

The Shelby County Council met on Tuesday September 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., present was council members, Smith, Claxton, Titus, Caldwell, Compton, Langkabel, County Council Attorney, and the County Auditor.

MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes from August 18, 2020 meeting was made by Claxton, seconded by Compton, approved 6-0

TRANSFERS & ADDITIONALS:

At this time, a motion was made to approve all transfers by Compton, seconded by Caldwell, approved 6-0

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Request to transfer \$500.00 from 1000-31502-000-0309 (Newspaper) to 1000-21100-000-0309 (Supplies)

SHERIFF:

Request to transfer \$11992.00 from 1000-12400-000-0005 (Deputy) to 1000-16000-000-0005 (Overtime), \$3,435.00 from 1000-12143-000-0005 (Communication Officer) to 1000-16000-000-0005 (Overtime), \$4,906.00 from 1000-12250-000-0005 (Communications Officer) to 1000-16000-000-0005 (Overtime) and \$6,016.00 from 1000-12290-000-0005 (Communications Officer) to 1000-16000-000-0005 (Overtime)

E-911:

Request to transfer \$5,014.03 from 1222-41100-0000 (Equipment) to 1222-36200-0000 (Equipment Maintenance)

SUPERIOR COURT II.:

Request to transfer \$250.00 from 1000-16000-000-0202 (Overtime) to 1000-35100-000-0202 (Cellular) and \$2,415.88 from 1000-16000-000-0202 (Overtime) to 1000-12156-000-0202 (Administrative Assistant)

ASSESSOR:

Request to transfer \$521.28 from 1000-15000-000-0008 (Part-time) to 1000-12010-000-0008 (First Deputy)

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

COMMISSIONERS:

Request for an additional appropriation in fund 1000-32100-000-0068 (Telephone Expense) in the amount of \$55,000.00. Motion to approve was made by Compton, seconded by Langkabel, approved 6-0

PRETRIAL DIVERSION:

Request for an additional appropriation in fund 2504-41100-000-0000 (Equipment) in the amount of \$20,000.00. Motion to approve was made by Caldwell seconded by Claxton, approved 6-0

MISCELLANEOUS:

SHELBY EASTERN SCHOOL/ SRO:

Sheriff Koch advised that Todd Hitchcock with Shelby Eastern Schools was supposed to be here tonight to talk to the Council about helping pay for a SRO, he is wants to apply for a grant that will help pay for a SRO, but its only a percent not the entire expense. Koch advised he tried to get Shelby Eastern to hire 4-6 officers to work on their days off on a rotational basis like the other school district do. According to Koch, Shelby Eastern would prefer a single, dedicated officer. Koch asked that the council table this until Mr. Hitchcock can come speak about it. Motion to table was made by Claxton, seconded by Caldwell, approved 6-0

BLUE RIVER FOUNDATION/ GRANTS:

Jennifer Jones with Blue River Foundation came to introduce herself and give the Council an update on their Grants from the RACINO Fund. Jennifer advised they didn't have as many applicants this year due to the COVID-19, because people aren't doing as much and activities are being canceled, so the County still has around \$35,000.00 left for this year and wanted to see what the Council would like to do. She advised they are willing to do another grant cycle request or they could split the money between the 4 County Hometown Funds. Motion to split the money between the 4 County Hometown Funds was made by Langkabel, seconded by Smith, approved 6-0

SOIL & WATER / EMPLOYEE REPLACEMENT:

Dan with Soil & Water came before the Council tonight to request that Donna post the part-time position for the Environment Specialist. Dan advised they only interviewed 3 people the last time the job was posted and the one we chose could not pass the Federal background check. All other candidates are looking for a full-time position. Dan advised they would like to get this back up to a full-time position. Compton asked they get someone hired in for the part-time and they will re-evaluate in 6 months. Motion to have Donna post the job again and forward the resumes on to Dan was made by Compton, seconded by Langkabel, approved 6-0

HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE/ BRADY CLAXTON:

Brady Claxton gave an update on the insurance numbers for this last year. Claxton advised the county is back down to the 2016-2017 year as far as total expenses. Caldwell asked what do you see other counties doing that could help us? Claxton advised that Shelby County is doing well compared to other counties because of the clinic (which most counties do not have) and changing our pharmacy benefits manager. This year is the first year we will have no lasers for quite a while. Caldwell also asked if the county offers wellness classes for the employees. He was advised yes; the clinic offers many classes and appointments for wellness programs. Claxton also advised he thinks the county did the right thing by switching to a high deductible HSA plan. This was all information only; no action was needed.

HR/ EMPLOYEE REPLACEMENT REQUEST:

Donna advised that the Youth Assistance Program is requesting to replace a part-time position that just became vacant today. Motion to approve was made by Langkabel, seconded by Claxton, approved 6-0

SOLAR POWER FARMS:

Kyle Barlow requested to speak about the recycling aspect when this power plant is no longer operating in the future. These panels must be recycled, there is lots of waste. He does not think the counties or governing bodies realize what the cost is to dispose of these farms. According to Barlow, solar farms generate more waste than nuclear energy plants. Where are you going to put these panels when they are done? Barlow also read an email

from a Realtor in the county that advises there are lots of North siders are wanting to move down in this area, but their first question is, is this near the proposed Solar Farm and then when they find out yes, they back out. What is the positive side to this?

Jeff Tennell advised his family has been approached and they declined. Jeff advised he has been a Fire Fighter for 28 years, and of that he has been with the City of Shelbyville for 23 years and is currently the Chief of the Marietta Vol. Fire Department. Jeff advised he has safety concerns. Our county is not equipped to take care of these solar farms if they catch fire. To put out these fires it takes a lot of water that the county doesn't have, and once you start putting water on the panels, it turns into a hazmat situation because you are washing the chemicals out of the panels onto the grounds and start running. These panels have lots of electrical components in them and after talking with other states that have these solar farms about dealing with the fires, they pretty much told me good luck. There is a foam that can be used and lots of larger fire dept. have this foam, but over the years, they have found this is linked to cancer in lots of firemen and they have quit using it, there is a different foam, but it is expensive and no one can afford it.

This was all information only, no action was needed or taken.

CARES ACT MONEY:

Circuit Court request to spend \$8,200.00 for the safety rails on the balcony. Motion to approve was made by Compton, seconded by Langkabel, approved 6-0

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Smith, seconded by Caldwell approved 7-0

NAY

AYE

ATTEST:

AMY L. GLACKMAN
SHELBY COUNTY AUDITOR