

Jennings County Council Meeting
May 14, 2019 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was opened with Howard Malcomb leading the pledge.

All members were present.

Charlie Weber made a motion to sign and approve prior minutes. Paul Belding seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

First on the agenda was Judge Webster with a request to bring PERF (Public Employees Retirement Fund) to Jennings Government employees. Many department heads were in attendance to show their support of this. Jennings County is one of six counties that do not offer PERF. Judge Webster requested that some research be done to figure out what PERF would cost the county. Reuben Cummings, the county's financial advisor, has agreed to research this request. Charlie Weber made a motion for the county to proceed with the next step to research implementing PERF. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Jude Webster's next order of business concerned a letter supporting a magistrate for Jennings County. Senator Perfect has agreed to sponsor a bill in the next session to get a magistrate for Jennings County to help with the case load for Circuit and Superior Court. The Senator wants assurance from the Council and Commissioners that they are in support. The Magistrate's salary would be paid for by the State. If legislation passes the possible start date for the magistrate would be July 1, 2020. One clerical person would need to be hired to assist the Magistrate and that salary would need to be paid for by the county. Requirements for a magistrate are to be a licensed attorney and to be in good standing with the State. Judge Webster requested a written letter of support to send to Senator Perfect. Mike Gerth made a motion to sign the letter of support. Charlie Weber seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Next on the agenda was Treasurer Kitty Shepherd. Treasurer Shepherd came before the council with a request to pay out comp and vacation time to her previous employee from last year. Treasurer Shepherd had recommended her employee speak to HR, where she was told she wasn't entitled because she was Chief Deputy. After County Attorney

Ellie Bright performed some research, she found that the employee handbook stated non-exempt employees do receive comp time. Upon hearing this information, the Commissioners approved the payout and recommended taking the matter to the council for funding. Treasurer Shepherd requested funding from the council in order to pay this employee out. Treasurer Shepherd had over \$3,000 left in her budget from last year that she gave back to the county. Had she known she was able to pay this employee out, she would've done so in 2018. Treasurer Shepherd does not currently have the money budgeted to pay the employee out. With the council feeling like not enough information was provided, Mandy Creech made a motion to table the request. Charlie Weber seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Next, Jim Reeves brought forward a request to create a new full time position at the Highway Department. Jim stated this position will be reflected in his budget for the 2020 year. Currently Jim requested to move money from his part time line to fund this full time position. Bob Ellis made a motion to allow Jim to hire a new full time employee and transfer the funds. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

At this point, Dave Woodall excused himself from the meeting.

Jim Reeves then brought forth the bids on the ADA work mandated by the State. Jim stated that if the work is not completed, the county will start losing grants. The Council agreed that a yearly plan needs to be incorporated moving forward, possibly create a budget for ADA. A motion was made by Charlie Weber to pull the funds from Public Safety contingent upon State Board of Accounts approval, if not approved, pull the funds from EDIT. Mike Gerth seconded. Dave Woodall abstained. Motion was passed with a 6 yes, 1 abstain vote.

Next Auditor Salsman came before the Council with a Resolution for short term loan request from LIT Special Tax Fund 1114 to General Fund 1000 in the amount of \$700,000. The short term loan shall be repaid by December 31, 2019. Charlie Weber made a motion to approve the resolution. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Auditor Salsman then brought up the TIF Bond Debt Service Payment and GO Bond Debt Service Payment on the Financial vs. Funds Ledger Monthly Comparison. Both funds are in the red currently and according to State Board of Accounts, funds cannot be in the red. Auditor Salsman requested a loan of up to \$200,000 to cover the payments on both bond payments if needed. Mike Gerth made a motion to approve a loan up to \$200,000 from the Rainy Day Fund to the General Fund to be paid back in full. Bob Ellis seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Next Auditor Salsman presented the Council with a transfer request from the Sheriff's Office. The request was to transfer \$3,286.90 from Part-time cook line to Overtime, \$9668.94 from Jailer line to Overtime line, \$894.76 from Jailer line and \$247.54 from Corporal Line to a different Corporal Line. Dave Woodall made a motion to approve the transfer. Charlie Weber seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Auditor Salsman then brought the amended salary ordinance in front of the Council. This Salary Ordinance has been update with all of the prior approved changes. Auditor Salsman presented the Council with two different options, each employee excluding elected officials are listed as salary or x amount of hours/52 weeks. Charlie Weber made a motion to approve the salary ordinance with prior changes and in original format with employees marked as salary. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

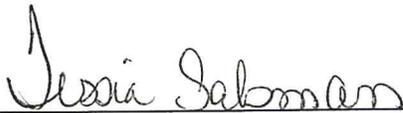
Next Auditor Salsman brought forth Additional Appropriations. The amounts requested; \$7,000 for Level 2 & 3 Certifications for Assessor's Office; \$2,449 for a bill for the Clerk's Office. The county's financial consultant, Reuben Cummings, County Council, and Randall Shepherd had a brief discussion on where the salaries for Level 2 & 3 Certifications need to come from. A motion was made to table the appropriation for the Assessor's Certification Salaries by Mike Gerth. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote. After much discussion the only approved additional appropriation was for the Clerk's Office in the amount of \$2,449 from the General Fund. A motion was made by Mike Gerth to approve the appropriation for the Clerk. Mandy Creech seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

After a very lengthy discussion about the Salary Ordinance and the Assessor's Certification Salaries, Charlie Weber made a motion to rescind the approval of the Salary Ordinance that was signed. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

Next on the agenda was a vehicle purchase for the Veteran's Office. The purchase was approved by the Commissioners in the amount of \$15,500. Dave Woodall made a motion to approve the \$15,500 for the vehicle to come out of the General Fund. Mandy Creech seconded. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

A discussion on when to schedule budget meetings was next. Dave Woodall suggested breaking it down into three days. Auditor Salsman stated there is one scheduled for August 13. After much discussion between the Council members a meeting was scheduled for August 6 at 8:30am.

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



Tessia Salsman, Auditor



Howard Malcomb, President



Dave Woodall, Vice-President



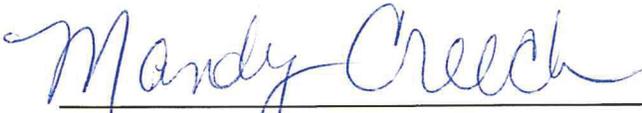
Paul Belding



Charlie Weber



Mike Gerth



Mandy Creech



Bob Ellis