

Owen County Council
Minutes August 10, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Polly Chesser.

Pledge to Allegiance was said and Opening Prayer was given by Nick Robertson.

Members Present: Polly Chesser, Verl Keith, Chuck Hess, Nick Robertson, Andy Wood, and Anton Neff.

Absent: Amy Casebeer. Also, Present Attorney Jim Bryan and Auditor Sheila Reeves.

Public sign in sheet attached for permanent record.

The July Meeting minutes were tabled.

Mr. Bryan gave a financial overview noting all major operating fund have positive balances. He related that over the next three days during the budgeting process several factors will need to be considered like external factors of inflation costs, emergency relief funds, certified rates/adjustments including reducing EMS, ADA, and P&Z Ordinance update Projects. If massive salary increase is given it will cause workman's comp to increase and concern for sustainability. Currently the county is in good financial shape, but the jail Project is still pending. Copies of financial reviews and monthly reports attached for permanent record.

Old Business

2022 Compensation Review began with some concern because the prior meeting to address the proposed plan had been cancelled and that it seems to be just getting kicked down the road. Ms. Chesser after getting feedback from several people and discussions with others as well as Mr. Keith agreed with cancelling the meeting until they could see/determine financial status and can't make a good judgment until they know what they are looking at. He added that Mr. Bryan has gotten them out of the red, Mr. Hess related to him that he had agreed at the last meeting but now has changed his mind. Mr. Wood noted that they had voted for \$125000, and they are close, and did make a vote to work toward raises. Mr. Bryan has provided estimated proposed revenue for multiple funds, including settlement, levy growths and cash flow. Mr. Neff feels that there is more revenue than has been included in the review. Mr. Hess supports Mr. Neff's review and that they have promised the employees raises for the last three years and wants to stand by their word. Mr. Neff made a motion to proceed with the original commitment systemwide \$125000/Gen Fund (est. \$119061) up to low-point and in addition to half-way to midpoint at a total cost of \$284700 all employees. A second was made by Mr. Hess. Ms. Chesser wanted it noted that there are other avenues/options of where to take the monies from other than the general fund. Mr. Wood wanted it confirmed this did not include other departments that have already gotten raises; Mr. Neff explained they would not be included in this. Vote was Yea-2/Neff-Hess, Nay-3/Chesser-Keith-Wood, Abstain-1/Robertson pending hearings. Motion died for lack of a majority vote.

Holiday Pay was addressed later in the meeting for exact fund. A motion to payout Dispatch and EMS from the Riverboat Fund#1191 was made by Mr. Wood; seconded by Mr. Keith. Motion carried 6-0. The Sheriff's Department will present a final list at the next meeting.

The WTH Bill was tabled for further review by the attorney.

The Care of Patients Fund was tabled for further review.

Public Hearing (after prosecutor/probation) was opened at 9:08 for approval of Additional Appropriations. A motion to approve the list as presented was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Keith. Motion carried 6-0. Hearing closed at 9:10.

New Business

Prosecutor Mr. VanDerMoere presented a Grant application for approval in the amount of \$4750. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion carried 6-0. An additional appropriation request was also presented in the amount of \$700 and approved at the same time.

Probation Donna McElroy presented the Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants for CY2023.

A motion to approve the Budget for Grant-\$385628, Project Income-\$205702, User Fees-\$136608, County General-\$169140, IOCS-\$10000 was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Wood. Motion carried 6-0.

A second motion was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the LCC Grants for Spencer Owen Schools-\$3402, Hamilton Center-\$5587, Kathy Arthur Hooked on fishing-\$2000, Kathy Arthur Administrative-\$1000, Probation quest-\$5000, Probation Screens-\$5000 and YMCA drug prevention-\$3955. Carried 6-0.

Health Department Christine McBride presented the Grant Application in the amount of \$25000 for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP). A motion to approve the grant was made by Mr. Robertson; seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Defender-Fund line item is in the red \$5970 negative; increased to \$25000/\$1000 to carry through until the end of the year. Cash balance from general fund reimbursements received from state to Fund Mr. Neff asked if the supplemental fund could be used. Motion originally made by Mr. Hess died for a lack of a second; now seconded by Mr. Neff following clarification. Further conversation related that the request/transfers could come from the Supplemental Fund. Motion carried 6-0.

A transfer from Circuit Court in the amount of \$4016 from Fund1000-232-39500 to Fund 1000-232-20100 was presented. A motion to approve the Transfer was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Neff. Carried 6-0.

A motion to approve a \$100 transfer from General to line was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Nick Robertson. Motion carried 6-0.

A transfer of funds for PSAP-LIT 1235-11300 in the amount of \$5000 to Statewide 911 122-12400 was requested and approved with a motion from Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Neff. Carried 6-0.

