

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
March 16, 2016**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Call to order

President McWhirt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Prayer

Councilman Conner led in prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Hix led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

In attendance were Council members Jim McWhirt, Tresa Baker, Shane Middlesworth, Michael Conner and Frank Hix. Also present were Council Attorney Phil Stephenson, Auditor Roger Bainbridge, Chief Deputy Tammy Miller, Assistant Chief Deputy Chris Hancock, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens. Council member Mike Leming arrived at 6:12 pm. Council member Mike Scott was not present.

5. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Conner moved to approve regular session minutes of February 17, 2016 as presented. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 5-0.

6. Auditor's Report

Auditor Roger Bainbridge reported from the General Fund Balance Report that the balance was in the red by 1.6 million compared to last year which we were in the red by 430,000.

Councilman McWhirt asked why there was such a difference in the receipts in 2015. Auditor Bainbridge, and Chief Deputy Miller were not sure, but will look into why. Chief Deputy Miller will print a report with this information.

Auditor Bainbridge reported from the Insurance Fund Balance Report that the end of February shows 860,000, which are more where we expect to be. The reason the balance was down before is because quarterly stuff had been done to bring the checking account balance up. Issues arose with that balance with the insurance company, we put money in to take care of the problem and in doing so it decreased the Insurance Fund balance. It transferred from Insurance Fund to the checking, and was not indicative as to what we were seeing last time. Councilman McWhirt stated it's important to be able to compare year to year. We need to do something to show a balance of both ending balances of the fund and checking account next to each other. Auditor Bainbridge will request the checking account balance from the Treasurer's office.

Auditor Bainbridge also reported from the Analysis of Appropriations and the Financial Statements showing all the fund balances which are all very typical. Council had no questions for Auditor Bainbridge on either of these reports.

7. New Business

A. County Clerk-Additional Appropriations-General Fund

Carolyn Mowery, Grant County Clerk, request for Additional Appropriations which was presented back in January, we could not take care of the additional at that time, because our budget had not been approved by the DLGF. Clerk Mowery is not present this evening. The budget has been approved, so we can now take care of this additional appropriation, which is in the general fund, in the amount of \$ 4,869.22. Normally we would have the office holder here, but we can take action and suspend the rule and approve the appropriation if council so chooses. Councilman Baker made a motion to suspend the rule and take action. Second by Conner; motion carried 5-0. Baker then made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$ 4,869.22. Second by Conner; motion carried 5-0.

B. Sheriff Reggie Nevels-Replacement of Vacancies

Reggie Nevels, Grant County Sheriff, request approval to fill the vacancies of Matron, Sheriff's Sale Clerk and Civil process Clerk, effective May, 2016. Sandy Randall retired as Matron after 33years of service; Sheriff Nevels would like Council's approval to replace Sandy Randall's position as Matron with Sandi Graf. If Council approves, Sheriff Nevels would like to replace Sandi Graf's position of Sheriff's Sale and Tax Warrants Clerk with Kathy Baker, whom is currently a clerk. As to the replacement of Kathy Baker's position as Clerk, that will be replaced with an outside person. There is not a net change in this process it is just filling vacancies. Councilman Conner made a motion to fill the 3 vacancies in the Sheriff's Department. Second by Baker; motion carried 3-2, with an abstention

C. Bruce Bender Director Grant County EMA-Replacement of Position

Bruce Bender, Director of Grant County EMA, is asking to replace the position of Deputy Director, which was previously held by Lacy Harness. Director Bender asked for the Council to keep in mind that EMA receives a grant that pays ½ of salaries of the EMA. Since 911 EMA is now part of Homeland Security, and is required by the state to do more. Director Bender is asking for Council approval for Tom Culley to fill this vacancy. Tom Culley is a retired Vet, with a Bachelor's Degree in finance, and has all the required training for the position. Mr. Culley would not need to be on the county insurance, which is good for the county, as they would not have this expense, for this employee. Councilman Conner asked Director Bender if the grant would be going away at any point. Director Bender stated the grant for ½ the salary is going strong and looks as though it will be there for some time to come. Councilman Middlesworth mad a motion to approve the request for Director Bender to replace the vacancy in his office effective March 28, 2016. Second by Councilman Hix; motion carried 6-0.

D. Grant County Commissioners-Additional Appropriation in the CCD Fund

Grant County Commissioner Mike Burton is asking for Additional Appropriation in the amount of 150,000.00 from the CCD fund to be placed in the Contractual Services account. The County contracted with Ameresco to do an energy cost savings program about 3 years ago. This has been completed, but they did find other problems in some of our older buildings that needed to be addressed. The budget for the energy program did not cover these issues. Ameresco did a change order; the amount of the invoice for work performed is 212,855.98. Part of this total will be paid from preventive maintenance fund, in the Commissioners General Fund and special projects fund. Ameresco will present data on the energy cost savings program in the near future. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request from the CCD fund. Second by Middlesworth; motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Burton also requested a position to be filled in the Maintenance Department. Jerry Davis retired leaving a position open in the Maintenance Department. The Maintenance Department is now down to just 2 employees, Rex Fisher; Maintenance Director, and one other gentleman. The Maintenance Department maintains 7 buildings and is on call 24/7. Mr. Burton expressed that the replacement will not take place until June after Jerry Davis has been paid out. This will give time for the County to advertise the position. A discussion ensued about what if one of the 2 maintenance workers were to get sick, or have a family emergency, that would leave only one maintenance worker to do all the work. Mr. Burton expressed that this leaves a hardship on Rex and the other employee, and has asked if the Council could fill this position as soon as possible. Councilman Baker made a motion to fill the maintenance position effective April 4, 2016 and the moving of the positions. Second by Conner; motion carried 6-0.

8. **Old Business**

Grant County Health Department-Grant to Supplement Salaries

Dr. Kennedy is asking Council to approve an increase in the salaries of 3 employees of the Health Department. Dr. Kennedy is asking for 3000.00 for each employee, this money would be non-county money, coming from the Local Health Department trust account. The state has already approved the use of this money for this purpose. Dr. Kennedy is asking this to be effective January 1, 2016. Councilman Conner suggests that if Council passes this, that it be contingent on the fact if the grant runs out the salary reverts. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the request as presented with an exception of if the grant runs out the salary reverts, with an effective date being April 4, 2016. Second by Baker; motion carried 5-1.

Reports
None.

11. Adjournment

The next Council meeting will be April 20, at 6:00 p.m.

President McWhirt adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.