

Owen County Council
Meeting-August 12, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Courthouse 2nd Floor
YouTube Live Streamed-Owen County Government

Meeting was called to order by President Polly Chesser.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call and public sign in

Council members present: Amy Casebeer, Polly Chesser, Verl Keith, Anton Neff, Nick Robertson, and Andy Wood

Council members Absent: Steve Carrell

Auditor: Sheila Reeves

Approval of minutes motion made by Wood to approve the meeting minutes from July 8, 2024 seconded by Neff 6/0 approved.

Financial Update and Settlement Distributions: Reeves provided the Low Financial Reports as of today, which is the same set that is included in the binders for Budget Hearings. Neff stated that the jail project funds, ear marked amount in the general fund Sheriff's division, wants to make sure any remaining money that has not been spent, gets transferred or moved to the facility fund, Reeves stated a resolution would enable the Council to move the unspent funds, to the jail facility fund. Motion by Wood for Council Attorney to draft a resolution to move the unspent earmarked money transferred to the Jail Facility Fund at year end, seconded by Roberts 6/0 approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Jail Project Update: Sheriff White highlighted some of the project plans. Redevelopment Commission will handle property transfer. The next public meeting will be held on 8/20/24 @ 2:00. Council members stressed the importance of transparency for the public and the appraisal information availability, many on the Council have been asked questions regarding the jail project. Chesser said there would be a public presentation later.

Public hearing Additional Appropriations request: Hearing opened. The State is waiving the interpreter's amount, which was taken into consideration at the first of the year for budgeting. The amounts are already in their account. Hearing closed.

Public hearing Abatement Confirmation and Waivers: Hearing opened. During the abatement process in May there was a second step required for the Winery and Mader Mill, the paperwork to follow up with in the Assessor's office was missing so we are non-compliant. a resolution needs to be presented stating the abatements were awarded in the May meeting. Motion by Roberts to accept the abatements as voted on in May with a resolution drawn up to that effect, seconded by Casebeer discussion: Reaffirming the action, in a particular resolution, taken for the Mader Mill project was to reduce the abatement by 50% the Winery is a draw for Tourism, this abatement was for bottling equipment. Effective in the May meeting which was

the 13th of 2024 and allow the noncompliance to be noted. Have the resolution be finalized in the next Council meeting, but have the vote reflected in the minutes to forward to the DLGF once approved, vote taken 6/0 approved.

New Business

RDC Board Appointment: Hunter Stogsdill is willing to serve on the RDC Board, motion by Neff to appoint Stogsdill the Owen County Redevelopment Commission, seconded by Wood 6/0 approved. Chesser thanked Stogsdill adding he brings a good set of skills to the board.

911 Communications Salary request: Director Cherie Anderson stated she has lost 4 employees in the past two weeks to other higher paying jobs. Anderson proposed to plug the hole with a two dollar per hour increase. Explaining how to fund the proposal, stressing the need for training, wants to employ a full-time training coordinator. Roberts made a motion to grant \$2 an hour increase for employees, grant one full time position in trade for a full time Training Coordinator position, one additional part-time individual to fill in for open slots totaling 800 hours, died due to a lack of second. More discussion, Robertson made a motion to give her the \$2 an hour raise to get immediate staff, died to lack of second. Neff states we are so close to budget hearings this is when we take these things under advisement. More time is needed to make an adjustment, considering a wage study, and other elements for a broader discussion.

Transfers and Additional Appropriations:

-911 Communications Anderson stated overtime fund is negative needs overtime funds, an appropriation for computer equipment as well. Neff made a motion to advertise for appropriations see attached, seconded by Roberts, withdrawn. The funds will be transferred from different funds and paid back after advertising. See attached Motion by Neff seconded by Roberts, 6/0 approved.

-Highway Melton presented several appropriations see attached, motion by Neff to allow the transfers as submitted seconded by Wood, 6/0 approved. Melton stated all the funds may not all be used but wants to go ahead and advertise. Request for transfers see attached, motion by Neff to approve the transfers as presented seconded by Wood 6/0 approved.

Salary Ordinance Compensation Summaries: Neff made a motion to allow the President to sign off on the compensation summaries (see attached) seconded by Wood 6/0 approved.

-Clerk submitted one appropriation and one correction to transfer (see attached) motion by Neff seconded by Wood 6/0 approved.

Motion by Neff as a Fiscal Body we reviewed the 2024 actual circuit breakers loss numbers and will review our 2025 numbers at our workshops and does not foresee any significant change and we'll enter that into the record. Reeves will distribute to the other taxing units seconded by Roberts 6/0 approved.

2025 Pre-Budget Hearing Discussion: Binders include the schedule and schedule of fund balances so you're looking at the same numbers when you're working out there. Departments are told to get with their liaisons for any questions and vice versa. Reeves stated her Opioids Funds report is due September 6, 2024

There is a County Fact Book that may be borrowed. It contains the comparison of other counties across the state and grouped by population. Conditions for spread sheet concerning the pay scale and ways to approach the percentage of change. Motion to appropriate the Pilt Grant from the Department of Interior in the amount of \$14,283 and some change to the highway line item 1173 by Neff seconded by Robertson 6/0 approved.

Soil and Water:

Tammy Bingham passed out info concerning a grant she would like the council to consider helping with. It would be for a part time staff member for the Soil and Water MyPath. The Grant discussion was tabled, Motion was made by Neff to advertise and discussed in a Brief Special Meeting right before Budget Hearings @ 8:00 on 8/28/2024 seconded by Casebeer 6/0 approved.

Assessor: Request Josh Kennedy be appointed to the PTABOA Board, due to the resignation of Suzanne Simmerman, motion by Wood seconded by Neff 6/0 approved.

Public Comment: Barron Barnett voiced some ideas concerning the 911 positions.

Elected Officials: Auditor Reeves stated there is no room availability at the AIC Conference 2 members on the wait list.

Motion by Roberts to adjourn.