

**Gibson County Council
Regular Session Meeting
January 13, 2026 at Southwest Annex**

Council members present:

- Jeremy Overton
- Derek McGraw
- Jay Riley
- Craig Schafer
- Robert Schleter
- Michael Stilwell
- Hannah Whitehead

Also, present were:

- Auditor Mike Watkins
- 1st Deputy Auditor Kristy York
- 2nd Deputy Auditor Logan Vickers

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Election of Officers

Council Member Riley motioned to retain the same officers, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 7-0.

Council Member Riley motion to close nominations, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 7-0.

Approval of Minutes

- The Council approved the minutes of December 16th regular meeting minutes as written.

Acknowledgements

- Clerk's report (2)
- Treasurer's report (1)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Health Department presented by Administrator Shade

- They are using HFI funds to better the health of Gibson County. She invites everyone to join a new health challenge.
 - Interested people should check in at the Health Department to get an A1C and blood pressure check.
 - You will then receive a 30-day trial for Ryano Fitness; they will do a scan of your body to determine the amount of body fat needed trimmed and then prepare a workout for you to target those areas.
 - Challenge will start Friday January 16th -April 16th.
- Watch Facebook for recipes on facebook.
- They have partnered with Deaconess Gibson General for cancer scanning to underinsured Gibson County residents.
- She encouraged everyone to participate in a healthy Gibson County.

EMA – presented by Director McKinney

- Director McKinney can provide county ID badges.

- She has a new grant called Project Lifesaver. She will be providing training to help find those people that “wander.”
- She has been using the radio grant to buy new equipment for Gibson County. She has purchased twenty-nine portable radios, five mobile radios, seven intrinsic saved microphones; this equipment has been provided to ten responding departments.
- A logic board has been ordered for Somerville siren; Haubstadt siren is sporadic and they are keeping an eye on this one.
- New sirens are in production.

EMS (Emergency Medical Services) presented by AJ Aldridge and Arica Cole

- EMS experienced the highest volume of runs ever in 2025.
- Saturday, they will host a part-time hiring event.

Highway Department presented by Commissioner Lewis

- This department has some vacancies; they plan to start advertising to get the vacancies filled.
- Five new vehicles were received; they are being equipped.
- They are experiencing some growing pains in their reorganization but expect the result will be much more efficient.
- INDOT has cancelled or postponed approximately three hundred projects due to a shortfall in funding.
- The wheel tax is not going away and still needs to be addressed locally.

Auditor’s Office

- Interviewing for a new employee to replace a retiree.

Sheriff Department presented by Chief Deputy Ballard

- A staffing report was given; they are always hiring, interviewing, and testing.

Commissioner’s Report presented by Commissioner Lewis

- Due to a recent employee incident, Commissioner Lewis suggests that the County consider hiring a Human Resources employee. The county has approximately three hundred people and feels this position is well justified. Auditor Watkins backed up this statement. President Overton feels it is a suitable time to start this process.

OLD BUSINESS

Old Jail Demolition presented by Owners’ Representative, George Ballard

- Three I Engineering is designing the bid packages to move forward with demolition of the old jail.
- The radio upgrade is almost finished.

NEW BUSINESS

EMA Budget – Director, Stephanie McKinney

- Requests that overtime be added back into her budget.
- Commissioner Lewis feels keeping her an hourly employee with overtime would be best for her due to the nature of her position.
- The salary schedule allows for this position to be paid overtime. She will be paid overtime and make a transfer to cover the deficit.

Gibson County Council 2026 Meeting Date Approval

- Council Member Overton read the meeting dates aloud. They will keep the same meeting schedule in 2026.

Council Member McGraw made a motion to keep meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m., exception (December will be the third Tuesday at 9 a.m.), seconded by Council Member Riley. The motion passed 7-0.

Gibson County Council Appointments

- Council Member Overton read through the appointments. He will talk to the Redevelopment Commission appointees and see if they are willing to continue in their roles.

Gibson County Health Department Appointments – Director Juli Ellsworth

- Requests the Council make an appointment to replace the resigned Dr. Jim Feutz. Dr. Jim Feutz suggested that Dr. John Feutz, DVM, take his place; he is willing to take the one-year appointment. The Council agreed to this new appointment.

2026 Salary Schedule Amendment #1 – Logan Vickers

- This amendment changes the pay rate of Chief Court Reporters by adding \$1.88 per hour differential between this position and the other court reporters, plus a few other areas of clarification.

Council Member McGraw made the motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Council Member Schleiter. The motion passed 7-0.

2026 Longevity Approval – Logan Vickers

- Request that Council vote on longevity now so that anyone that retires can be paid upon retirement.

Council Member McGraw made the motion to pay for longevity in the same manner as 2025. He also requested that it be added to the salary ordinance as they wish for this to continue year after year, seconded by Council Member Riley. The motion passed 7-0.

- A salary ordinance amendment will be presented to Council in February

2025 Transfer Requests to Cover Deficits

1000 General	01 Clerk	from	11200 1st Deputy	
		into	11401 Child Support Clerk	\$1,039.28
	03 Treasurer	from	12008 2nd Deputy Trainee	
		into	11501 2nd Deputy #2	\$500.00
	09 Prosecutor	from	12307 Group Insurance	
		into	10401 FICA/Medicare	\$394.76
		from	12307 Group Insurance	
		into	12500 Perf	\$850.72
	10 Registration Of Voters	from	31201 Election Support	
		into	11116 Registration Clerk	\$409.00
	68 Commissioners	from	12500 Perf	
		into	10401 FICA / Medicare	\$12,870.32
		from	35501 Burial Of Soldiers	
		into	22204 Supplies-Veteran's	\$3,900.00
	161 Courthouse	from	35200 Equipment Repairs/Maintenance	
		into	11104 Courthouse Custodian	\$146.89
		from	35202 Elevator Repairs/Maint	
		into	11104 Courthouse Custodian	\$1,263.71
	235 Probation	from	11125 Probation Officer Assista	

		into	10209 Asst Chief Probation Officer	\$0.12
		from	11125 Probation Officer Assistant	
		into	10304 Probation Officer	\$5.44
		from	11125 Probation Officer Assistant	
		into	10305 Probation Officer	\$0.06
		from	11125 Probation Officer Assistant	
		into	10506 Probation Officer	\$0.12
0271 Public Defender		from	31210 Trial Attorney Fees	
		into	12102 Trial Attorney Fees	\$2,216.40
0301 EMS		from	11113 Supervisor	
		into	11108 Ast Director of Administ	\$558.12
		from	11113 Supervisor	
		into	11110 Ast Director of Operations	\$558.12
		from	11113 Supervisor	
		into	11500 2nd Deputy	\$998.20
		from	22402 Regular Ambulance Supplies	
		into	35101 Utilities	\$500.00
0660 IV-D Prosecutor		from	31900 Comp/Copy Machine Maint	
		into	11700 Administrative Assistant	\$8.70
1112 EDIT		from	34100 Publications	
		into	12301 Longevity	\$250.00
		from	12500 Perf	\$(650.08)
1159 Health		into	11121 Health Officer	\$0.12
		into	11314 CI/Registrar	\$649.96
1176 MVH 533 Gen/Undistributed		from	32402 Gas, Diesel, Oil, & Lube	
		into	23102 Garage And Motor	\$1,680.91
2502 Pros Deferral User Fee		from	10401 FICA / Medicare	
		into	11018 Dep Prosecutor Retention	\$0.02
8104 Pros Victim Assist Grant		from	12307 Group Insurance	
		into	10103 Salaries	\$1,176.40
9117 Prosecutor HUB Grant		from	12500 Perf	
		into	11705 Receptionist IV-D	\$0.19
9122 CC Grant Fund		from	10401 FICA/Medicare	\$(1,522.75)
		from	11003 Director	\$(221.17)
		from	11118 Office Manager	\$(184.00)
		from	11300 Part-Time	\$(1.00)
		from	11900 Case Manager	\$(37.10)
		from	12500 Perf	\$(2,985.71)
		into	12307 Group Insurance	\$4,951.73
		from	12500 Perf	
		from	12303 Overtime	\$61.71
		from	22600 Household Supplies	\$(1,656.90)
		from	26000 Office Supplies	\$(2,239.40)
		from	23000 Vehicle Gas/ Oil/ Lube	\$(1,042.12)
		from	24103 Repair/Maint Supplies	\$(1,699.55)
		into	12307 Group Insurance	\$6,637.97
		from	24800 Copier Supplies	\$(1,000.00)
9122 CC Grant Fund Cont'd	from	33401	Staff Train & Development	\$(293.26)
	from	33503	Maintenance	\$(11.44)
	from	36002	Pest Control	\$(312.43)
	into	12307	Group Insurance	\$1,617.13

9143 PD Pre-Trial Srvc Grant from 33306 Contract Attorneys
into 11902 Contract Attorney \$22,095.10

2026 Transfer Requests

1000 General 9601 Magistrate from 35200 Equipment Repair/Maintenance
into 26000 Office Supplies \$5,000.00

Council Member Riley motioned to approve all transfers, seconded by Council Member Schleiter. The vote was 7-0.

Public Comment

Chamber of Commerce Director Vanoven

- Invited everyone to Night of Love on 2/13/26; register on Go Gibson.
- The Chamber is selling spots for their 2026 directory.

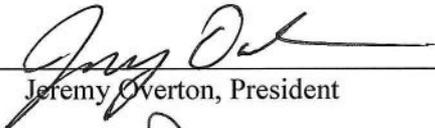
Kathy Lloyd

- Asked if there is a place online to look at the map of the proposed solar project. They invited her to view the map onsite.
- Asked if there was an update on abatement.
 - Attorney Spindler explained that this is a short legislative session and there is pending legislation regarding this. The Financial Advisor has asked the County to delay approving the abatement until they can study this issue further.
- Requested that the county invest in a new audio system as the audience has a tough time hearing them. Council Member Overton explained they are working with a new product and trying to learn the proper technique. Council Member Overton wonders why the minutes are not posted online. Judy explained that the 2025 minutes are all on the County's website at the bottom of the page.

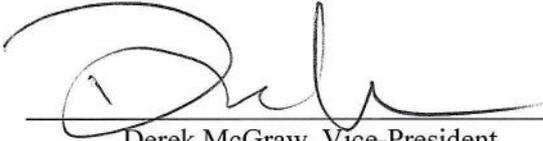
Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Council Member Riley.

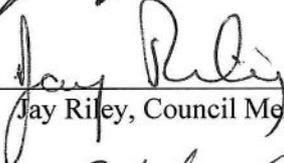
Minutes from January 13th regular meeting.



Jeremy Overton, President



Derek McGraw, Vice-President



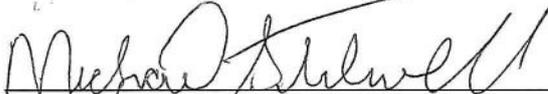
Jay Riley, Council Member



Craig Schafer, Council Member

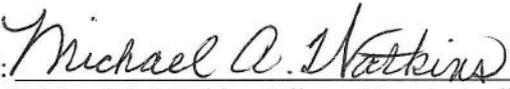


Robert Schleiter, Council Member



Michael Stilwell, Council Member

Hannah Whitehead, Council Member

Attest: 

Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor

