

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday December 2, 2024 1:00 PM
NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

George Bennett
Tom Janes
Max Franklin
Doug Harp
Mary Wysong
Brandon Chordas
Trey Forbes

ALSO PRESENT:

Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media

President George Bennett brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 PM

CORRESPONDENCE

Jackie Knafel County Coordinator, had received information concerning a November 15, 2024 federal court decision about the salary threshold for exempt employees being set at \$58,656 annually as of January 1 2025. The Federal court reversed that decision, however in the correspondence that was received indicated that this could a possibility of reversal again so the option to stay where you are might be the best course of action. The council members were in agreement with leaving the 5-7 employee at the budgeted amounts for 2025.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carries 7-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Trey Forbes spoke on behalf of the salary committee in recommending that the salary for the new position of Jail Release Coordinator be set between the \$51,823 and the \$54,932.00 range for 2025. Doug Harp moved to accept the committee's recommendation. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 7-0.
- Max Franklin reported on a meeting of the Northeastern Center. Max told the group that the CEO of Northeastern Center had been questioned by the commissioners about reporting and that he was going to take care of this issue.
- Doug Harp reported on his meeting with Region 3-A. He told the group that the board had a presentation on community grants and he would be happy to share the presentation with anyone who might be interested.

ATTORNEY CONTRACT

Dennis Graft, Current County Attorney, has prepared a contract extension of two years for the Council. Motion to sign the attorney's 2-year contract came from Doug Harp. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to provide a highway department update:

- HMA 01 – Zack is reporting that the asphalt project is closed out for the year

- CN -01 – This is not complete at this time and Pulver's who were awarded the project may get started yet this year – weather permitting
- Bridge on 150 E – this is a project that will be paid from CEDIT money. Zack is reporting that Utility relocation will be the biggest obstacle for this project.
- Call for projects - Zack has submitted two bridge projects for 2025 consideration. As far as next year, Zack is making plans to do a project on 600 W from State Road 6 to CR 900 N. This area is showing a lot more Amish traffic and is becoming a safety concern.
- Zack provided pictures of the Bridge 136 project and Bridge 44 projects -both have now been completed.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

With the courthouse nearing completion, Zack reported noticeable improvements with the 3rd floor having carpet installed and finishing touches being done. Zack told the group that the February 1 completion date is on track and he reported on the sub- contractor on site.

Financially everyone is on track with his only concern being the installation of the elevator.

Zack would like to schedule a walk-through for the council sometime after the first of the year.

An open house will be planned with the date to be determined closer to the completion date.

ADDITIONAL

The Sheriff's department has requested an additional for part time overtime 1000-13700-007 in the amount of \$5,000.00 and for Holiday pay 1000-13703-007 in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Mary Wysong moved to approve the additional. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Max reported a population of around 200 at the jail today with 35 of that being federal inmates.

PROSECUTOR

Jim Mowery, Noble County Prosecutor, is coming to the council concerning a camera system for Noble County. This is the flock system that is used in many states and once information is entered in to a system with license information or even just a description of a vehicle, these cameras will be able to pick up locations throughout the states with these tracking cameras.

This is a 5-year contract at a cost of \$63,000.00 a year. Jim has already discussed this with the commissioners and wanted to bring the council up to date as an additional will need to be done for the Public Safety fund to pay this 1-year contract. Brandon Chordas moved to proceed with the additional request for this camera project. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

ADDITIONALS

- Highway department is requesting additional for the Local Roads and Streets 1169-77414-202 Equipment Crew in the amount of \$125,000.00 and for MVH Restricted 1173-36000-116 Chip and Seal in the amount of \$115,000.00. Motion to approve both of these additional came from Mary Wysong. Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 7-0.
- STATEWIDE 911 – Shellie Coney, 911 Director, is requesting \$12,000.00 for here part time overtime line 1222-13700-345. This is approved with a motion from Max Franklin and a second from Doug Harp. Motion carried 7-0
- And lastly, the public defender is requesting an additional for 1000-17217-040 Asst Public Defender in the amount of \$18,888.75 which is approved with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Mary Wysong. Motion carried 7-0.

TRANSFERS

The following transfers were approved by the Noble County Council:

- Clerk Decrease deputy 1000-11104-001 \$10,000.00
 Increase part time overtime 1000-13700-001 \$10,000.00

Motion to approve came from Mary Wysong. Tom Janes seconded and the motion

Carried 7-0.

- Coroner- Decrease deputy 1000-11102-009 \$400.00
Increase Education & Training 1000-13301-009 \$400.00

Motion to approve was done by Doug Harp. Max Franklin seconded and the motion Carried 7-0.

