

**Gibson County Council
Regular Session Meeting
February 10, 2026 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 (absent)

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.

Approval of Minutes

- The Council approved the minutes from January 13th regular meeting as written.

Acknowledgements

- Clerk's report
- Treasurer's report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Sheriff Department presented by Sheriff Vanoven

- Deputy positions: one opening.
- Corrections positions: 17 of 21 budgeted positions are filled.
- Communications positions: 7 of 11 budgeted positions filled.
- Community Corrections positions: one opening.
- There was an average jail population of 109 inmates.

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

- EMS provided an update of their run volume.
- EMS is fully staffed and five part-time employees have been hired.
- They are having mechanical issues with ambulances; they have one new ambulance in service and another to deliver in July 2026.

Health Department presented by Administrator Shade

- The Health Department received approval from the Commissioners to move forward on the purchase of the ARC building located on Main Street.
- The \$400,000 of ARPA funding that was approved for this project must be spent this year or be returned to the federal government.
- ARC will be a rental tenant until their new building can be accessed.

OLD BUSINESS

Jail Demolition Project presented by Owners' Representative, George Ballard

- Commissioners entered into an agreement with Garmong to do the Construction Management on demolition of the old jail.

NEW BUSINESS

Historic Cemetery Funding – Presented by Mark Fehrenbacher

- Mr. Fehrenbacher discussed the following cemeteries.
 - Warnock Cemetery is in Princeton operated by Patoka township Trustee.
 - Sand Hill Cemetery is in Princeton and funded by a private source.
 - WHH Smith Cemetery is in Owensville in the middle of the cornfield.
 - Robb Cemetery is in Hazleton in the middle of a cornfield.
- The owners of the cemeteries have lawful duties to maintain them, otherwise they are subject to Class C infractions. Township Trustees can assume the maintenance if private owners are not providing it.
- He suggests the county establish property tax credits to incentivize the privately funded cemeteries for any cemetery maintenance and upkeep provided.
- Council Member McGraw wonders if this item should originate with the Trustees rather than with the county.
- Council feels more legal information should be obtained on this matter.

Fort Branch-Johnson Township Library Additional Appropriation Resolution

- \$80,000 has been advertised for a capital outlay additional appropriation in the Rainy-Day Fund; adequate cash on hand is available to cover this request. They will have to bore 2 blocks to get rid of their storm water.

Council Member McGraw motioned to approve the additional appropriation resolution, seconded by Council Member Schleter. The motion carried 6-0.

Encumbrances from 2025 into 2026

- \$3,967,827.64

Council Member McGraw made the motion to approve the encumbrances, seconded by Council Member Riley. The motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment

- Chamber of Commerce has formed a Scholarship Committee; Director Vanoven invited community participation in this committee, which will meet this Friday at the Chamber Office.
- The Chamber invited elected officials to speak at the Farm Bureau Ag Breakfast Political Forum on March 14th; you must be registered to get on the agenda to speak.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Council Member Riley.

Minutes from February 10th regular meeting.

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

Attest: Michael A. Watkins
Michael A. Watkins, Gibson County Auditor

