MINUTES
JACKSON COUNTY COUNCIL
September 18, 2024
8:00 AM

Members Present: Councilman Brady Riley, Councilman Jake Brown, Councilwoman Amanda Lowery, Councilman Ryan Brett Turner, Councilman John Nolting, Councilman Michael Davidson
The Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Councilman Riley called the Regular meeting to order at 8:00AM.
Sheriff Rick Meyer performed the swearing in of the Council.
Councilwomen Lowery made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024, regular meeting. Councilman Turner seconded. Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Reports from Other Committees:

Councilmen Nolting attended the Plan Commission meeting last night and they passed on to the Commissioners that some alleys and streets closed be vacated out in Dudleytown. Also, in Vernon Township they are going to have a public hearing at their next meeting to change some ground from agriculture to central business. A company wants to construct an outdoor advertising sign there.

Amended Agenda adding:

- ARPA funds

Councilman Turner made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion regarding the local Volunteer fire departments and allocating ARPA funds to each of the 10 departments. Councilman Davidson seconded. Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing -1st reading of 2025 Budget for Jackson County and Binding Units. We consulted with Reedy Financial Group regarding the budget and Branden Robbins was present and available to answer any questions that arose.

Councilman Riley performed the 1st reading of Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates by title only. 2025 Budget is as follows:

> Ordinance-#15 Council Bill #12-Jackson County Budget-$32,878,131.00
> Councilman Davidson made a motion to approve, Councilman Brown seconded.
> Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.
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> Ordinance- #16 Council Bill #13-Vernon Twp FPD Budget-$503,450.00
> Councilman Davidson made a motion to approve. Councilman Brown seconded.
> Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#17 Council Bill #14- Driftwood Twp FPD Budget-$133,766.00
Councilwoman Lowery made a motion to approve. Councilman Turner seconded. Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#18 Council Bill #15-Brownstown FPD Budget-$531,534.00
Councilman Brown made a motion to approve. Councilman Nolting seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#19 Council Bill #16-Redding Twp FPD Budget-$164,032.00
Councilwoman Lowery made a motion to approve. Councilman Turner seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#20 Council Bill #17-Owen/Salt Twp FPD-$205,908.00
Councilman Brown made a motion to approve. Councilman Nolting seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#21 Council Bill #18- Hamilton Twp FPD Budget-$286,500.00
Councilman Nolting made a motion to approve. Councilman Davidson seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#22 Council Bill #19-Jackson/Washington FPD Budget-$347,500.00
Councilman Brown made a motion to approve. Councilman Turner seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#23 Council Bill #20-Grassy Fork Twp FPD Budget-$72,650.00
Councilman Nolting made a motion to approve. Councilman Davidson seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#24 Council Bill #21-Pershing Twp FPD Budget-$309,500.00
Councilman Davidson made a motion to approve. Councilman Brown seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#25 Council Bill #22-Brownstown Comm. School Corp-$20,231,719.00
Councilman Brown made a motion to approve. Councilman Nolting seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Ordinance-#26 Council Bill #23-Pershing Twp Budget-$(Unknown at this time)
Councilmen Davidson made a motion to approve. Councilmen Nolting seconded.
Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

A 2nd & 3rd reading will be held regarding these ordinances on October 16, 2024.
Each ordinance will be signed by each Council member at this time and then be submitted.
Another public hearing is not required.

Arann Banks, Fair Board and Tourism Director, spoke on behalf of the fair board regarding the grandstand repair at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. Arann recently attended the JCIDC meeting and met with representatives about the Ready Grant. Money awarded would be used to help fund this improvement. The Fair Board is asking Council to approve $500,00.00 in ARPA funds. They will make up the other third of the cost of this project. They have had

discussions about their end of this and would like Councils approval so they can go ahead and proceed. She must have documents ready by November 1, 2024, for the Ready Grant. She explained that 158,000 people went to the fairgrounds this year alone. Several events (races, fair, Rock the Rind, eclipse) have brought in visitors from all over. Tourism has been high and economic impact from that is in the millions for the county. Our gas stations, restaurants, hotels, and other local businesses have all been positively impacted. This is expected to keep growing as more people continue to visit our county. Therefore, the current condition of the grandstands is only becoming more of a liability to the county and the longer it deteriorates it will cause more issues. The grandstands and concrete will be torn down and replaced. The current bleachers will remain intact. The project is expected to cost $1.7 million.
Councilwoman Lowery asked what the expected revenue from this would be and Aaran stated $650,000.00. Susan Bevers, County Attorney, was asked about the incidents/accidents that have occurred at the grandstands. She feels the county insurance rates will lower due to these improvements. Councilmen Riley also asked Aaran about a spot on the Fair Board for a council member and she said that would be no problem. They would just have to amend the bylaws. Councilmen Nolting made a motion to approve. Councilmen Turner seconded. Five (5) yes votes, Councilwomen Lowery abstained, motion carried.

State mandated recording is required as of July 21, 2025, for all meetings. Ni Tech provide an invoice for $35,484.00 for the costs of this required upgrade. AARPA funds will be used to fund this improvement. The Commissioners approved this funding, asking Council to as well. Councilmen Turner made a motion to approve. Councilmen Davidson seconded. Five (5) yes votes, Councilmen Lowery abstained, motion carried.
Councilmen Turner stated that between the months of January and March of this year, council members visited and met with all ten local fire departments in the county. They are in need of new gear and other costly items such as a tanker. Councilmen Turner is requesting $250,000.00 of ARPA funds be allocated between our ten local departments, with each receiving $25,000.00. Councilmen Nolting asked the balance of the ARPA funds and was advised that $7.4 million was available. There will be an application process and be approved by the council.
Councilmen Turner made a motion to approve. Councilmen Davidson seconded.
Five (5) yes votes, Councilwomen Lowery abstained, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: none

MISC BUSINESS:

Rick Meyer, Sheriff, stated Council was provided August 2024 reports.

Jerry Ault, County Highway Superintendent, generously offered to use county trucks and drivers to remove dirt and concrete from the fair grandstand project to save the county some money! Councilmen Turner also commended Jerry and his crew on the excellent paving and mowing jobs they have been doing around the county. He has had several community members mention to him how appreciative they were. Big thanks to our County Highway Dept. for their outstanding job!!

Jeff Hubbard, Human Resources, brought to attention a contract from Vantage Aging, approved by the Commissioners, for the hiring of an additional employee at the Veterans Office. This contract places an individual who is 55 or older and below poverty level into the workforce. He stated that Veterans Office needed a secretary, and they had a person in mind for this position that fit these contract requirements. The Vantage Aging program will be paying this individual through their program. All the county is doing is providing them a job site to work at. Jeff believes this contract/program is beneficial for everyone involved!

Hans Eilbracht, Auditor, informed council that they were given the August 2024 Treasurer Report and August 2024 Fund Balance Report. He also stated that State Board of Accounts has concluded the 2023 audit, and an exit conference is taking place on September 18, 2024, concluding this meeting. State Board of Accounts has requested a Council member be present at this meeting. Councilmen Riley offered to attend. Hans brought to discussion the need for additional appropriations. Councilman Riley performed the 1st reading for Additional Appropriations (Ordinance #14, Bill #11) and they are as follows:

LIT Correctional Fund 1255-$27331.00 for inmate medical
Jackson County General Fund-$2848.00 for Reedy's (Auditors Office)
Jackson County General Fund-$20,520.00 for Reedy's (Salary Ordinance)
Supp. Public Defender Fund- $6391.00 for NI TECH (information system)
$3608 for appellate/conflict attorney fees

A 2nd reading was conducted, by title only, Councilmen Lowery made a motion to approve. Councilmen Nolting seconded. Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

Councilmen Turner made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Davidson seconded. Six (6) yes votes, motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 8:00 AM.
Signed this 18th day of September 2024.

Brian Thompson

Brett Turner

Michael Davidson

John Nolting

Jacob Brown

Amanda Lowery

Brady Riley

Hans C. Eilbracht - attest