receptionist)

Council Member McGraw made a motion to approve all personal service transfer requests, seconded by Council Member Stilwell. The vote was 6-0.

**Out of Series Transfer Requests:**

Fund 1161 Health Incentive Fund (State Funded)	from	35000 Contract Services	\$13,000
	into	11702 Receptionist/Secretary	

Created a new position (receptionist); will no longer need contract services

	from	33003 Professional Services	\$49,200
	into	21200 Other Supplies	

Realignment of lines to fit with state's plan  
Council Member McGraw made a motion to approve out of series transfer requests, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 6-0.

**Additional Appropriation Requests to Advertise –**

Fund 1000-05 Sheriff General Fund request	Personal Services	\$142,000
To cover overtime and part-time costs for the 2nd half of the year.		
Fund 4011 Sheriff's Fleet Maintenance Fund request	Supplies	\$10,000
	Other Services Charges	\$ 5,000
	Capital	\$ 5,000
	Total	\$20,000

To appropriate new fund

Fund 1168 Local Health Maintenance request	Capital Outlays	\$30,000
Fund 1206 Local Health Trust request	Capital Outlays	\$30,000

To purchase a vehicle.

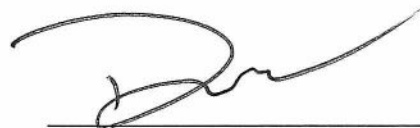
Council Member Clark made a motion to approve advertisement of additional appropriations, seconded by Council Member McGraw. The vote was 6-0.

**Dick Smith Follow-up Letter** – Mr. Smith wonders if there is any information available in the investigation of alleged misuse of county resources; he submitted a letter to the Council. The Sheriff will send an email to Mr. Smith as the investigation has been passed off to Indiana State Police. Council Member Overton says Commissioners are responsible for the employees and he suggests that the letter be shared with the Commissioners.

Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn meeting.

Minutes from the July 09, 2024, meeting

  
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Jeremy Overton, President

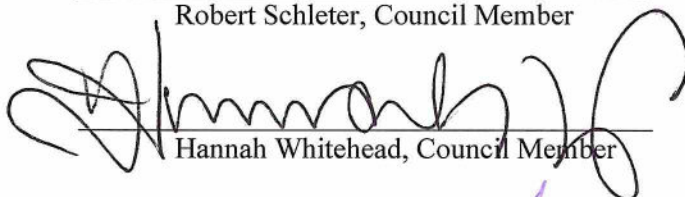
  
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Derek McGraw, Vice- President

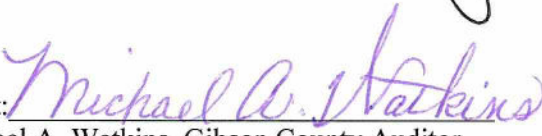
  
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Jeff Clark, Council Member

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Jay Riley, Council Member

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Robert Schleter, Council Member

  
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Michael Stilwell, Council Member

  
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Hannah Whitehead, Council Member

Attest:   
Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor  
Council Meeting Minutes July 09, 2024