An Additional Appropriation Request was presented and approved with a motion made by Mr. Wood; seconded by Mr. Hess for the Treasurer in the amount of \$678. Carried 6-0.

An Ordinance No. 2022-016 was presented and read by Mr. Bryan to allow the Recorder to pay office expenses for the budget year 2023. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Neff. Carried 6-0. A sworn Statement was also provided by Ms. Foster with the Ordinance.

Highway Department Additional Appropriation request MVH Restricted 1173 \$100000 and MVH 1176 \$50000.

A motion to approve for advertising was made by Mr. Robertson; seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried

Building Administrator Suzanne Simmerman presented a proposal for the Building Inspector Position. They are requesting for the position to be increased from 22 hours/wk to 28 hours/wk. In addition, they are also requesting a salary increase to midpoint of \$18.43/hr. She related that the amount will be sustainable, and this is also in attempt to hire qualified applicants. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Keith. Vote: 3-Yea, 1-Nay/Neff, 2-Abstention Keith/Wood. Motion Carried with the abstentions per code as a yea vote.

Auditor Employee position request was presented (tabled from June/July mtg). The current payroll deputy has now submitted her resignation notice leaving the department in an urgent situation. Instead of an employee due to the urgency is now asking for a salary increase. An increase in the hourly wage to \$19.50/hr was asked for that is comparable to what the highway had just been given. The requests can be funded with two other funds available for use #1150 and #1131, no added costs to the general fund this year. She also noted that she had lost funding for a fulltime position when a payroll/Paycor did not work out due to programming between financial programs. LOW does offer a payroll program that should be considered. We are short staffed, and this is a job that has now been combined of two fulltime job duties. A motion was made by Mr. Robertson to approve the request; seconded for discussion by Mr. Hess. Mr. Wood wanted to clarify if this applies toward the \$125000 that was approved for raises; Mr. Neff noted that this request was included in Ms. Chesser abstained due to a family member that has applied. Vote: 2-Yea, 1-Nay/Neff, 3-abstain/Chesser, Keith, Wood.

Discussion on Roberts Rule of Order of the motion Carried? Yea Or Nay?

A ten-minute break was taken.

Sheriff Hobbs presented a proposal for raises for all his staff, utilizing all his funds and provided a layout to sustain the increases. Mr. Hobbs feels they are on track, and this will help recruit and retain employees. Plan attached for permanent record. Following discussions/review of all the funds accounting for wages/salaries, fica, retirement, ranks, etc. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion carried 4-Hess/Robertson/Keith/Chesser. 1-Against/Neff, 1-abstention/Wood. Mr. Hobbs will prepare an additional appropriation request for the September meeting.

A motion to approve the Salary Ordinance Confirmations was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Wood. Mr. Neff noted that this included EMS confirmations also that was approved at the last meeting. Carried 6-0. No additional business came before the Council and a 15-minute recess was taken before the Budget Hearings started.

After a break it was clarified by the attorney who read Code that the motion carried regarding the auditor's request and building vote, but not on the compensation vote. Other votes were also reviewed and clarified in the minutes. Code says that abstention votes apply to Yea votes.

Also noted Mr. Hess left following the break due to health issues.

The Regular meeting was opened back up to clarify the Auditor's Vote at \$19.50/hr from funds 1131 and 1150 to pay for the additional costs and general fund will be added next year. The motion was made by Mr. Robertson, no second was made. It was reviewed again that the letter did state the rate at 19.50 therefore the motion authorizing where to take the increase from was needed. Mr. Robertson made a motion to approve the additional appropriations from 1150 & 1131; seconded by Mr. Keith. Motion 3-1-1/Wood.

Mr. Wood again wanted clarification on the total amount being considered from the original \$125000. Mr. Neff said no exact details have been figured to give them, this does not include elected officials at this time, and this will be tracked throughout the hearings.

Further discussion offered another motion to utilize the original amount of \$125000 (less recorder/auditor), applying the \$65749 not appropriated at this time toward equal share to try to get them to midpoint and any additional cost savings that may be available. If any cost savings during hearings applied systemwide. This was made into a motion by Mr. Wood; seconded by Mr. Robertson. Carried 5-0. Mr. Bryan gave another financial review of the overall budgeting and concern to maintain operating cash balances with inflation, jail project, etc. and how they can go more than the \$125000 cap being set.

A motion to recess the regular meeting was made by Mr. Robertson; seconded by Mr. Wood. Carried 5-0.

Budget Hearings were opened at 11:30 with conversation to allow Mr. Neff and Ms. VanDerMoere to input numbers to use during the hearings based on the motion to utilize the Cap amount of \$125000.

A motion to recess the Hearings was made by Mr. Robertson; seconded by Mr. Wood. Carried 5-0. Budget Hearings will resume at 1:00pm.