

Gibson County Council Regular Session Meeting March 11, 2025

The Gibson County Council met in a regular session on March 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Southwest Annex Meeting Room.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: The Council approved the February 11th regular session meeting minutes as written.

Acknowledgement of Clerk and Treasurer Reports – Council acknowledged these reports.

Department Reports

EMS – Arica and AJ gave the run volume and provided a report of what is taking place in their department. They will be applying for a training grant. Councilman Riley asked why their monthly billing amounts are lower. They explained that they are training a new employee to do the billing; there was a Medicare audit that also delayed payments. They are currently billing for December 2024.

EMS Building Update - Commissioner Lewis said the painters are done, and brick masons have begun laying brick on the exterior of the building; they are hoping to move into the new building in late April; the project is on budget.

Health Department – Administrator Shade gave Council the monthly reports. She invited everyone to follow them on Facebook. She advised everyone to report deceased wildlife to DNR. They have a measles report on their facebook page; they do administer these vaccines. She also suggested everyone get vaccinated if possible. The Health Department provided a lucas device to Patoka Township Fire Department with their health first funding.

Chief Deputy Ballard - presented the sheriff department reports to the Council. The jail is running an average of 108 inmates; work release has 20 and they are striving to get these numbers increased. They have five openings in Corrections; an opening for one Deputy; and one opening in Communications; Community Corrections is fully staffed.

OLD BUSINESS

Jail Update – Owner's Representative Ballard told the Council that April 5th is the tentative date for the open house. Parker Excavation is still working on repairs to the storm and sewer lines. They will begin outside concrete work this week. They are conducting ongoing training

Public Defender Moody Requests a Wage Amount for the Part-time Data Entry Employee – At the February Council Meeting, Council approved a person to be paid by a contract at \$20 per hour. She has a budget of \$14,560; she requests permission to pay a part-time employee at the salary ordinance part-time rate allowed, rather than contract someone for this position. She also has a misdemeanor grant that will require the same kind of data collection. She plans to use the same employee for both jobs; she will stay within the allowable 24-hour work week.

Council Member McGraw motioned to approve the part-time data collection person to be paid at the part-time rate of pay, seconded by Council Member Riley. The vote was 5-0. Councilman Overton was temporarily absent from the table; he did not vote.

Clerk Sherri Smith Requests Permission to Replace an Employee – No additional funds will be required for this replacement; she simply requests permission to replace an employee at the same rate of pay. The Council granted permission.

Custodian Wage Increase – Maintenance Supervisor Andy Shafer was present to request that Council raise the three Custodians hourly rate by \$.28 per hour bringing them to the same rate of pay as the second deputies. Andy explained that this was the hourly rate written in the contract. Councilman McGraw was confused why this was not discussed prior to it being written in the contract. Commissioner Lewis says communication with the Council will change moving forward; Commissioners will not approve any contracts unless they have consulted with the Council.

Council Member McGraw motioned to increase the Custodians rate of pay by \$.28 per hour beginning on March 3, 2025, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 6-0.

Fort Branch-Johnson Township Library Board Member – Laura Happe sent a letter to the Council stating that Chris Wallace would not be able to renew the board appointment. The Library Board requested that Rebecca Lamb be appointed. This person will serve the appointment through March 11, 2029.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Salary Schedule Amendment #3 – Logan Vickers explained this amendment. In the Prosecuting Attorney's office, it changes the two secretaries to paralegals and also changes their rates of pay; in EMA, it corrected the number of part-time employees and added an overtime line; in the Prosecutor's IV-D department, it changes secretaries to case managers; in Fund 1122 it changed the project directors supplement to reflect the 2025 directive from the state; in the EMS department, the medical director title changed to chief medical director and the position was made a salaried, exempt, non-union employee (Logan asked how far back this should be adjusted; Council replied all of 2025 should be adjusted.); an assistant director of operations with a stipend and an assistant director of administrations with stipend was also added to EMS; a social worker and a part-time employee was added to the public defender's office. Councilman McGraw motioned to approve amendment #3, seconded by Councilman Riley. The vote was 6-0.

Transfers

Fund 1000-0271 General Public Defender

| | | | |
|------|-------|-------------------------|-----------|
| from | 11903 | Public Defender Counsel | |
| into | 33306 | Contract Attorneys | 71,039.20 |

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

Fund: 1222 Statewide 9-1-1 T#2

| | | | |
|------|-------|------------------------|----------|
| from | 11002 | Communication Officers | |
| into | 11300 | Part-Time | 3,000.00 |

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

Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes from March 11, 2025



Jeremy Overton, President

Derek McGraw, Vice-President



Jay Riley, Council Member

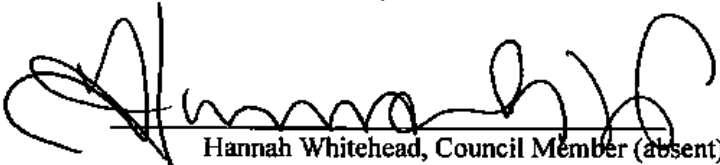
Craig Schafer, Council Member



Robert Schleter, Council Member



Michael Stilwell, Council Member



Hannah Whitehead, Council Member (absent)

Attest: 

~~Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor~~ 1st DEPUTY
Kristy YORK, " "