

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
February 15, 2023**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday February 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Call to order

President Middlesworth called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Prayer

Councilman Conner led prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Poling led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

In attendance were Council members Shane Middlesworth, Frank Hix, Mark Leming, Mike Scott, Chuck Poling and Mike Conner. Councilman Roorbach was present via WebEx. Also present were Council Attorney Nathan Meeks, Auditor Angela Jarvis, Chief Deputy Auditor Cori Anderson, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

5. Approval of Minutes

President Middlesworth expressed all those in favor to approve the minutes from December 21, 2022, and January 18, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Auditor's Report

Auditor Angie Jarvis expressed there were no changes and things are in good shape.

State of the Judiciary-Mark Spitzer, Judge Grant Circuit Court. See attached.

New Business

A. Grant County Sheriff Department Union Contract-Sheriff Garcia presented handouts to Council members. Sheriff Garcia expressed he met with the negotiating committee from the Council and the county attorney, to discuss some plans we have to make some improvements to the jail. Mr. Middlesworth explained to me those were contractual issues, during this meeting I was advised I would need to get the union to type out an agreement to address the issues of adding a couple civilian positions to the staffing of the jail. I met with the union leadership, they agreed to take it before the body. They overwhelmingly voted for the proposal I made to them. The union is behind what we are trying to do. Sheriff Garcia explained the idea of the restructuring plan. Union negotiation committee chairman Mike Scott asked about having less positions. Sheriff Garcia explained how the positions were moved around so there was no reduction in staff. Chairman Scott spoke about opening the union contract. After some discussion Councilman Scott made a motion to do the retitle #1, #2 amendment to contract article 1

section 1.2, striking the #3 in the contract exhibit, contingent on union approval. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

B. Grant County Sheriff Department-Sheriff Garcia is wanting to eliminate urinary tech position, add a detention commander at the bas salary of \$61,740.00, take 4 jailer positions and make them sergeants at a salary of \$45,749.00. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment as presented, contingent on union approval. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 70-.

C. Board of Zoning Appeals-Ed Hartman is asking Council to consider hiring an attorney to review the solar ordinance. Mr. Hartman expressed there has been an attorney picked, Pat Hess with the firm of Beckman Lawson of Fort Wayne, and presented a copy of his experiences to the Council members. The solar ordinance is a big deal, and we think this needs to be carefully considered. We feel there are some irregularities in the ordinance. Randy Atkins spoke about the solar ordinance and expressed we need to make sure we get it right. Commissioner Steve Wright spoke about the solar ordinance as well. President Middlesworth expressed the request is for \$6,000.00 to hire an attorney for the BZA. At the last Council meeting this body gave the APC a go ahead to spend their funds o hire an attorney in knowing that if you used your funds, you would come back, and we would appropriate more funds. After much debate and conversation Councilman Conner made a motion to table this item until we get the report from the state agency and take no further action for now. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

D. Marion Public Library Appointment-Marion Public Library is asking to reappoint Cindy Ketchum. President Middlesworth expressed we will advertise this and take applications until March 13th, 2023.

8. Old Business

A. County Health Department-Tara Street is asking for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,000.00, \$383.00 for FICA and \$710.00 for PERF for overtime funding to pay for 2 nights a week for vaccines, from the COVID testing grant fund. Councilman Poling made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

B. Grant County Visitors Bureau-Asking to appoint Travis LeMaster. (See below)

C. Gas City Development Committee-Asking to appoint Adam Skeens. (See below)

Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the Grant County Visitors Bureau and the Gas City Development Committee appointment as requested. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 7-0.

9. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion

None.

Committee Reports-
10. Public Comment
None.

Future Meeting Dates: March 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.