

MINUTES
JACKSON COUNTY COUNCIL

July 16, 2014

6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Councilman Leon Pottschmidt, Councilman Brian Thompson, Councilman Joe Bowman, Councilman Greg Prange, Councilwoman Rebecca Schepman, Councilman Brian Wheeler, and Councilman Charlie Murphy

Members Absent: None

Councilman Leon Pottschmidt called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sheriff Mike Carothers performed the swearing in of the Council.

Councilman Greg Prange made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2014 meeting as amended. Councilman Brian Wheeler seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

Reports from Other Committees:

Councilman Greg Prange reported that the Ambulance Board is looking into purchasing property and adding a facility on the East side of the railroad tracks in Seymour. There has been and will continue to be an increase in the amount of trains that travel through Seymour. Prange stated that 63% of the City of Seymour runs are located on the east side of the railroad tracks. He stated that the property they are looking at has a cost of \$115,000 but there are no improvements on this property.

End of Reports from Other Committees

Heather Davis and Sheriff Carothers came before council to request to add three (3) full time dispatchers for the 2015 budget. They stated that the current dispatches are overwhelmed by the volume of 911 calls coming in. Sheriff Carothers stated that no additional equipment would need to be purchased. Davis stated that by dropping some of the Non – eligible 911 expenses from the 2015 budget, adding these three (3) dispatchers would increase the 911 budget approximately \$40,000.

PROPOSED COURTHOUSE EXPANSION

Judge Bruce MacTavish addressed council in regards to current safety concerns in regards to Superior Court II. Judge MacTavish stated that Superior Court II handles volatile cases and that the current setup does not allow for proper safety and security of those present in the courtroom or waiting outside of the courtroom. The current room being used as a courtroom was to be a temporary solution but it is now going on 7 years in this temporary situation. Judge MacTavish stated that he feels a new court facility needs to be built soon in order to best protect those using his courtroom. Attorney Tom Lance also addressed council as to the lack of security and asked them to understand the risk that is currently being taken having the courtroom as is. Lance stated that Jackson County needs to have a building with security and integrity.

Bill Cooler, with Cooler Design then discussed the current plans for a new Judicial Center to be built between the Courthouse and annex. Cooler stated that the current plans call for an approx.. 20,000 sq. ft. 1st floor and an approx.. 10,000 sq. ft. basement. This facility would provide storage in the basement and the main level of the facility would house the Circuit Court, Superior Court and Prosecutors office along with several meeting rooms, Judges chambers, etc. This proposal also includes relocating several offices. The current annex would hold the Clerk and Voter registration

offices, IT dept., Probation, Child Support and Emergency Management. The current courthouse would hold the Treasurer, Auditor, Recorder, Assessor, Surveyor, Veteran’s Services office, HR dept. and the Planning & Zoning dept. Cooler stated that this project would cost approximately \$10,000,000. Cooler also stated another option of creating a second floor on the Judicial Center. The second floor would essentially be the same floor plan as on the first. The second level would be an option to bring the third court into this structure with an additional space for a court if needed in the future. The relocating of the other offices would remain the same. With the addition of the second level the entire cost of expansion project would than be approximately \$14,000,000.

Andrew Lanham, with Reedy Financial Group then discussed with Council different funding options for this project. Lanham discussed the impact this project would have on property taxes if this route was chosen. Lanham discussed the impact of waiting until current bond is paid to begin payments on a new bond. Lanham also discussed the possibility of combining these two options – levy a tax on property until current bond is done, then start with income tax and stop the property tax levy. It was brought to council’s attention that if the project is put on hold, an increase of 3 -5% on the cost of materials for each year delayed would change the total cost of the project.

Commissioner Tom Joray stated to council members that he supported this being sent to council but with there being no impact on property taxes. Joray also stated that he feels other options are out there that would be less costly.

END OF EXPANSION DISCUSSION

Martha McIntire and Kendra Zumhingst came before council to discuss the 2015 Visitor Centers Budget, specifically the salary of the Executive Director. McIntire stated that the Innkeepers tax currently fund the entire budget. They have placed in the 2015 budget a proposed salary for the Executive Director of \$43,680 moving that position from an Exec 2 to an Exec 1 level.

Councilman Pottschmidt then performed the 1st reading of Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2014–No.12. as follows:

County General fund	11,833-Personal Services	5,735.32 for Surveyor 1 st deputy and 6,097.36 for Surveyor Technician-increase Approved by council
	1,385-Other Services and Chgs	for Extension Office Postage –to replace funds that were transferred to Contract Services at the beginning of the year
Total County General fund:		13,218
Rainy Day Fund	22,500- Other Services and Chgs	6,000 for Election Ballot printing and 16,500 for Election Support that was Cut from original 2014 budget to meet Election expenses
Total Rainy Day fund		22,500

Councilman Charlie Murphy made a motion to approve upon 1st reading. Councilman Wheeler seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried. Councilman Pottschmidt then performed the 2nd reading of the Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2014-No.12. Councilman Prange made a motion to approve upon 2nd reading. Councilman Brian Thompson seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

Larry Raymer representing the Park and Recreation Board then addressed council as to Resolution No.4- Council Bill No. 10 – an emergency transfer of funds. Raymer stated they would like to transfer \$420.00 from the Board per Diem appropriation 11120 to Supplies/maintenance appropriation 36210. Councilman Pottschmidt performed the 1st reading of Resolution No.4 Council Bill No.10. Councilman Murphy made a motion to approve upon 1st reading. Councilman Prange seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried. Councilman Prange then made a motion to waive second reading. Councilman Wheeler seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

Sheriff Carothers then provided Council with the June 2014 Jail Report, Meal Expenditure Report and Dog Detention Report.

Sheriff Carothers also presented the Jan 1 – June 30, 2014 Commissary Report. Sheriff Carothers also presented information that the IRS has approved the amendment to the Jackson County Police Retirement Plan.

Steve Redicker, Juvenile Detention Center Director apologized to council for not presenting monthly reports and stated that he was under the impression he only needed to present to them on a quarterly basis. Redicker then presented the June 2014 Juvenile Detention Center Report, the 2nd quarter 2014 report and the Year to Date report of per diem, expenses and reimbursements.

Council Murphy then addressed council, stating the One Beacon had performed a risk assessment of the Jackson County Jail. Murphy stated that all aspects of the assessment came back positive except for the overcrowding issue. Murphy stated that One Beacon recommended using the Jackson County Juvenile Detention Center facility to help with this issue. Steve Redicker, JCDC director, then addressed council, stating that all his numbers are justified and that he feels that using JCDC would be an inadequate way of dealing with the jail overcrowding issue.

Custodian Jana Wessel then presented to council per request of the Commissioners bids for a new lawn mower. The lawn mower would be in addition to the mower that is now owned. Wessel had been using her personal lawn mower to keep up with the mowing tasks. Councilman Prange made the motion to proceed with the purchase of an additional mower and to be paid from the Cum Cap Development fund-Custodian appropriation. Councilman Wheeler seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

Council was reminded that the August 2014 meeting would be held on the 20th at 8:00 AM, with budget hearings to follow at 9:00 AM.

Councilman Prange made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Joe Bowman seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

Signed this 20th day of August, 2014.

Leon Pottschmidt – President

Joe Bowman

Brian Wheeler

Brian Thompson

Becky Schepman

Charlie Murphy

Greg Prange

Kathy Hohenstreiter - attest