- Prosecutor Decrease Deputy Prosecutor 1000-12200-010 \$9,730.00
Increase Legal Secretary 1000-12404-010 \$5.00
Increase Deputy Prosecutor 1000-12203-010 \$6,150.00
Increase Investigator 1000-12700-010 \$3,575.00

This was approved with a motion from Tom Janes. Mary Wysong seconded. Motion Carried 7-0.

- Plan Commission Decrease code enforcement officer 1000-11233-027 \$716.29
Increase Admin Asst 1000-12400-027 \$716.29

This was approved with a motion from Max Franklin. Doug Harp seconded and the Motion carried 7-0.

- Superior Court I Decrease printing 1000-33100-038 \$2,000.00
Increase Pauper Transcripts 1000-14704-038 \$2,000.00

Mary Wysong moved to approve. Trey Forbes seconded. Motion carried 7-0

Decrease Guardian ad Litem 1000-14712-038 \$700.00

Increase Special appts 1000-14703-038 \$700.00

Tom Janes moved to approve this transfer. Brandon Chordas seconded.

Motion carried 7-0.

- Public Safety Decrease dispatchers 1170-11270-362 \$1,000.00
Increase Police Pension 1170-18101-362 \$1,000.00

This was approved with a motion from Tom Janes. Mary Wysong seconded.

Motion carried 5-0 with Doug Harp and Brandon Chordas abstaining due to being on police pension.

- Building Department Decrease Asst Building Inspector 1000-11241-028 \$5,380.00
Increase Building Inspector 1000-11240-028 \$5,380.00

Motion to approve came from Doug Harp. Max Franklin seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

- Highway Decrease 1176-19810-104 mechanics \$2,379.97
Increase 1176-19811-104 Asst Shop Supervisor \$2,379.97

Decrease 1176-19650-102 Sign Tech \$6,900.00

Increase 1176-19680-102 ROW Tech \$6,900.00

Both transfers were approved with a motion from Mary Wysong. Trey Forbes seconded.

Motion carried 7-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Melayna Gingerich, HFI coordinator, was present to update the council on the Health 1st Indiana funding:

- St. Martins Healthcare – a mobile unit who currently comes to the Ligonier area was awarded \$75,000.00 for 3 healthcare initiatives. They are currently trying to set up another location in Noble County.
- Cole Center YMCA - sponsored 50% off swim lessons for 100 participants.
- Noble County Public schools as well as Oak Farm and Islamic Academy provided supplies as needed
- Melayna talked in depth about the safe sitter class that is being taught at West Noble. This is a very good class and she is hoping that other schools will begin to participate as well.

AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE

There were 3 changes to the salary ordinance

- Asst school liaison / translator \$23.00
- Deputy prosecutor \$3,269.23
- Asst public defenders (2) \$2,304.88

Mary Wysong moved to approve the amendment to the ordinance. Tom Janes seconded.
Motion carried 7-0.

2025 Salary Ordinance

The 2025 salary ordinance was reviewed by the council and approved with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Max Franklin. Motion carried 7-0.

THANK YOU TO GEORGE

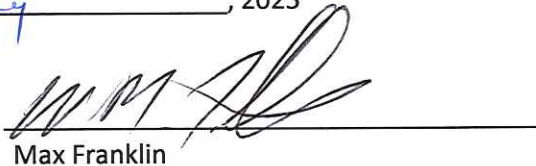
Many of the council members spoke about George and his contribution to the council. Everyone thanked him for his service to the county and presented him with a gift certificate to the Black Canyon restaurant in Fort Wayne. George thanked everyone and spoke of his enjoyment in serving the county in this capacity. Several office holders stopped by to wish George well at a small reception held after the meeting adjourned

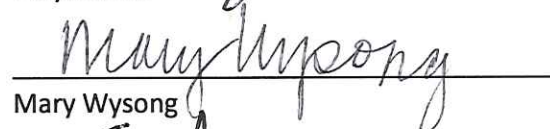
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being January 6, 2025

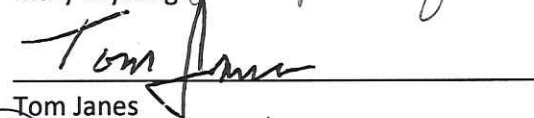
Dated this 6 day of January, 2025


Trey Forbes


Max Franklin


Mary Wysong


Brandon Chordas


Tom Janes


Casey Myers


Doug Harp

ATTEST: 
Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor