MINUTES
JACKSON COUNTY COUNCIL
February 21, 2018
6:00 PM


Members Absent: All Present

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

Councilwoman Bridey Jacobi called the Regular meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Sheriff Carothers performed the swearing in of the Council.

Councilman John Nolting made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 regular meeting. Councilman Brian Thompson seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

Reports from Other Committees:
Councilman Hall stated that the Ambulance Board and Commissioners approved purchasing a new ambulance.
Today the Drug Court had its first graduate of the court.
Councilman Thompson provided Council with a Legislative Report.

New Business
Brian Meyer and Chris Mahl with Centerstone appeared before Council to discuss the 2018 Grant for the Re-Entry and Recovery Program. This program is completely funded by a Federal Grant and allows Centerstone to work with the incarcerated in state and local facilities in the six counties of Clark, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Scott and Washington. Meyer and Mahl stated that they met today with the Sheriff and toured the space at the Jail to see the space that could be used for therapy/class. Commissioners have given their support of the program.

Councilman Hall informed Council that the Jackson County Website has been updated. Plan Commissioner Conner Barnette has updated the site allowing it to be more user friendly.

Jackson County Clerk, Amanda Lowery then came before Council to discuss the 2018 Election budget. Lowery had asked for $23,650 in the Maintenance agreement line. However at budget time, $0 was placed in the Maintenance agreement line and $21,810 was placed in Cum Cap –Clerk Machine Repair. Lowery stated that the $23,650 is for licensing/updating/hardware of voting machines. Council advised Lowery to ask for an additional appropriation in March for the $23,650.

Sheriff Carothers presented the amended Sheriff Department Pension Agreement. This agreement will allow back dating until Jan 1, 2018. County Attorney Susan Bevers will review the agreement.
Councilman Jacobi then read Resolution #2, Council Bill #1. This is a resolution amending the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department retirement plan. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve. Councilman Nolting seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

The Auditor’s Office then presented the CarryOver list for 2017 to 2018 for Council review.

The Auditor’s Office also presented the Combined Statement of Cash & Investment 2017 for Council review.

Highway Superintendent Jerry Ault and Commissioner Bob Gillaspy then came before Council to discuss the bridge issue on County Road 1040 E in Jackson Township. Commissioners approved an ordinance on Feb 20, 2018 restricting traffic with the length of 53 ft. on this road. There have been multiple instances of guardrails on the bridge being damaged. After discussion, Councilman Hall made a motion to impose a $1,000 fine for the Violation of Ordinance #1, Commissioner Bill #2 2018. Councilwoman Ann Cain seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

Superintendent Ault then discussed the following with Council:
1. The Call for Projects applications for bridge 154 & bridge 197 were approved. These are 80/20 grants.
2. Hoosier National Forest is replacing two low water crossings in Maumee with bridges. Once complete, the county will need to take over and add to county inventory.
3. The Fair Board is interested in putting a portion of the Bell Ford Covered Bridge up at the Fairgrounds. Ault will look at what is left of the bridge to see if this is a feasible project.
5. The Paser Rating updating for 2018 has begun.
6. There will be no Chip and Sealing this year.
7. Truck bids were opened at the Feb 20, 2018 Commissioner Meeting. The bids came in below budget.

Sheriff Carothers presented the January 2018 Jail Report, Meal Expenditure Report and Dog Detention Report.

Sheriff Carothers stated that showers will need to be added to the Juvenile Detention Pods but has not received the quotes back for that work.

Juvenile Detention Center Director, Steve Redicker came before Council asking for direction as to employment opportunities for current Juvenile Detention Center Employees. Redicker stated that 1 employee has resigned, 3 have expressed interest of moving to the Highway Department, leaving 10 employees. Jail Commander Charlie Murphy stated that there are possibly 3 openings in the Jail. Sheriff Carothers stated that he possibly would need 4 employees for control and 3 as floaters. With this information, Councilman Thompson stated that it appears there are positions that will be available, but that Council cannot tell Department heads who to hire to fill those positions. Attorney Bevers informed
Council that the Commissioners approved an “emergency hire” at the Feb 20, 2018 meeting. This includes the 3 Detention Center employees moving to the Highway with a 6 month grace period to obtain the CDL that is required for the position.

Human Resource Director, Jeff Hubbard presented an amended Salary Ordinance of 2018. This amendment allows for a change from 15 to 17 Highway Equipment Operators, adding a class for the employees without CDL at the Highway Dept and made the change to the Surveyors 1st deputy, which was approved at the January Council meeting. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve. Councilman Hall seconded. Seven (7) yes votes, motion carried.

Council members discussed that an Executive meeting may need to be held before the next schedule Council meeting. No Executive meeting was called at this time.

Councilman Hall stated that a nominee is still needed for the Regional Sewer Board.

The Auditor’s Office then asked for direction on an Additional Appropriation. In 2017, and Additional was approved for $75,000 in the Rainy Day Fund to be appropriated for Courthouse Expansion Expense. This money cannot carry over and therefore, if Council wants this available in 2018, an additional will need to be made. After discussion, Council advised to advertise for an additional appropriation of $5,000 for Courthouse Expansion.

Council then advised the Auditor’s Office to advertise for the previously discussed Clerks additional from the Rainy Day Fund as well.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 6:00 PM.

Signed this 21st day of March, 2018.

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Brian Thompson                     Ann Cain
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Michael Davidson                  David Hall
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Leon Pottschmidt                   John Nolting
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Bridey Jacobi                     Kathy Hohenstreiter - attest