

Owen County Council
Minutes-June 14, 2021

Meeting was opened by President Andy Wood.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, Opening Prayer given by Nick Robertson.

Roll was called; members signed in. Public Sign-in-Sheet attached for permanent record.

At the request of the Auditor, a motion to table the minutes was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Chuck Hess. Motion carried 7-0.

Old Business

2021 Budget-Work Session Review started with a List of the proposed Reductions and or Additional Appropriations that had been discussed earlier in the day. Elected Officials and Department Heads reviewed their current budgets with Council Members and items were compiled from the list to Advertise for a Public Hearing to be held. A couple of items have pending corrections to Insurance, Workman's Comp, Liability, Uniforms that still need to be addressed. The Sheriff has also added an additional \$11000 for reductions. Motion for a Budget Reduction Hearing and a Regular Meeting date was set for June 28th @7pm; seconded by Anton Neff. Motion Carried 7-0. Mr. Robertson offered that if no more cuts can be made, they are going to have to take additional action. All Departments are encouraged to attend.

New Business

Public Hearing-

911 Director Kathleen Lamb presented Additional Appropriations for Fund #1235 Cash Balance for \$2200, \$32379.40, \$100000 and Fund 1222 Cash for 6237.51, 1825.67 and \$1459.

Mr. Hess read each request and made a motion to approve them as presented; seconded by Polly Chesser. Motion carried 7-0.

Highway Superintendent Greg Melton presented an Additional Appropriation request for Fund 1173 Cash \$26561.80, Fund #1176 \$ 65136.04, \$7150, \$ 2468.32 and Fund#1169 \$10000 and \$100000.

Mr. Hess read each request and made a motion to approve them as presented; seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion carried 7-0.

No action was needed on prior request or appropriations for the Sheriff's Department as it was previously approved and advertised.

Mr. Wood closed the Public Hearing at this time.

Mr. Melton provided information about a culvert on Gov.com from Steubenville Road.

Ms. Whiting requested for a Road Sign Fund-Line Item to be created with the current amount of \$3540.70.

Mr. Melton stated that unfortunately signs are stolen as fast as they put them up. A motion to do an appropriation to 4201-20100 was made by Mr. Neff; seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried 7-0.

Economic Development-Craig Coffman presented the Mader Mill Abatement request for compliance submission for personal and real property tax abatement. Members agreed that they had met all requirements and a motion was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion carried 7-0.

He next presented a request for the OCRA Grant Match for the new Comprehensive Plan that was being developed in the amount of \$6700. A motion to do an additional appropriation request from the Riverboat Fund was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Anton Neff. Motion carried 7-0.

A Hiring Freeze Request Form was presented from the Sheriff's Dept for a Jailers Position. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Ms. Casebeer. Motion carried 7-0.

A Hiring Freeze Request Form was presented by Corbin Abrell with Soil & Water due to resignation of the

former director Devin Brown. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Ms. Casebeer. Salary adjustments will be made also as it is a new hire. Motion carried 7-0.

A request for the Council to appoint someone to the SCCAP Board was made by the Executive Director, Frank Peacock. The Council agreed to take it under advisement and advertise with a motion made by Mr. Neff; seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried 7-0.

Per new Legislation each County is required to have a new Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC). Judge Quillen gave a brief overview of the program and its requirements. Mr. Neff who already sits on the Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) has offered to sit in that position. A motion was made by Mr. Hess to appoint him to the Board; seconded by Mr. Keith. Carried 7-0.

The Sheriff's Department had nothing for the board.
Highway Department had nothing further.

Surveyor Bill Pursell has offered to give some of his Perpetuation Fund #1202 monies to the Building Department GIS Mapping coordinator. Attorney Bryan reviewed the process and that a Resolution will be required. He will prepare and present it at the June 28th meeting.

Ms. Reeves presented an Auditor Job Description approval request to combine two full time positions into one being the Assistant Payroll Deputy and Assistant Property Transfer Deputy. Mr. Neff made a motion to adopt the Description with a notation that it is in the new format and compliant wage and salary structure; seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried 7-0.

Department Funds Transfer Request Firearms to be taken from one fund
Additional Appropriations and Transfers were also pending for Probation on multiple Funds that were not entered and submitted to the State. Judge Quillen wanted it to be made very clear that this was not their fault that they are in the red; whether it was negligence or intentionally from the prior Auditor they did not do this. A motion to allow the Auditor to work with Ms. McElroy to clear up the Funds/Line-Items and approve the Firearms request was made by Mr. Hess, seconded by Mr. Robertson. Motion carried 7-0.
Mr. Hobbs related that due to new legislation there will no longer be a Firearms Funds and will eventually have to come to the County for Funds.

Mr. Hess requested for them to request of the Commissioners to have an independent forensic audit back sixteen years or further if needed that will let them know where they stand and offer full transparency. Seconded by Mr. Robertson for more discussion. Concern of how they would pay for the audit was asked. The Crowe Report did not offer the information that members thought would be given, and he feels that it should be put to rest if any negligence has been committed. Judge Quillen offered the frustration level of the process and outcomes and the fact that things were not being done right or whatever reasons. Mr. Hess offered to withdrawal his motion; Mr. Robertson concurred. Attorney Bryan offered that he feels things are going in the right direction and internal controls are being implemented. Ms. Reeves will continue to provide monthly Financial Reports.

Ms. Lamb asked if any decisions had been discussed or decided on the 911 PTO Request. After a brief discussion it was agreed to place it on the June 28th Agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Robertson; seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried 7-0. Ms. Lamb will provide another copy of the proposal to members.

A motion was made by Mr. Hess to approve the Salary Summaries presented for signatures; seconded by Mr. Neff. Motion carried 7-0.

Barron Barnett had provided information and calculations for the Council to consider due to the current financial situation that we are in, more specific department suggestions and possible cuts. Mr. Hess offered that this should be discussed at another time.

Attorney Bryan had nothing further.
Auditor Reeves had nothing further.

Councilman Neff reviewed the proposal for the Sheriff's Pension Fund that was discussed earlier in the Work Session as well as consideration for requesting monies for the General Fund negative balance. Advertisement and a Public Hearing Notice would need to be given to address both. Mr. Bryan gave a brief overview of the financial status and amounts that would need to be considered for the General Fund. No action was taken on the General Fund.

Pension Fund Payment-Total amount owed is \$266341. The current Cash Balance in the Pension Fund is \$14453, Tax Warrant Fund#4932 \$29008.98 and Civil Processing Fees Fund #5501 \$42629.54 for a total of \$86091.52 leaving an estimated amount of \$180249.48 from the Edit Fund. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Neff. The Sheriff offered this proposal in exchange for him to pay of the Storage Loan. Motion carried 7-0. Sheriff Hobbs also informed members that next years Pension payment will be increased to \$303000.

Property Payment-Storage Units is to be advertised as an Additional Appropriations to use Storage Unit Fund #4015 \$28968.77 then use Jail Housing Fund #4906 for the balance of the loan Payment up to \$121000. The motion was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Neff. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Wood did a brief overview of the reductions that have been made and he is asking of everyone to please look to see if they have anything else to offer as they know their requirements and people and contact him and the Liaisons if they need help. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Neff. Motion carried 7-0.