

## MINUTES – February 18, 2023

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gibsonville met at 8:00am for a special meeting at the Gibsonville Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams. Alderpersons Shepherd, Owen, Maizland, Crisp, and Dean were present. Ben Baxley, Town Manager, Gina Griffeth, Town Clerk, Chad Coble, Finance Officer, Eric Gerringer, HR Director, James Todd, Fire Chief, Rob Elliot, Public Works Director, Jessica Arnold, Library Director, Ron Parrish, Police Chief, and Mike Dupree, Parks and Recreation Director, were present. From the public, Steve Ellis and Irene Fanelli were present.

### Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### Administration

Ben Baxley, Town Manager, presented an overview of the budget.

The FY 2024 Administration request includes Town Hall Security Improvements (Phase II): \$50,000 – includes installation of level 3 bullet resistant door, frame and vision panel at entrance to offices, access control system at entrance to offices, and level 3 bullet resistant glazing installation on the interior side of three existing windows.

### Fire

Chief Todd of the Gibsonville Fire Department presented his FY 2024 requests.

The FY 2024 Fire requests include five (5) additional firefighter positions (with two positions specifically requested for this fiscal year and the others within a five year period), new MSA gas monitors to be used by both Fire and Public Works, the replacement of 17 portable radios, and ceiling repair and paint in the apparatus bay area/exterior trim.

Alderman Owen asked how the paid part-time positions are working out.

Chief Todd stated they are working well but not as reliable as a full-time position. If they are scheduled to work at Gibsonville for six days, they are averaging five due to other job commitments.

Mayor Williams asked if any volunteers were recruited.

Chief Todd replied that three volunteers were recruited in the past year but they also had three leave.

Alderwoman Maizland asked about the starting salary compared to surrounding agencies.

Chief Todd replied that he and Eric Gerringer have worked together. There are hidden payments such as the town's 401k contribution and fixed OT that need to be shown. Gibsonville is at or above surrounding agencies when those are factored in. The fire department also has built-in step increases.

### Library

Jess Arnold presented a 3-year plan for incremental staffing increases. The FY 23-24 request is for an additional 768 part-time hours (\$11,500). This would allow part-time staff to go from 13 hours/week to 18 hours/week.

Steve Ellis asked about volunteer staff.

Jess Arnold replied that they do not currently have room for volunteer staff. It was attempted in the past and did not work out. However, she is planning to have a comprehensive volunteer plan once the new library is completed.

### Public Works

Rob Elliott presented the FY 2024 Public Works requests to include a grapple truck (\$210,000), rear loader (\$256,000), MSA gas monitors as presented by Chief Todd (\$6,000), an additional Public Works Technician, and an additional Sanitation Technician.

He stated they still have not received two vehicles that were ordered in prior budget years. The estimated delivery is September/October.

## **Police**

Chief Parrish presented the FY 2024 Police Department requests to include two police officers at \$67,649 each, one administrative assistant at \$59,942, two replacement patrol vehicles (\$122,172), and two patrol vehicles for new officers (\$122,172).

## **Parks & Recreation**

Mike Dupree presented the FY 2024 Parks & Recreation requests to include a Parks & Recreation Master Plan (\$25,000), full-time officer manager/program assistant (\$42,133), football helmets (\$6,000), and replacement playgrounds for Moricle and Murrell Parks (approximately \$150,000-\$200,000 each).

Alderman Shepherd asked if playground equipment can be added to.

Mike Dupree stated that they could get some items and add on at a later time. He looked for grants but the majority seem to be for new playgrounds rather than replacing existing ones.

Alderwoman Maizland asked who would do the master plan.

Mike Dupree replied that Benesch Engineering Firm has done plans all over the state and were the ones to provide the estimate.

Ben Baxley stated that the board members will need to complete the budget priority exercise. The meeting adjourned at 11:34am.

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Mayor

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Attest: Town Clerk