

**Gibson County Council  
Regular Session Meeting  
November 12, 2025 at Southwest Annex**

Council members present:

- President Jeremy Overton
- Vice President Derek McGraw
- Council Member Jay Riley
- Council Member Craig Schafer
- Council Member Robert Schleiter
- Council Member Michael Stilwell
- Council Member Hannah Whitehead

Also, present were:

- Auditor Mike Watkins
- 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Auditor Kristy York
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Auditor Logan Vickers

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

- The Council approved the minutes from October 14 regular meeting as written.

**Acknowledgements**

- Clerk's report
- Treasurer's report

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Jail Project presented by Owners' Representative, George Ballard**

- Auxiliary parking lot work is complete except for landscaping and a curb.
- Three I Engineering will host a meeting to discuss moving forward with teardown of the old jail.
- The old jail will require minor asbestos removal before demolition.

**Wheel & Excise Tax Rate Update**

- County Engineer Holden revisited the idea of increasing the wheel tax rate.
- No new information at this time.
- If the County initiates an increase all cities and towns within the county will see an increase.

**Sheriff Department presented by Sheriff Vanoven**

- Deputy positions: Fully staffed.
- Corrections positions: 17 of 21 filled; department has transitioned back to 8-hour shifts.
- Communications positions: Fully staffed.
- Community Corrections positions: Fully staffed.
- There was an average jail population of 119 inmates.

**Health Department presented by Administrator Shade**

- November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month; Gibson General will provide screenings on Saturday.

- A Community Baby Shower will be held on Sunday from 1-3 PM.

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

- EMS is fully staffed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**LIT Public Safety Fund to Pave Auxiliary Jail Parking Lot**

- Commissioners requested \$200,000 from the LIT Public Safety Fund to pave the auxiliary jail parking lot, allowing EDIT funds to be used for elevator repairs.

Council Member McGraw made the motion to approve spending LIT Public Safety funds on the parking lot project, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The motion passed 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Elliott Solar LLC (Francisco Solar Project)**

- Background:

- Original Economic Development Agreement (EDA) signed in 2020 by Arevon.
- Amended in 2022 by R3 Renewables.
- Current owner RWE requests another amendment.

- Attorney Resertaris:

- His firm (Denton’s) represents renewable projects statewide; he considers RWE among the best developers.

- Current EDA Status:

- Outside construction date expires this year.

- Economic Revitalization Area (ERA):

- Expanded by RWE via land leases to produce a 540-megawatt project.
- Current ERA expires at the end of this year if project is not operational.

- Resolution Presented:

- Expands ERA footprint (also area eligible for abatement).
- Exhibit B: Shows 2020 parcels vs. new parcels for preliminary approval.
- Exhibit C: Shows only 2025 ERA.
- Resolution today does not impact abatement schedule; approval moves process to public hearing.

- Project Details (DH Chin, RWE):

- RWE is the 2nd largest solar company in U.S.; active in other Indiana counties.
- Acquired project from R3 Renewables.
- Will power 42,000 homes; represents \$300 million investment.
- MISO interconnection approval delayed due to backlog.
- Operational target: End of 2029.
- Jobs: 1–3 full-time, equivalent positions, salaries \$40K–\$100K/year.

- Next Steps:

- State statute requires preliminary resolution approval in a public meeting.
- Public hearing will be advertised; notice sent to all impacted taxing units.
- Council must approve resolution today to schedule hearing.
- Council Member Schleter requested hearing outside regular meeting, in evening for public input; Attorney Spindler says it is possible if owner agrees.
- Council Member McGraw asked if vote could occur on December 16<sup>th</sup> at a regular meeting; acceptable.

Council Member Schleter motioned to approve the resolution 2025-08, seconded by Council Member McGraw. The motion carried 7-0.

Landowner Concerns (Larry Michel, Ft. Branch)

- Requested more details on additional acreage and abatement.
- He feels abatement should not exceed 30% as his own deduction is capped at 30%.
- Response: These details will be provided during the public hearing.

