

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
May 18, 2022**

Note: This Grant County Council meeting was conducted electronically as permitted under Governor Holcomb's Executive order 20-09.

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday May 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Call to order

President Middlesworth called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Prayer

Councilman Roorbach led prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Poling led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

In attendance physically were Council members Shane Middlesworth, Frank Hix, Mark Leming, Mike Roorbach, Chuck Poling, and Mike Conner. Councilman Mike Scott was absent. Also, physically present Auditor Jim McWhirt, Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens and Council Attorney Phil Stephenson.

NOTE: Six (6) members were present in person.

5. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Conner moved to approve the minutes from the regular session April 20, 2022, as presented. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

6. Auditor's Report

Auditor McWhirt sent his report to the Council members. Auditor McWhirt expressed it is just basically a standard update and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

President Middlesworth expressed he is going to change the agenda and take care of Old Business first.

7. Old Business

A. Consideration of request for Tax Abatement-Your Choice Digital-Executive Director of Grant County Economic Growth Council Charity Bailey is asking Council to consider and approve a three (3) year tax abatement for Your Choice Digital. For the company that is a savings of approximately two (2) million and income for the County in approximately five (5) million. Director Bailey expressed Your Choice Digital is

projecting a \$122,000,000.00 investment by the year 2025 with 30 well paying jobs. Director Bailey did provide a packet of information of the process and any complaints that have been heard so far for the Council members. Director Bailey also sent a Community Benefit agreement that is being worked on, to show that the company is willing to work with the community.

President Middlesworth opened the public hearing: Suzie Jaworoski, Hamilton County, and Vice President and Co-founder of American Energy Global presented a slide show of what Your Choice Digital does and explained how Your Choice Digital works.

Jan Lankenau expressed she did not know what bitcoin is or how it worked. Mrs. Lankenau met with Ryan Malott and Charity Bailey to learn more about the bitcoin project. Mrs. Lankenau expressed her concern that no one seems to know much about this project and asked why.

Jerry Soultz 11240 E N 00S Marion, asked who owns the property the equipment is setting on? Mr. Soultz expressed he does not think Grant County can afford to give a big tax abatement for something that we know nothing about. Mr. Soultz expressed he feels as though this is a Ponzi scheme.

Jesse Carr 1904 S Selby Street Marion expressed he does not know much about the tax situation but explained a little about bitcoin. Mr. Carr has been into bitcoin since 2017, and expressed bitcoin is a new form of money or digital currency. Bitcoin is voluntary and nobody owns it, this is a new form of technology.

Tim Oates 4389 N E 00 W expressed he does not know who these people are but if you are going to give away 2.3 million dollars give it to us.

President Middlesworth closed the public hearing.

President Middlesworth read the information for the Confirmatory resolution aloud. President Middlesworth ask for question or comments from the Council members. Councilman Roorbach, Councilman Conner, Councilman Poling and Councilman Middlesworth all spoke about being in favor or against this project. Charity Bailey spoke about the memorandum. Jay from Your Choice Digital spoke about bitcoin and Your Choice Digital.

Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the Confirmatory Resolution. There was not a second, motion dies.

President Middlesworth expressed there will be a three (3) minute break. President Middlesworth exited the meeting at 6:54 pm.

8. New Business

A. County Clerk-Pam Harris is asking to transfer \$262.32 from Voting Machine Supplies to Repair of Equipment. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-0.

B. County Sheriff-Reggie Nevels is asking to transfer \$250,000.00 from Salaries to Overtime. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 5-0.

C. County Area Plan Commission-Ryan Malott is asking for additional appropriation in the amount of \$10,000.00. Councilman Hix mad a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 5-0.

8. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion **Committee Reports**-None

Future Meeting Dates: June 15, 2022.

9. Adjournment

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.