

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY June 6, 2022
1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT:

Bernie Lawson
Jerry Jansen
Denise Lemmon
George Bennett
Tom Janes

ABSENT:

Mary Wysong
Doug Harp

ALSO, PRESENT:

Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Richard Rogers, Highway
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

Denise Lemmon, Council President, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

B Paul Consulting LLC - IDEM Air Permit

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from George Bennett. Jerry Jansen seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

KENDALLVILLE LIBRARY APPOINTMENTS

A letter was received from Mindy Patterson, Director of the Kendallville Library, requesting appointment to the board. Both Samuel Zollman and Debbie Blaine are current members of the board and wish to continue their membership. Jerry Jansen moved to reappoint Sam Zollman to the board. Bernie Lawson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Debbie Blaine was also reappointed with a motion from Tom Janes. George Bennett seconded and that motion carried 5-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, had the following construction update

- The flooding on 100 N just east of State Road 9 continues to be an issue. This is not a regulated drain therefore it requires cooperation with the private residents to make the necessary improvements.
- Ditching and berming work continues
- Roadside Mowing began last Friday
- Culvert work continues in various areas
- Dust control on gravel road will start later this week

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering business to share with the Council

- Zack wanted to give the council members a "heads up" concerning fuel budgets this year. He said that more than likely there will be a need for additional fuel budgets yet this and next year he is recommending to department heads that they double their fuel budgets based on the cost of gas at this time.
- Community Crossing grant applications will be accepted beginning July 1
- Zack presented the council with a copy of the Road Evaluation Report for 2022. He briefly summarized the report for the council members. This was developed from the data received from the road ratings done by Richard and the drivers in the areas.
- Due to funding, some of the chip seal projects will shift to 2024.
- LPA Projects – Zack has 11 different projects going at this time and all are on schedule.

ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following update for the new annex building

- Most of furniture in the first round has been received and installed.
- The second round of furniture for the prosecutor and public defender should be arriving in July.
- IT will be moving into the building today with dispatch to follow tomorrow
- Signage will be coming for the office areas as well as the plaques for the veterans.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Norm Lortie, Building Inspector, is present to request that his current part-time inspector to go full time. He presented 3 years of data and indicated that building inspections are up considerably. He also cited the solar fields coming to the area would be time consuming. Norm felt that putting Mike to full time would free up time for him to be more efficient in other areas such as unsafe housing, addressing and flood plain management. If he is allowed to make this change yet this year, Norm is thinking that there may be enough money in his budget to transfer to partially pay for the salary. The council is recommending that since the job description that was in place for the part time inspector does not need changed, that this goes before the salary committee for review of wages. Jerry Jansen moved to proceed with the salary committee review and then make a final decision in July. George Bennett seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

PROBATION

Stacey Beam and Danyel Wagner are present to discuss salaries for their case managers and instructors. They indicated that in some cases the case managers and instructors are making less than the support staff and they feel that because they are in some cases educated and working with the offenders that this needs to be corrected. The council will need new job descriptions for these positions to be re-factored then the salary committee will review the salary.

SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for the following department update:

- CCD Claims – The sheriff had CCD Claims in the amount of \$1,327.19 which were approved for payment from the CCD fund with a motion from George Bennet. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.
- Max reported that the jail was housing 203 inmates today with 38 of them being DOC.
- Max also discussed the cost of everything at the jail, food, fuel for the vehicles as well as bed mats have almost doubled. He just wanted the council to expect additional this year to get through the year with the cost of these things doubling or almost tripling in some cases.
- Max has eliminated off duty use of the sheriff's cars. He is allowing use if they buy their own gas and is encouraging stationary duties.

ADDITIONALS

Superior Court II is requesting an additional for 1000-31202-039 Physicians in the amount of \$1,350.00. Motion to approve the additional came from Jerry Janson and was seconded by Bernie Lawson. Motion carried 5-0.

TRANSFER

Statewide 911 is requesting that \$5,270.00 be transferred from 1222-32400-345 Communication Services to 1222-44100-345 Furniture and Equipment. Motion to approve this transfer came from Tom Janes and was seconded by George Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.

SALARY INCREASES

Jackie is requesting that the council give direction to the department heads concerning raises for 2023. She provided the projected "social security cost of living figures" for their information. After some discussion, George Bennett made a motion to consider 4.5% the cost-of-living increase for 2023. This will be discussed at budget time. Bernie Lawson seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

BUDGET HEARINGS

Also discuss was a time for budget hearings for 2023, The dates of August 15, 16, and 17 were set as dates to meet with all department heads.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:16 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Tuesday July 5, 2022

Dated this 5 day of July, 2022

Bernie Lawson
Bernie Lawson

Jerry Jansen
Jerry Jansen

Mary Wysong
Mary Wysong

ABSENT
Denise Lemmon

Tom Janes
Tom Janes

George Bennett
George Bennett

ABSTAIN - Not Present
Doug Harp

ATTEST: Tonya L. Jones
Tonya L Jones, Noble County Auditor