

OWEN COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes-December 12, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Polly Chesser.

Opening Prayer was given by Nick Robertson; followed by Chuck Hess singing the National Anthem. Andy Wood wanted it recognized that this was Mr. Hess last meeting and would miss his Parliamentary Etiquette.

Ms. Chesser related the admiration. Hess requested time to be heard on the December 27th Agenda.

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

Absent: Amy Casebeer.

Minutes were tabled until December 27th Meeting.

Copies of the November 2022 Monthly Financial Report was provided for members to review.

The 2023 Budget Binders were provided for review to include that all Funds/Line Items matched for submission to DLGF. Final Copies were prepared/reviewed by Anton Neff, Polly Chesser, and Sheila Reeves that included the approved raises made at the prior meeting. For Budgets that did not fall under the General Fund, were reduced in line items to reflect the raises. Those Departments will be requesting additional appropriations in 2023 to compensate the cuts that were made to offset salaries. Mr. Neff asked for clarification on the Sheriff's Retirement Fund amount. Ms. Reeves will provide an update at the next meeting. ARPA Review included that Fund Transfers will begin in January to reserve to pay down the two historical negative amounts. (Payroll Clearing & Crossings Grant) The Auditors Office will provide a list of funds/amounts to both the Commissioners and Council prior to any transfers.

Public Hearing was opened at 7:16pm to approve the Additional Appropriation Requests that had been advertised. A blanket motion to approve as submitted/listed all the requests was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Robertson. Carried 6-0. Hearing closed at 7:18pm.

Ms. Reeves had prepared a 2023 Meeting Calendar for review/approval. Mr. Hess felt this should wait until the January Meeting with a new member coming in. A motion to approve advertising the January and February Meeting both at 7pm was made by Mr. Neff; seconded by Mr. Wood. Carried 6-0.

The Department of Liaison List will be presented at the January Meeting also. Mr. Neff suggested for members to work with their departments in preparation for the new year and budgeting.

A motion to approve for Ms. Chesser to sign the Salary Confirmation Summaries was made by Mr. Hess; seconded by Mr. Wood. Carried 6-0.

A copy of the 2023 Salary Ordinance will be presented at the 12/27 Meeting to be voted on.

Elected Officials-Coroner Shelby Hershberger wanted to ask for additional appropriations but was not able to do so because of advertising restrictions. Ms. Reeves offered that transfers can be done, and she has cash balances to do so. Mr. Neff also thanked Peggy Robertson for stepping up and helping in the Clerk's Office as she caucused in position back in October.

Public Comment-none

Auditor provided copies of the recent Opioid Settlement Funds that had been received. No direct uses have been provided at this time. A Committee will be appointed later to determine expenditures and presented to them for financial approval.

Council Comments-Mr. Wood wished all a Merry Christmas and that we have a lot to be thankful for.

Sheriff Hobbs wanted to relate that the Community Christmas Distribution had gone extremely well with giving out hundreds of food boxes and toys/gifts for kids. Servants Heart had donated an additional abundant amount of food/toys/clothes just today that they will continue to distribute. Deeply humbled and offered "We Can't Out Give GOD"!!

A motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Hess.