

June 14, 2024

Newton County Council met for their regular scheduled meeting at the Newton County Government Center in Morocco, IN. Those in attendance included Scott Carlson, David Atkinson, Matthew Gibson, Robert Churchill, Mick Vanderwall, Michael Mark, and Tom VanVleet. Also present were Auditor Tami James and Council Attorney Linda Harris.

Scott Carlson called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag.

Board Reports

HR

Tom VanVleet discussed they are in the process of implementing hiring and interview training for Department Heads. They hope to complete by 6/24. They also have action items on hold because they still have not gotten the County Handbook finished. The County Handbook needs reviewed and voted on.

Michael Mark made a motion to approve from the County Council's perspective the 2024 County Handbook, second by Matthew Gibson.

There was discussion on this and Attorney Harris has reviewed proposed changes.

All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

Community Services

David Atkinson said they have discussed current inmate population, success rates, and probation. The female population is up in the jail. The jail is full and they have no capacity for work release.

David also had a meeting with the Jasper County Plan Commission. They had a discussion on renewable energy. David also attended the DLGF meeting in Jasper County on Tax abatements. Auditor James has explained that we no longer have any tax abatements in our county.

RSWCO

At this meeting they discussed the Roselawn Sewer Project. They are also talking to Jasper County to try to do things together and working with them.

George Ade

Krissy Wright came to Council to discuss the George Ade Historical Preservation Commission. Matthew Gibson said he met with Krissy and the George Ade Board. The project was started in 2019. They have received a lot of private donations. They would like to turn the Carriage House into a rental unit for events. They are projected to start presenting the project to Council August to September. Krissy would like to know what Council needs to make a decision for funding. She would like to know how they should proceed. The rough number from the engineer right now is \$3.4 million dollars. This is for everything. Matthew Gibson is wondering if there are some projects that maybe our county employees can do. For example, the paving of the parking lot. Local help has not been considered into that number. There was discussion about the bees. Councilman Michael Mark feels that there are other projects that need done first, like the Mount Ayr water issue. The county previously gave them \$250,000.00 for engineering plans. Council would like to see the broken down into 3 phases.

There was a lengthy discussion on this project.

Council agree when she comes back, they would like to see the project presented in 3 phases and the cost of each of those phases.

Additional and Transfers

Prosecutor

Additional

\$5,000.00

1182.31300

\$1,000.00

2400.35900

Becky Goddard explained this is because they've been to classes and to training. They have also covered expenses for the Sheriff.

Matthew Gibson made a motion to approve both Prosecutor Additional Requests, second by Tom VanVleet.

Michael Mark had a discussion on funding.

All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

David Atkinson then asked Becky Goddard about Community Corrections payroll. There was discussion about this.

EMS

Additional

\$10,000.00

1151.30900

Jeremy Kalizae explained this is for the new billing software. This had previously been discussed with Council. Michael Mark inquired how their fund is looking as far as budgeted and expended.

Michael Mark made a motion to approve EMS Additional Request, second by Robert Churchill. All in favor,

Transfer
 \$10,000.00
 1151.13600
 1151.35900
 \$3500.00
 1151.11314
 1151.11105
 \$4,000.00
 1151.11313
 1151.11105

Jeremy discussed why the transfers were needed.

Michael Mark made a motion to approve the 3 Transfer Requests for Ambulance, second by Matthew Gibson. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

Highway

Additional
 \$22,000.00
 1176.11302.530
 \$2,000.00
 1176.15700.530
 \$1,650.00
 1176.15800.530

Sharon Domonkos discussed with Council why she feels she needs a full-time admin position in her office.

Matthew Gibson made a motion to approve the Additional Request for the full-time admin position, second by David Atkinson.

There was additional discussion on office staffing.

Motion passed 6-1, with Michael Mark voting nay.

Michael Mark made a motion to reduce the part-time clerical line item 17801 of the Highway Budget, which effective immediately, would leave a remaining balance of \$12,042.47, second by Robert Churchill. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

Matthew Gibson made a motion to approve the 2 Additional Requests 1176.15700 and 1176.15800, second by Tom VanVleet. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

\$300,000.00
 1176.30900.530

OR

4905.30900.530

Sharon Domonkos informed Council this money is for 2 culverts that need fixing. They need to be done this year.

There was continued discussion on this and funding.

\$200,000.00
 4905.30900.530

Matthew Gibson made a motion to approve both Highway Additional Requests from Landfill, second by David Atkinson.

There was discussion if the roads will have to be closed if they are not fixed.

Motion passed 6-1, with Michael Mark voting nay.

Tom VanVleet made a motion to deny the Additional Request 1176.30900.530, second by David Atkinson. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

Matthew Gibson left the meeting at 9:45 am

There was discussion on the job description and salary amendment.

Michael Mark made a motion to approve the Salary Amendment based on the \$19.831 with 3% continued service (\$20.426), second by David Atkinson. All in favor, motion passed 6-0.

Commissioners

Additional
 \$315.00
 1000.35300.161
 \$200.00
 4903.30900
 \$35,000.00
 4905.30900.068
 \$2,000.00
 4905.4500.106

There was discussion about what each request was for. There was discussion about recycling.

Tom VanVleet made a motion to approve all Additional Requests for Commissioners as presented, second by David Atkinson.

There was more discussion about recycling.

Motion passed 5-1, with Michael Mark voting nay.

Maintenance

Additional

\$150,000.00

1138.33501

Transfer

\$6,000.00

1000.13903.312

1000.13904.312

This transfer is to pay out a retiring employee's PTO time.

Michael Mark made a motion to approve the Transfer Request from Maintenance for the employee's payout, second by Mick Vanderwall. All in favor, motion passed 6-0.

The Additional Request is for a jail project for the speaker system. The money was appropriated last year but not spent.

Michael Mark made a motion to approve the \$150,000.00 for the project from last year, second by Tom VanVleet. All in favor, motion passed 6-0.

ARPA

Additional

\$2,716,228.00

8142.45300

Auditor James is on the ARPA Board. She made the decision to step out as the Auditor and have First Deputy Stacey McQueen fill in for her while Council made their decision on this Additional.

Matt VanDrunen explained to Council how the Board agreed to spend this money. There was discussion and questions and answers. Each Volunteer Fire Department will receive \$20,000.00. The State of Indiana has loosened up what the money can be spent on.

\$500,000.00 is being used on the CAD System for E911. There was conversation on past money being appropriated for this but not having been spent.

\$2,000,000.00 is for the new Emergency Building at the Enos site. There was discussion on the new Emergency Building.

Michael Mark made a motion to approve the \$2,000,000.00 turnkey facility and the remaining of the CAD System, the \$20,000.00 to each Fire Department, \$46,082.00 to the Sheriff for tasers, \$20,000.00 to Sheriff Reserves, the EMS Gear for \$20,000.00, and the Federal Audit \$10,146.00, second by Tom VanVleet.

There was more discussion on this money.

Motion passed 4-2, with Scott Carlson and Michael Mark voting nay.

*****Recess from 10:30 – 10:40*****

Economic Development

Tim Myers has been asked by Council what we're doing for businesses in our county. They would also like to see what businesses Economic Development has brought into our county.

GT Sports

Tim read a report he received from Baker Tilly. There was discussion about Phase 1 and where the funding is coming from. They have qualified for a USDA Loan.

Surf Internet

91% of the project has been constructed. 71% of that 91% is live. There was a press release 5/29. In McClellan Twp, out of 87 addresses, only 8 are not served. July 17, 2024 they are setting up for a Ribbon Cutting. It may be in Lake Twp and Tim would like as many elected officials as possible to attend.

RWSD

Roselawn Sewer Project

Randy Decker, Cole Bassett, and Chris Janak came to update Council with the Roselawn Sewer Project. \$1 million grant can't go to bid without easements. There are 40 easements. The majority of offer sheets have been sent out. They are working on counter offers now. They have 30 days to respond to the offer letter. The courts can decide to condemn easements. This project is still supposed to go to bid by fall. Auditor James asked about easement ownership. We would be splitting off each easement from the property.

There was discussion about easement.

There was discussion about costs.

Michael Mark asked what we are doing for Mount Ayr. It would be \$11 million for water and sewer. This would be an extension from the Landfill. The Board says that they told Mount Ayr there's nothing they can do for them for \$11 million.

There was discussion on the ~~H4~~^{H4} corridor. Talks are speeding up. Also, there were talks of Newton and Jasper helping each other out.
Auditor James asked about budgeting the \$9 million. Council responded that she should put it in for next year's budget.

Audience

Howard Marshall expressed that he appreciates Council looking into the water/sewer issues. The town is looking more into getting water right now.
There was discussion on what can be done for them.

Commissioners

ORV Ordinance

Commissioner Rossiter brought to Council that she has been working on a proposed ORV Ordinance for side by sides. This is going to be a new revenue for Newton County. It will not include golf carts.
There was discussion on this.

Meeting Recording

David Atkinson inquired of Abbey Rossiter if Commissioners had decided how to broadcast meetings when it's required. IT is working on it.

Insurance Board

Michael Mark made a motion to appoint Mick Vanderwall, Robert Churchill, and Tom VanVleet to the newly created Insurance Board, second by David Atkinson.

There was discussion on this Board.
All in favor, motion passed 6-0.

Budget Workshop

Auditor James would like to do Budget Workshops Monday 8/19-Thursday 8/22. Scott Carlson will not be here for these dates. There was discussion on dates that will work for everyone. They all agreed that Monday 8/26 – Thursday 8/29 is when Budget Workshops will be.

Michael Mark made a motion to have Budget Hearings starting 8/26-8/29, amended to be 8/27-8/30 at 8:30 am second by Mick Vanderwall. All in favor, motion passed 6-0.

