

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday March 3, 2025 1:00 pm
NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

Tom Janes
Mary Wysong
Brandon Chordas
Trey Forbes
Casey Myers
Doug Harp via phone

ABSENT:

Max Franklin

ALSO PRESENT:

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

Mary Wysong, Vice President, brought the meeting to order in the absence of President Doug Harp at approximately 1:00 PM

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2025 Indiana County Council Manual

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Brandon Chordas and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Casey Myers reported on the EMA board meeting that he attended. The bird flu was the main topic of conversation.
- Brandon Chordas has attended the recent EMS board meeting
- Tom Janes indicated that the focus of the EDC right now is getting sewer and water to the Dekko complex on US 6

NEW BUSINESS

The contract for employment of the Noble County Health Department CMA position was brought to the council for signature. The hiring of this position as a contract employee had been approved at a previous council meeting. Doug Harp will stop by and sign the document when he returns from vacation.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to review the departments progress:

- CCMG – no word as of yet on the projects submitted
- LPA - the two bridges sent in have been accepted for consideration.
- Ball Road – this is the safety project so no cost for the construction of the project. Zack reported that the pre-construction meeting has been held
- Old State Road 3 - this is set for July letting
- Bridge 134 and Bridge 69 - These two projects were pushed out 4 months and are set for a 2026 letting.

- Zack reminded the council of the bills that circulation through the house and senate and encouraged the members to watch these bills closely.
- When asked about how the department was handling the winter weather, Zack reported that it has been business as normal. The trucks are all in good condition, the salt barn is full. Hours have been changed when necessary to start early on days of snow to try to get the schools going.
- Doug Harp, via phone, asked about the condition of the current federal funding and the money that has already been approved. Zack responded that this was a yes and no answer. He is seeing some changes to the rules of the funding, but thought that the funds already allocated would be in place. Doug asked if this would change how Zack moves forward. Zack responded that he believes we stay the course and if things change, we will adjust accordingly.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following report on the courthouse project:

- Weigand is off sight until spring when they will return to address the southwest side of the courthouse with lawn repairs.
- PSI (furniture) company is on-site today hoping to get the majority of the furniture places this week. There is some on back order so they will finish as they can.
- Art Entry is complete
- Ribbon Cutting is set for April 4, 2025 then moving in will start, with the 3rd floor courts to begin and then the clerk and lastly probation.
- Space needs and parking – Zack was asked to provide information concerning parking and space. Zack had gathered information from various areas as to the number of employees both full and part-time, and gathered information from the various department heads about their storage spaces now and what is expected in the future.
- While storage will more than likely be sufficient at the Weber Road facility, that does nothing for the parking situation.
- Further discussion brought up the Blaisings parking lot north of the post office, the lot that the town uses across from the probation leased building on Hazel and even the possibility of working something out with the Presbyterian church and the purchase of a corner home in that area.

GIS

Steve Hook, GIS Director, is coming before the council to request permission to add a full-time employee to his department. Steve provided a job description of what he is looking for in the hiring of this employee. Gary Leatherman, Dave Baum, Zack Smith and others spoke up as to the need of this department to add another employee. Steve not only does work for all of the other department here at the county but also for cities and towns etc.. In being able to hire at this time, would allow Steve to possibly hire a college student graduating in May. Trey Forbes was concerned with the fact that the council has promoted putting new employees in the budgets for the following year and allowing the council to budget accordingly. By hiring in the middle of the year this will require additional appropriations. Again, those present told the council that Steve goes out of his way to accommodate requests from all departments. He has no backup for vacations etc. and the need is really there for another employee. Tom Janes moved to approve the hiring of an employee for this department. Brandon Chordas seconded and the motion carried 5-1 with Doug Harp voting in favor via phone call. And Trey Forbes voting against.

HEALTH FIRST INDIANA

Melayna Gingerich, HFI Coordinator, was present for an update on the happenings with the Health 1st Indiana funding:

- Noble county Resource Booklets are available at the Clinic and scheduled events that the health department is involved with.

- The department is covering the cost of lead water testing when brought to the clinic with a letter from the city or town where the person lives. The clinic will send in for testing and cover that cost.
- The clinic also will give out vouchers for pregnancy and STI testing at Parkview Noble Hospital.
- Supply programs remain in place at all of the schools in the county.
- 9 of the school nurses have signed up for the School Emergency Triage Training
- Addicts Wake Documentary Screening will take place at West Noble Schools as a “movie night” on March 20th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm with a Q & A to follow and various vendors being present.
- Melayna reported that the additional environmentalist was hired and is busy getting up to speed with the job. Also, the clinic has hired the part time CMA.
- Health 1st Indiana Committee – Melayna is asking that a council person be appointed to sit on this committee. The committee will review funding applications⁷ for the HFI funds and discuss programming that will benefit the county and its communities. Tom Janes moved to appoint Brandon Chordas to this committee. Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 6-0 with Doug Harp voting via phone.

CCD CLAIMS

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for approval of the following claims:

Buckeye Power Sales	\$588.23
Fort Wayne Door and Dock	\$410.00
Equiparts	<u>\$ 95.45</u>
	\$1,093.68

Casey Myers moved to approve the claims be paid from the CCD Fund. Trey Forbes seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Doug Harp did not vote as he was only present via phone call and therefore did not vote on financial issues.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The following amendments were made to the salary ordinance with a motion from Casey Myers and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carried 5-0.

- OPIOID RESTRICTED - Jail Release Coordinator from 0.00 to \$23.944 p/h
- OPIOID UNRESTRICTED -Jail Release Coordinator from 0.00 to \$ 4.225 p/h
- Prosecutor Incentive fund - per diem from 0.00 to \$ 2.564 p/h

MAINTENANCE

Glenn Ryan, Maintenance Supervisor, came before the council to request permission to hire a full-time custodian. He has been working with 2 full-time and 3 part-time employees and recently lost one of the part-time employees. He has been looking to add another part-time employee when the courthouse is back open but has had difficulty in finding part-time employees. This will be a 3rd shift position and feels that instead of 2 part-time hirings it would be better to get one full time employee. Glenn has talked to the commissioners about this and has their approval. Gary Leatherman was present as well and told the council that with the courthouse opening soon, he too thinks this is the direction the maintenance department needs to go. Hiring for 3rd shift will allow coverage in helping with snow removal in the early mornings and then allow Glenn to be on-site Monday through Friday 8-4. Brandon Chordas moved to approve the new hire. Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 6-0 with Doug Harp voting via phone.

Casey Myers would like all information sent to the council prior to the meeting time allowing time to research. This will be conveyed to the department heads.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being February 3, 2025

Dated this 7th day of April, 2024

Trey Forbes

Mary Wysong

Tom Janes

Doug Harp

ATTEST: me Mawhorter

Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor

Max Franklin

Brandon Chordas

ABSENT VIA Phone
George Bennett CASEY Myers