**Gibson County Solid Waste District Additional Appropriation Advertisement Request – Director Lee Binhack**

• \$45,000 requested for capital outlays (brush removal); funds are available to cover this amount. Council Member Stilwell motioned to approve the advertisement, seconded by Council Member McGraw. The motion carried 7-0.

**Personal Property Tax Abatement Approval – Assessor Kim Beadle**

- **Toyota**
- **HMC**

Council Member Riley motioned to approve the abatements, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The motion carried 7-0.

**EMS – New Ambulance Funding – AJ Aldredge & Arica Cole**

- Request for funding to purchase a second ambulance;
  - 2026 Budget: \$500,000 for one ambulance.
  - Current opportunity: demo trucks at reduced rates.
    - First Ambulance: \$409,988.
    - Second Ambulance: \$398,697.
- Additional appropriation requested \$309,000 from LIT Public Safety.

Council Member Riley motioned to approve advertisement for this additional appropriation, seconded by Council Member McGraw. The motion carried 7-0.

**Oakland City Library Board Member Appointment**

- OCL requests reappointment of Cynthis Blough Retana.
- Council Member Overton made this appointment.

**New Year Payroll Approval – Logan Vickers**

- Request to pay 2026 pay rates in full on the first pay of 2026 (budgeted).

Council Member McGraw motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The motion carried 7-0.

**Longevity Pay – Logan Vickers**

- Confirmed same pay as last year.
- Special payroll will issue on 12/19, an off week for normal payroll.

Council Member McGraw motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Riley. The motion carried 7-0.

**CVET & FIT Allocations for Gibson County – Auditor Watkins**

- HEA1392 simplified the distribution process.
- County must decide how to allocate this distribution.
- Council consensus: Continue allocating this distribution to tax levied funds as in previous years.

Council Member McGraw motioned to continue with the same allocation of CVET and FIT, seconded by Council Member Riley. The motion carried 7-0.

**Transfer Requests**

1000 General	0235	Probation	from	12300	Severance	
			into	10209C	Crt Asst Chf Prbtn Ofcr	\$29,500.00
Dept.	0104	Election Exp	from	30503	Printing Ballots	
			into	42200	Election Equipment	\$562.00
Dept.	0271	Public Defender	from	10809	System Navigator	\$-12,000.00
			from	11300	Part-Time	-\$4,265.00
			into	10401	FICA / Medicare	\$16,265.00
Dept.	0308	Weights/Msrs	from	34002	Inspection Forms	
			into	26000	Office Supplies	\$100.00
Dept.	0232	Circuit Court	from	35200	Equipment Repairs/Maintenance	
			into	44101	Equipment	\$5,000.00
Dept.	0271	Public Defender	from	31210	Trial Attorney Fees	
			into	12102	Trial Attorney Fees	\$2,216.40

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

1112 LIT-EDIT			from	11300	Part-Time	
			into	36503	Park & Recreation	\$9,000.00

Council Member McGraw made the motion to approve the transfers, seconded by Council Member Riley. The vote was 7-0.

1122 CC Project Income			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11300	Part-Time	\$4,702.50
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11402	Clerk / Secretary	\$4,565.70
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	12206	Facility Officer	\$666.36
			from	11003	Director	
			into	12303	Overtime	2644.83
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11118	Office Manager	7010.00
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11205	Field Officer	3840.00
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11206	Field Officer #2	2080.00
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11207	Field Officer #3	3068.00
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11300	Part-Time	5290.00
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11402	Clerk / Secretary	7983.50
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	11900	Case Manager	6022.30
			from	12307	Group Insurance	
			into	12206	Facility Officer	8152.32

Council Member Riley made the motion to approve the transfers, seconded by Council Member Whitehead. The vote was 7-0.

1159 Health			from	33005	Legal Services	
			into	21405	Vaccines	\$10,000.00

1200 Supplemental Public Def Service	from	31210	Trial Attorney Fees	
	into	12102	Trial Attorney Fees	\$3,220.40
9122 Com Corrections Grant Fund	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	10401	FICA / Medicare	\$1,380.80
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	11207	Field Officer #3	\$40.00
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	12206	Facility Officer	\$374.64
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	12307	Group Insurance	\$7,270.93
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	12500	PERF	\$189.53
	from	11803	Workers Compensation	
	into	11118	Office Manager	\$1034.00
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	10401	FICA / Medicare	\$3400.00
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	11205	Field Officer	\$5028.00
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	11207	Field Officer #3	\$5760.00
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	12206	Facility Officer	\$1047.68
	from	12303	Overtime	
	into	12500	Perf	\$6300.00

Council Member McGraw made the motion to approve the transfers, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The vote was 7-0 in favor of the motion.

**Additional Appropriation Requests to Advertise (Resolution 12/16/2025)**

1000 General	0068 County Commissioners	12401	Unemployment	\$22,000.00
		31205	Postage	\$38,500.00
		31602	Internet	\$16,200.00
	0161 Court House	35201	Renovations	\$2,000.00
1159 Health		21405	Vaccines	\$7,000.00
1170 LIT Public Safety (approved above)		43900	EMS Equipment	\$309,000.00
4100 EMA Prepare/Women's Foundation		30101	Other Services/Charges	\$2,000.00
8953 LATCF 21.032		41100	Sidewalk Installation	\$100,000.00

Council Member McGraw made the motion to approve the additional appropriation advertisement, seconded by Council Member Whitehead. The vote was 7-0.

**Resolution for Additional Appropriation for Gibson County**

1000 General Fund	10000	Personal Services	\$234,000.00
1130 Prisoner Reimbursement	20000	Supplies	\$4,000.00
1169 Local Road & Street	30000	Other Services/Charges	\$80,000.00
1170 LIT Public Safety Fund	40000	Capital Outlays	\$200,000.00
1197 Storm Water Mngmnt Operations	30000	Other Services/Charges	\$200,000.00
1200 Supplemental Public Defender	10000	Personal Services	\$63,500.00
1222 Statewide 911 Fund	10000	Personal Services	\$28,000.00
1237 Opioid Restricted Fund	30000	Other Services/Charges	\$206,000.00
1238 Opioid Unrestricted Fund	30000	Other Services/Charges	\$52,990.00
	40000	Capital Outlays	\$7,500.00
2502 Prosecutor Deferral User Fund	10000	Personal Services	\$6,730.00

	30000 Other Services/Charges	\$40,000.00
4009 County Corrections Fund	30000 Other Services/Charges	\$31,600.00
4011 Sheriff's Fleet Maintenance Fund	20000 Supplies	\$45,000.00
	30000 Other Services/Charges	\$25,000.00
4050 Redevelopment Authority Fund	30000 Other Services/Charges	\$417.00

Council Member Riley made the motion to approve the additional appropriation resolution, seconded by Council Member Schleiter. The vote was 7-0.

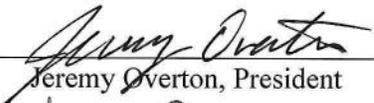
**Public Hearing Scheduled**

- Attorney Resetarits requested the Public Hearing be held at 4:30 PM on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- RWE will provide notice in the newspaper.
- The vote is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn by Council Member McGraw.

Minutes from November 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

  
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 Jeremy Overton, President

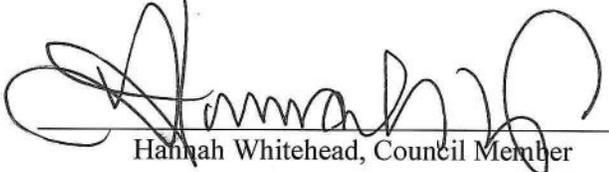
  
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 Michael Stilwell, Council Member

  
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 Hannah Whitehead, Council Member

Attest:   
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 Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor