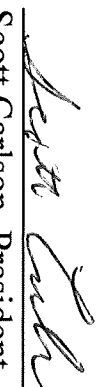
Landfill Report

David had a discussion that we are trending well. We are on projection to stay where we were last year.

Auditor

Auditor James reminded that Annual Conference for Council is 6/21. Michael needs signed up. There was discussion on this conference.

Mick Vanderwall made a motion to adjourn, second by Rob Churchill. All in favor, motion passed 6-0.



Scott Carlson, President



David Atkinson, Vice President



Tom VanVleet

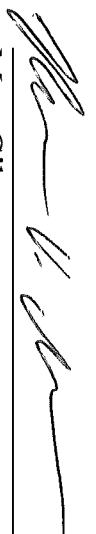
Michael Mark



Robert Churchill

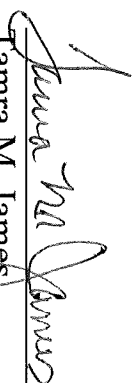


Mick Vanderwall



Matt Gibson

Attest:



Tamra M. James
Newton County Auditor

ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS

SECTION 1: BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Newton County, Indiana for the expenses of the County Government and its institutions that the following sums of money are hereby ordered transferred from the appropriations as originally set out for the year 2023 to the appropriations specified therein, subject to the laws governing same.

SECTION 2: THAT for said fiscal period there is hereby appropriated in the following specified amounts:

Table with columns: FROM, TO, FUND, DEPARTMENT, REQUESTED, ALLOWED, SCOTT CARLSON, DAVID ATKINSON, ROB CHURCHILL, MATT GIBSON, MICHAEL MARK, MICK VANDERWALL, TOM VANFLEET. Includes rows for Maintenance, Education, and EMS Deputy Director.

Adopted June 14, 2024

AYE

Signature of Scott Carlson

Signature of David Atkinson

Signature of Robert Churchill

Signature of Matthew Gibson

Signature of Michael Mark

Signature of Michael Vanderwall

Signature of Thomas VanVleet

NAY

Signature of Scott Carlson

Signature of David Atkinson

Signature of Robert Churchill

Signature of Matthew Gibson

Signature of Michael Mark

Signature of Michael Vanderwall

Signature of Thomas VanVleet

Budget for 2024

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more than was appropriated in the annual budget; SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED by the Newton County Council, Newton County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

Table with columns: NAME OF FUND, DEPARTMENT, APPROPRIATION, AMOUNT REQUESTED, AMOUNT ALLOWED, SCOTT CARLSON, DAVID ATKINSON, ROB CHURCHILL, MATT GIBSON, MICHAEL MARK, MICK VANDERWALL, TOM VANFLEET. Includes rows for Pest Control, Building Repairs, Contractual Services, and Capital Outlay.

Adopted June 14, 2024

AYE

Signatures of Scott Carlson, David Atkinson, Robert Churchill, Matthew Gibson, Michael Mark, Michael Vanderwall, Thomas VanVleet.

Signature of David Atkinson

Signature of Robert Churchill

Signature of Matthew Gibson

Signature of Michael Mark

Signature of Michael Vanderwall

Signature of Thomas VanVleet

NAY

Signatures of Scott Carlson, David Atkinson, Robert Churchill, Matthew Gibson, Michael Mark, Michael Vanderwall, Thomas VanVleet.

Signature of David Atkinson

Signature of Robert Churchill

Signature of Matthew Gibson

Signature of Michael Mark

Signature of Michael Vanderwall

Signature of Thomas VanVleet

8142.45300.0000.0000

Line Items (8) Voted Nay

Handwritten note: * 8142.45300.0000.0000




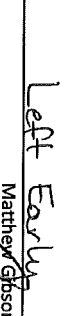



**AMENDMENT
TO SALARY ORDINANCE FOR
2024
ADOPTED BY THE NEWTON COUNTY COUNCIL ON
June 14, 2024**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE Newton County Council that the Ordinance fixing Salaries for Newton County Employees, which was adopted, is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAME OF FUND	DEPARTMENT	Appropriation		APPROVED OR DENIED	SCOTT CARLSON	DAVID ATKINSON	ROB CHURCHILL	MATT GIBSON	MICHAEL MARK	MICK VANDERWALL	TOM VANVLEET
1176 Highway	530 Administration	1192 Admin Assistant	\$ 19,831 Per Hour $19,831 \times 376 = 20,426$	20,426		2ND		LEFT EARLY	M		

Effective date: 06/14/2024

AYE

 Scott Carlson
 David Atkinson
 Robert Churchill
 Left Early 9:45am
 Matthew Gibson
 Michael Mark
 Michael Vanderwall
 Thomas VanVleet

NAY

 Scott Carlson
 David Atkinson
 Robert Churchill
 Matthew Gibson
 Michael Mark
 Michael Vanderwall
 Thomas VanVleet