

Jennings County Council Meeting  
February 12, 2019 7:00 P.M.

All council members were present.

The meeting was opened with Howard Malcomb leading the pledge.

The first order of business was to approve the prior meeting minutes. Charlie Weber made a motion to approve. Paul Belding seconded. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Cathy Hale, manager of the Madison Railroad, came before the council to discuss the bridge over Graham Creek and the need for the county's support. The current bridge is said to be in critical condition. Industrial Rail Service Fund has been locked in to donate \$300,000.00 as well as the Madison Redevelopment Commission for \$300,000.00. Cathy is asking the council to sign a resolution of support as well as providing potential funding for the project. Hilex Poly and SET Enterprises are both customers of the Madison Railroad. Dave Cheatham also spoke on how having a rail for the county would be a strong economic tool. He states that the bridge is a necessity for the maintenance of the engines. The engine has to travel down that line to get to the Jefferson proving grounds to receive the needed maintenance. This would not possible without the bridge. Dave states that the federal government wants to see local support in order to receive the federal grant which could potentially count for 4 out of the 6 million dollars. After some discussion, Dave Woodall made a motion to support the resolution. Paul Belding seconded it. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote. As far as funding goes, the council made the decision to discuss this further.

Next, Aaron Bell with SEIRD, presented the 2018 annual report. The SEIRD is a seven county cooperative effort with eight recycle centers throughout. Overall recycling exceeded 8 million pounds last year. He feels the county has made great strides and recycling numbers have increased overall in all categories. He stated that illegal dumping is still an issue in Jennings County, as well as nationwide. SEIRD is currently looking into a recycle right initiative, local shredding opportunities, and amnesty opportunities for 2019.

Josh Yeager came before the council to ask for financial support with his Farm On Trade School. The amount presented was \$42,000. The council

members were in support of the trade school, but felt they needed more questions answered. ~~Josh agreed to find the information needed and forward it to the council.~~

Nicci Lucas, HR, came before the council with the request for a salary increase for the Soil and Water Conservation District employees. Andy Ertel is the department head for Soil & Water. His current salary is \$33,817. Nicci's request was to raise Andy's salary to \$40,210. Kelly Kent is in a first deputy position with a salary of \$31,486. Nicci requested to raise it to \$34,436. Charlie Weber made a motion to approve the salary increase for Andy Ertel. Dave Woodall seconded it. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Lucas's next order of business was for the council to approve hiring a maintenance assistant for Greg Wilds. The salary for this position would be \$32,000 with a 7 hour work day. She stated that Greg has saved the county a lot of money over the years and deserves the assistant. Charlie Weber made a motion to approve. Mike Gerth seconded the motion. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Lastly, Mrs. Lucas brought forth the salary adjustments for the Sheriff's office. The request to transfer appropriations were: \$2,250 to office staff (3 people @ \$750.00 each) and \$2,000 to Aaron Green (new detective). A request to transfer the balance of \$19,647 to deputies (16 at \$1,227.94 each). Mike Gerth made a motion to approve. Dave Woodall seconded. The vote was approved 6 to 1. Charlie Weber was the opposing vote.

Next, Treasurer Kitty Shepherd, came before the council requesting a vote on the purchase of Low Software. Charlie Weber made a motion to approve the purchase. Bob Ellis seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Auditor Tessia Salsman requested that the council members appoint someone for the PTABOA Board (Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals). State statute requires a Level 2 Assessor/Appraiser. However, statute also allows you to waive this requirement, but recommends the person have knowledge in valuing real estate. This position will be paid by the meeting and payment will come out of the reassessment fund. The council agreed they would research this more.

Next, Tessia requested that the council make a decision on how to proceed with the Sheriff's Buyout Program. Kevin Hall, the retiree, had requested that the county recalculate his retirement benefits. Mr. Hall's wife spoke on his behalf. After much discussion, the council agreed to table any decision until more information was provided. Charlie Weber then made a motion to

suspend the current policy effective February 11 until it has been corrected.  
~~Mike Gerth seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.~~

The Annual Earnings Report and the Cash & Investment Report were presented to the council. Mike Gerth made a motion to approve. Charlie Weber seconded. Motion was passed with a 6 to 1 vote. Dave Woodall opposed.

Encumbrances for 2018 to 2019 were presented to the council. Mike Gerth made a motion to approve. Mandy Creech seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Court Security Payroll was discussed. Dave Woodall made a motion to have the court security payroll come out of the Sheriff's budget under LIT. Charlie Weber seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

This will leave the court security fund with a deficit of \$106,628.30. Charlie Weber made a motion to pull from public safety to pay the deficit. Dave Woodall seconded it. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

A past due invoice in an estimated sum of \$16,000 of the Clerk's office was discussed. The council tabled any decisions until further information was provided.

Dave Woodall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Belding seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.



Tessia Salsman, Auditor



Howard Malcomb, President



Dave Woodall, Vice-President

*Paul Belding*

Paul Belding

*Charlie Weber*

Charlie Weber

*Mike Gerth*

Mike Gerth

*Mandy Creech*

Mandy Creech

*Bob Ellis*

Bob Ellis