

Gibson County Council Regular Session Meeting June 11, 2024

The Gibson County Council met in Regular Session on June 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

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

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

Approval of Minutes - May 14, 2024, minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Reports –reports were acknowledged by the Council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Health Department – Administrator Shade gave Council their May monthly reports; there were no questions. They are doing a program with the extension office called Food is Medicine. They will distribute food along with diabetes education and checks. They will be going to various places around the county to distribute these baskets. They will hold a private event for the ARC. Local farmers will donate the food, the health dept will chip in on the protein.

Highway Dept – Debbie Marvel informed Council about a transfer they need to cover engineering expenses, as they are without a County Engineer; Council will discuss this during the transfer section.

OLD BUSINESS

Jail Project –George Ballard, Owners Representative told Council that the north side of the building is being sealed and the landing pad is being removed as it was in place to help install the jail pod. The jail pods are complete, and the concrete blocks are finished. They are doing inside work now. They have moved the kitchen and are making their meals in the basement of the old jail. They hope to be back in the kitchen in about three weeks. The completion date is still on target for October or November. One of the biggest issues that must be rectified before moving is dispatch. They are struggling to get qualified people to work dispatch; they have nine openings and call volume is very high. The part-time people that are filling are limited in their work schedules as most have full-time jobs. They are not even capping out on their 24-hour allowed shifts. The Sheriff is going to try and address this at budget time. The action taken to raise pay helped with the jail issue. Dispatchers must go thru a 40-hour class, a first responder class and various other training.

Ordinance 2024-01 Sheriff's Fleet Maintenance Fund – Chief Deputy Ballard presented this Ordinance to the Council. This ordinance was advertised in the Princeton Daily Clarion on 5/21/24. Council Member Riley made a motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Council Member Stilwell. The vote was 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Ballard – has spoken to a Drug Counselor from Ohio wanting to relocate to Gibson County. Chief Ballard feels there are a lot of nearby jails that are providing mental health counseling. The jail currently

has a drug program paid for through ARPA; Chief Ballard has contacted ARPA Administrator Stearsman to see if they can move this program in a new direction and use the ARPA money to pay for this service; she feels this service can be paid with ARPA. They intend to pay her \$50 per hour, 3 days a week (24-hrs per week), no benefits. When ARPA money is depleted, Chief Ballard would like to see a new fund established to house DOC inmates as a mechanism to pay for this drug counseling. In the past, he feels they generated \$250,000 - \$350,000 per year housing inmates. The DOC is paying \$37.50 per day to house inmates, but some Counties are receiving as much as \$50 per day. There was also some talk on using opioid funds for this service. Chief Ballard would like to get this new position under contract by July 31, 2024, rather than lose the ARPA funds. Wendy asked if this was a contract position or a part-time position. This will be a contract position that will receive a 1099 tax form. Thus, this position will not show up on the salary ordinance. Council Member Riley motioned to allow the sheriff's department to move forward with a contract for mental health counseling paid from ARPA, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 6-0.

On a side note, Chief Ballard told the Council that the county will have a 210-bed facility at \$30,000,000; Warrick County is going to have 230 bed facility at a cost of \$54,000,000. Thus, proving Gibson County's frugality on the jail project.

Probation Users Fee Fund Needs an Additional Appropriation to Purchase a New Vehicle – Chief Probation Officer, Amy Ellis, was present to make this request. They are looking at Toyota Highlanders; their present vehicle is in disrepair. Probation makes client visits daily; they have a juvenile officer that travels to Indianapolis and Terre Haute monthly, and this vehicle would allow them to all travel together. Council Member Riley suggested they look at the state bidding program to compare prices. Chief Ballard can help advise about this process. Council Member Schleter asked if this vehicle would be a take home vehicle; it will be used on the job only. Council Member Overton recommended they get quotes and come back to the meeting. The approximate cost of this purchase is \$60,000. The fund they intend to use for this purchase is Fund 2100; it has \$396,000 cash balance; they have only spent \$9500 of their \$133,500 budget. Their annual revenue averaged \$107,000 over the past three years.

EMS Staff – Michelle Mason, EMS Administrative Assistant came before the Council to request more help in the office. Their call volume has increased, and they have over 5,000 reports to review before they can be invoiced; invoicing is done in-house and not outsourced. Their Medicaid and fuel reimbursements are outsourced. There are many things that go into this report before the report can move on. She requests the part-time position change to full-time. The office handles more than these reports and there is not enough time for one person to handle this. They will be requesting this in the 2025 budget. There used to be two full-time employees in the office, but it was eliminated by a director trying to make budget cuts. As of 5/31/24, there is \$13,715 in the part-time line, and if they approve the 2nd Deputy pay rate for a full-time position, they will need approximately \$5,260 more to fund this position this year. They might have enough money in another line to transfer. Of all the clerical union contracts, EMA, EMS, and Surveyor are the only offices that have only one person doing all the work. Council Member Riley wonders where the benefits would come from; they would be paid from the Commissioner's budget. This employee's rate of pay would be \$19.01 per hour, this position will keep this office manned all the time. Council Member Overton is not a fan of changing from a part-time position to a full-time position without further research. Wendy asked if this would cut down on her overtime; she feels this will help.

Council Member Riley made a motion to table for more review, other costs and where it will be paid, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 6-0.

Salary Schedule Amendment #4 – Wendy Williams and Logan Vickers from the payroll department presented this amendment to the Council. Part-time was added for EMA; this is being split between two people. The money was transferred from the Assistant Director.

Council Member Riley made a motion to approve this amendment #4, seconded by Council Member Whitehead. The vote was 6-0.

Budget Meeting Discussions – Auditor Watkins presented a proposed schedule to the Council on the 2025 Budget Sessions; he sent this via email, and they plan to hold these budget meetings immediately following the normal council meetings. July 9th will be the departmental requests; if they request more than a 10% increase in their budget, they should arrange a time and explain the increase to the Council. August 13th will be the review, and the first reading will be held on August 20th in a special meeting, adoption will be on September 10th.

Additional Appropriation Requests to Advertise

Fund 1000-007 Coroner requests Other Services Charges \$20,000

To cover future autopsies in 2024; there is only \$895 remaining in this line on 6/7/24.

Council Member Riley motioned to advertise, seconded by Council Member Stilwell. The vote was 6-0.

Fund 1000-068 Commissioners request Other Services Charges \$95,000

To cover SWCD matching Grant Guidelines of \$7,000; cover the BCS annual fire inspection/maintenance agreement (see attached invoice) and pay for the moving/cleaning of office (see attached invoice)

The Council wonder if the BCS contract could receive bids as the price has doubled; the Commissioners have called a meeting with BCS to talk about the new maintenance fees. BCS maintains all phones, the security systems, the fire alarms, badge systems, and the courts systems. Council Member Overton and Clark wonder if BCS could attend the next Council meeting. This item was tabled.

Fund 4012 K9 requests Supplies \$10,000
Other Services Charges \$10,000

To appropriate the fund.

Cash Balance: \$10,654<00>current budget<20000>AA+10,000 Projected in 2024 income=\$20,654 Projected ending 2024 balance - this fund is receiving donations. It is understood that the fund can only spend the cash on hand and no more, but this will save from doing another additional.

Council Member Whitehead made a motion to approve advertisement of the additional appropriation, seconded by Council Member Schleiter. The vote was 6-0.

Personal Service Transfer Requests:

Fund 1000-005 Sheriff's General Fund requests from 11312 Captain \$(20,000)
from 11910 Operator IDACs \$(10,000)
into 12303 Overtime \$ 30,000

Cover overtime for the remainder of 2024

Fund 1000-232 Circuit Court General Fund requests from 10800 Court Reporter \$16,000
into 11306 Chief Court Reporter

To pay new hire and current employee

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

Out of Series Transfer Requests:

Fund 1000; 001 Clerk General Fund requests from 11500 2nd Deputy Wages \$4,500
into 31300 CEATS Program

To use scholarship from SOS; this covers rooms, meals, & gas each trip

Fund 1000; 104 Election General Fund requests from 26000 Office Supplies \$(27.69)
 from 11802 Canvassing Brd \$(108.57)
 from 11906 Spcl Dpty ABSV\$(213.74)
 into 11415 Prmry Elctn Brds\$ 350

Help setting up equipment at polling locations

Fund 1000: 232 Circuit Court from 44101 Equipment \$2,555
 into 22000 Supplies
 from 44202 Computer System\$11,341.01
 into 35200 Equip Rep/Maintenance

Consolidating lines beginning in 2024 and into 2025

Fund 1000; 308 Weights/Measures General Fund from 31406 Vehicle Main/Rep\$ 329
 into 26000 Office Supplies

For a new desktop scanner

Fund 1176 Motor Vehicle Highway Loc 530 from 11801 County Engineer \$15,000
 into 33003 Professional Services

To pay for engineering services on Community Crossing Grant, that would have been done by the County Engineer

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

Councilman Stilwell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Schleter.

Minutes from the June 11, 2024, meeting



 Jeremy Overton, President



 Derek McGraw, Vice- President

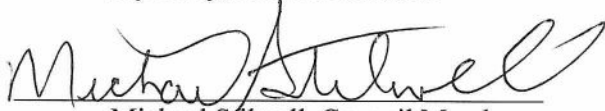


 Jeff Clark, Council Member

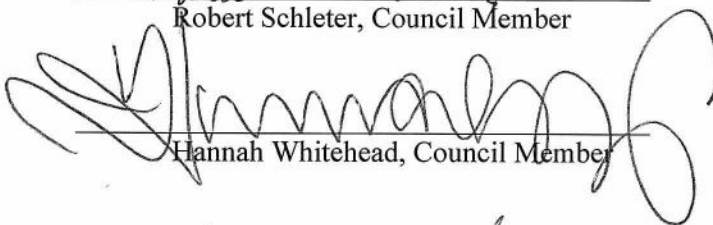
 Jay Riley, Council Member



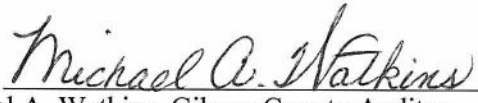
 Robert Schleter, Council Member



 Michael Stilwell, Council Member



 Hannah Whitehead, Council Member

Attest: 
 Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor



Council Meeting Minutes June 11, 2024