Owen County Council
Minutes-August 28, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Polly Chesser with Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.
Present: Polly Chesser, Anton Neff, Steve Carrell, Andy Wood, Nick Robertson, and Amy Casebeer.
Also, present auditor Sheila Reeves, Nicole VanDerMoere, and Maddie Chesser.
Absent: Verl Keith.

A motion to appoint Jay Douglas to the Alcohol & Tobacco Board was made. Motion carried 6-0.

Council Funds Reimbursement-
Commissioners approved 08/07/23 the use of the ARPA Interest Funds for the reimbursement of the Coroners Van that had been used at the time of the purchase. A motion to appropriate $46406.25 from the ARPA Fund was made by Andy Wood; seconded by Amy Casebeer. Motion carried 6-0.

ARPA Appropriations also approved by the Commissioner's on 08/07/23 for ECS Siren Encoder in the amount of $21332.50; one-half of the total with the Town of Spencer paying the other half. A motion to approve was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Andy Wood. Motion carried 6-0.
The next amount was for Rural Transit for the 2024 Budget proposal that was made. Following discussion acknowledging the need and services for Owen County; a motion was made to appropriate $18000 for 2024 was made by Amy Casebeer with a second given by Steve Carrell. Gary Burton clarified to Andy Wood that they knew this was a one-time appropriation. Motion carried 5-1/Robertson.

Council Members scheduled an Executive Meeting for September 11th@5pm for perspective legal counsel. Reeves will advertise per Indiana Code.

Reeves presented a General Fund Proposed ARPA Reductions to zero out negative balances from pending SBOA Audit Orders. The proposal will be implemented in December to allow easier transfer for her department. A motion to approve the transfers was made by Nick Robertson; seconded by Anton Neff. Motion carried 6-0.

2024 Budget Workshop Review-
Extension Office-Jennifer Abrell had sent an email relating that she had reviewed her budget and thinks she can make her current number of hours in her part-time of 624 hours. Extension Total $112230.

Probation-Natasha Pointer had re-worked her budgets as requested and presented updated copies for Funds 1122 and 2001 to move positions to three individual part-time pool of hours with no cost change. A motion to vacate a full-time position and not replace was made by Andy Wood; seconded by Anton Neff. Carried 6-0.
It was agreed to approve the change for the 2024 Budget proposal. Classification will be adjusted accordingly.

Clerk Diane Stutsman and Mandy Parrish presented updated information regarding the use of the Perpetuation Fund for a part-time position which is not compliant with State Code. She reminded them of the funds that were available in #4902 that could be utilized with a Resolution by Council.
A motion was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Nick Robertson to draft a resolution for Fund#4902 for use as a part-time position. A friendly amendment request from Andy Wood to use $2500 of Perpetuation Fund monies for official records. Motion carried 6-0 for amendment. Motion carried 6-0 for original motion with Amendment. Clerks new 2024 Total-$195839.

Sheriff Ryan White and Matt Miller presented a proposal to move Sheriffs Retirement, Vehicle Rotation, Prisoner Meals, Courthouse Security and Jail Wages to the General Fund to help offset the budget total and

reserve monies for the proposed new jail-jail tax. The amount would be an estimated $907611. It was agreed further work was needed to consider adjustments. A motion was made by Andy Wood; seconded by Nick Robertson to allow Anton Neff, Polly Chesser, and Steve Carrell to work with Sheriff White and present at the September Meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Vehicle Rotation-
Further conversation on vehicle rotation whether leasing or purchasing was the best option. Options were presented on buying 4 to keep on schedule or lease 4 and spread out over ten years. Following discussion and best long-term, and affordable options a motion was made by Andy Wood' seconded by Nick Robertson to lease. Motion carried 6-0.

Health Dept.-Christine McBride presented copies of update Fund amounts to reflect the new Fund#116 amounts to be received. The fund amount proposed is $220695. Adjustments were made to Fund#4911 and Fund#1168.

Coroner Shelby Hunter asked to revisit a request for a Chief Deputy. She presented statistics from other counties with chief deputies, On-calls, and part-time staff. Following discussion, a motion was made by Andy Wood; seconded by Amy Casebeer to appropriate $4000 for Chief Deputy and $200 for all staff runs. Motion carried 6-0. Neff offered he felt this was a work in progress and they are heading in the right direction. New proposed Fund Total-$116662.

EMS Cris Lunsford re-affirmed a change of shifts to 24 hours. A completed budget proposal will be given at the September Meeting. A motion to make the change was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Andy Wood. Motion carried 6-0. He was to work with his liaisons. Other adjustments were made for vehicle rotation and copy machine expense. The current proposal is at $3044896 with adjustments pending 24-hour shifts.

Commissioner Bob Curry and Attorney Dana Kerr presented a request to have $20000 restored to Litigation that had been cut earlier in hearings. Kerr had talked with Rick Hall-Barnes & Thornburg and provided a statute saying that they were inhibited from doing their job. Andy Wood reviewed the portion of his current contract stating that he represents all departments, including Council. They were reminded that Burton had said to take it all at a previous meeting. Following further discussion/debate a motion was made by Andy Wood; seconded by Amy Casebeer to increase the line item by $10000 for additional legal counsel. If they need additional funds, they can request an additional appropriation. New Budget Total-$967333.
Kerr also reviewed the need for an enforcement officer with the new Ordinances being written.

Highway Greg Melton, who had already adjusted regarding a position and will verify totals with Neff.

Reeves presented as required a copy of the SBOA Federal Audit for the ARPA Funds, noting a clean report. No annual audit is scheduled at this time.

A motion to adjourn was made by Andy Wood; seconded by Nick Robertson.
Reeves immediately asked for it to be withdrawn as other business was needed.
Motion to rescind the adjournment and re-open the meeting was made by Andy Wood. Chesser re-opened. Reeves then asked for a motion to allow Polly Chesser, Anton Neff, Department Liaisons, and her staff to work together to make any necessary adjustments/changes with the 2024 budget proposals. The motion was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Andy Wood. Carried 6-0. All 2024 Budget Proposal must be accepted at the September Meeting to meet the October 10th Public Hearing Date.
The motion to adjourn was made by Andy Wood.