

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday September 3, 2024 1:00 PM
NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

George Bennett, Council President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Notice of meeting at the Chain O Lakes Correctional Facility was received.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion by Tom Janes and a second from Max Franklin. Motion carried 6-0, with Brandon Chordas abstaining due to his absence at the previous meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Max Franklin reported on the last committee meeting of the Council on Aging. He informed the group that the COA was looking for drivers for their transit vans. If no drivers are found then there would be reduced runs available.

George Bennett reported that the plan commission board have two important meetings coming up – one on September 18 for the rezoning of a water bottling facility and the other on September 23 for the public meeting of the solar ordinance. The normal time of the meetings has been changed from 7:00 pm to 5:30 pm for both meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

The Noble County Council again reviewed the proposed abatement guidelines for Real and Personal abatements as well as the new Agricultural abatements. The council made some changes to the wording as well as setting the agricultural minimum investment at \$500,000.00. Changes will be made to the document, which will again be reviewed at the October meeting.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present for the engineering update from the highway:

- CCMG 2023 – This project is closed at this time
- CCMG 2024 – the asphalt project is starting on the west side and they are hoping to wrap the project up this month.
- LPA projects – Zack reported that all projects are going well and on schedule at this time.
- Bridge 136 – Zack provided pictures and informed the council that the MSE walls are complete on this project.

- Bridge 44 - the construction of the bridge 44 is approaching the time of beams being set for the project.
- 400 N – Zack reported that the project was finishing up with shoulder work yet to be done.
- The next round of applications will open up November 7 for future LPA projects. Zack told the group that he will be submitting two bridge projects for this round.
- State Road 3 – Zack reported that this is set for a July 2025 letting with construction to begin in 2026.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

- Courthouse renovation continues at full speed with Weigand Construction on site as well as many other sub-contractors.
- Work continues on all three floors.
- Zack Smith, Project Manager, reported that the project is tracking to be on budget.
- Zack told the council that Jason Schoeff is doing a great job of closing tracking and repairing the sources of leak in the roof.
- The project remains on schedule with a January 2025 completion date.
- The design information for FFE was received for review.
- Once complete, Zack will be putting together an open house for the public to tour.

PUBLIC HEARING 2025 BUDGET

Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, was present for the public hearing for the 2025 budgets. Michelle reported that there was just over \$600,000.00 cut from the 2025 proposed budget. There being no public opposition to the budget, the public hearing was concluded.

CCD FUND

There were two requests from the Noble County Sheriff for claims to be paid from the CCD fund:

- The first being a total of \$1,449.55 requested 8/12/24 for Equiparts. The second totaling \$12,763.00 for Fort Wayne Door (\$8101.00) Wagner Electric (\$1662.00) and Schuber (\$3000.00). This was dated 8/26/24. Motion to approve both sets of claims came from Mary Wysong and was seconded by Doug Harp. Motion carried 7-0.

TRANSFERS

- Tom Janes moved to approve a transfer in the CEDIT fund. This will decrease 1112-45301-312 (sewer/grinder) \$7,371.14 and increase 1112-33305-312 (Riley Road project) by the same amount. Max Franklin seconded the motion and motion carried 7-0.
- Shelley Coney is requesting a transfer in her Noble 911 department in the general fund. She is asking that \$700.00 be decreased from 1000-13301-045 (Education & Training) and transferred to 1000-36200-045 Service Contracts. Motion to approve this transfer came from Tom Janes and was seconded by Doug Harp. Motion carried 7-0
- Health 1st Indiana is requesting a transfer of funds from 1161-13301-161 (education and training) to 1161-13700-161 (part time/ overtime) in the amount of \$5,000.00. motion to approve this transfer came from Brandon Chordas with Mary Wysong providing a second to the motion. Motion carried 7-0

ADDITIONALS

Additional requests were requested from the following departments:

- Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, is requesting an additional in the public safety fund for police pension. She is requesting \$42,583.00 for 1170-18101-362. Motion to approve came Tom Janes and was seconded by Trey Forbes. Motion carried 5-0 with Doug Harp and Brandon Chordas abstaining due to being a part of the police pension.

- James Mowery, Noble County Prosecutor, is requesting an additional in the general fund for his department. He is requesting \$4,000.00 for 1000-14707-010 Transcripts and depositions. Motion to approve this came from Mary Wysong and was seconded by Doug Harp. Motion carried 7-0.

ABATEMENT

Melanie Kellogg, EDC Director, along with John Wicker from B & J Medical are present to request a real estate abatement for improvements to a vacant building that he recently purchased. There is also a vacant building deduction being requested. B & J had been in the council meeting in July with a request for the improvements as well as the building but at that time, Assessor Ben Castle was present and told the council that there needed to be a vacant building deduction applied for with regard to the building and then the improvements made to the building would be the only thing that could be abated for real estate

improvements. This is being reconsidered today with the correct paperwork. Melanie informed the council that the company have currently 172 employees and were hoping to add at least 9 more with a starting wage of \$21.89 an hour. The Vacant building deduction was approved in the amount of \$646000.00 with a motion from Trey Forbes for a period of 3 years in the increment of 100% 66% year two and 33 % year three and a second from Brandon Chordas. Motion carried 7-0
 As far as the real estate abatement there were a number of questions about the amount being requested. The cover letter indicated \$1,797,889 "to purchase the property and make necessary updates". The SB1 indicated a \$30 million dollar investment. Melanie suggested that they were requesting a \$30,477,940.00 abatement. Motion was made by Doug Harp to grant the abatement for 10 years. Trey Forbes seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being October 7, 2024

Dated this 7th day of October, 2024

ABSENT

 Trey Forbes

W.M. Franklin

 Max Franklin

Mary Wysong

 Mary Wysong

Brandon Chordas

 Brandon Chordas

Tom Janes

 Tom Janes

George Bennett

 George Bennett

Doug Harp

 Doug Harp

ATTEST: Michelle Mawhorter

 Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor