

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
February 21, 2024**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday February 21, 2024, 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**

Council Attorney Nathan Meeks led the 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, Mike Conner, Jonathon Perez, and Chuck Poling. Also, present were Auditor Angela Jarvis, Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens, and Council Attorney Nathan Meeks.

**5. Auditor's Report**

Auditor Jarvis expressed you have the same information you get every month, your county general report and your health insurance report, if you have any questions. There were no questions.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2024, regular session. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 6-1 (abstain).

**State of the Judiciary-**

Judge Mark Spitzer presented the State of the Judiciary. See attached.

**New Business**

President Middlesworth expressed I am moving item I up, we are having a public hearing concerning rescinding ordinance #2020-4. At this time, we will start the public hearing. President Middlesworth stated we created this for one project in 2020, we were going to be the pass through for state monies regarding VIA Health. Up until that time the county had no need for EDC, nor do we see anything in the future as far as projects that would require the EDC. Phil suggested we should rescind this ordinance if it has not been used within the 3 years. Currently the EDC is not in compliance, they have not met, and they have no budget. I will open the podium for public comment at this time. There was no public comment. President Middlesworth expressed the public hearing is now closed. Councilman Conner made a motion to rescind ordinance #2020-4. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 7-0.

**A. Grant County Sheriff-Sheriff Garcia** is requesting to create a new line item in the Sheriff's budget for housing inmates out of county. The line item would be called Out of County Inmate Housing. Councilman Conner moved to approve the new line item Out of County Inmate Housing as requested. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 7-0.

President Middlesworth expressed I did reach out to Darren Bates regarding the new jail, what kind of revenue could we receive if we implemented a tax. According to his figures if this body could implement a .2 (2/10 of a percent) public safety vocational rehab tax. This is the only way we could afford a new jail moving forward. At the .2, with the 2024 payable numbers it is \$2,540,000.00 per year. We still owe, on the last bond, for the last renovation project until 2037. This is just something to think about.

**B. Grant County EMA-EMA Director Bob Jackson** is requesting a line item in his budget to administer grant funds for the BRIC program. The total amount is \$24,620.00. Councilman Perez moved to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

**C. Grant County Health Department-Office Manager Tara Street** is requesting an additional appropriation in fund #1161 for part time (\$27,221) for two part time nurses and for FICA (\$2,255.35). Councilman Conner moved to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

Tara Street is asking to transfer \$49.00 from 8906 COVID Vaccination fund to 8907 COVID Vaccination (Grant) fund. This will zero out this account. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

**D. Grant County Court Services-Melissa Stephenson** is asking to amend the salary ordinance to allow the creation of 3 supervisor probation officer stipends, based on the size of our department and the parameters set forth by the state. This is to allow Court Services to realign job responsibilities. We are requesting \$5,000.00 for each position, a total of \$15,000.00. We are asking to create a supervisory stipend account and transfer \$15,000.00 from salaries. Councilman Perez moved to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-01.

**E. Grant County Highway-David White** is asking for additional appropriations in fund #1135 in the amounts of \$325,000.00 for bridge #16, \$110,000.00 to be put in Bridge Inspection and \$45,000.00 for bridge #791. Councilman Poling moved to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 7-0.

**F. Grant County E-911-Kevin Hicks** is asking to transfer \$7,500.00 from Training & Education to Contractual Services. Councilman Scott moved to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

**G. Grant County Commissioners-Commissioner Steve Wright** is asking to transfer \$60,000.00 from Repair Building & Structure to Supplies for purchasing new and

additional supplies for EMS due to the fire. Councilman Conner moved to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Wright presented for discussion the following ARPA spending plan:

UNAPPROPRIATED BALANCE			8,709,857.00
ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	UNAPPROPRIATED BALANCE	
AMBULANCE PURCHASE (4)	\$1,200,000.00	\$7,509,857.00	
ANNEX ELEVATORS (DUAL)	\$650,000.00	\$6,859,857.00	
SWAYZEE DEMO	\$35,000.00	\$6,824,857.00	
RECYCLE CENTER COVER	\$200,000.00	\$6,624,857.00	
SEAL/REPAIR ANNEX EXT.	\$900,000.00	\$5,724,857.00	
COURTHOUSE REPAIRS	\$100,000.00	\$5,624,857.00	INCLUDES EXT. CLEANING/SEAL AND CONCRETE REPAIR TO SIDEWALKS/PATIOS
JAIL DESIGN	\$4,500,000.00	\$1,124,857.00	
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT	\$1,075,000.00	\$49,857.00	INCLUDES (2) 9 TIRE ROLLERS, OIL DISTRIBUTOR TRUCK, CHIPPER BOX, AND SMALL PAVER
SHERIFF EQUIPMENT	\$49,857.00	\$0.00	INCLUDES NON LETHAL WEAPONRY, OFF ROAD VEHICLE
ITEMS TO CONSIDER			
BROADBAND	\$2,500,000.00		POSSIBILITY OF NO COST IF IDZ
SALIN BANK EXTERIOR	\$1,000,000.00		INCLUDES NEW ROOF, TUCKPOINTING, HVAC
TOURISM/FESTIVALS	\$40,000.00		INCLUDES \$10,000 TO FAIRMOUNT, MATTHEWS, VAN BUREN, AND JONESBORO
D-HOME CLEANING	\$50,000.00		
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT	\$2,385,000.00		*SEE HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT LIST
TOWNSHIP FIRE RADIOS	\$390,000.00		\$30,000 FOR EACH TOWNSHIP (13)
DIGITIZING CLERK'S RECORDS	\$1,105,802.10		
CARDINAL GREENWAY	\$1,000,000.00		
KING'S ACADEMY DEMO	\$500,000.00		
THOMPSON-RAY HOUSE	\$90,000.00		REPAIRS TO DRIVE, PORCH, GUTTERS
QUILTERS HALL OF FAME	\$25,000.00		FLOOR REPAIR

\*ADMIN FEES FOR BONDING

Discussion ensued concerning the above items. Al Sultz from The King’s Academy spoke about the J.C. Knight School building needing torn down and asked for a portion of the ARPA money to help with the process. Councilmen Mike Conner and Mike Scott also spoke about the J.C. Knight School building. Mike Spaulding (via web-ex) spoke about the fire department radios that are needed, there are 13 departments that need new radios. LEAD Inc. and The Quilt Depot also presented letters asking for help with projects.

**H. Local Alcohol and Tobacco Board-**Councilman Conner made a motion to reappoint Liz Wright to the Local Alcohol and Tobacco Board. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 7-0.

**I. Economic Development Commission (EDC)-**See above item A under New Business.

**9. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion**

**Committee Reports**

Councilman Mike Scott spoke about the jail study committee. In the joint session we had with the Commissioners there was a lot of discussion regarding our jail. The possibility of using the ARPA funds for the jail. There have been some additional conversations that have come out that have included me, Commissioner Stewart and Sheriff Garcia. One suggestion was to establish a jail review committee, that the Council and the Commissioners would establish a committee to continue the conversation of the options we have available.

President Middlesworth stated I will create the jail study committee review and appoint Mike Scott as the chairman.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

Regular meeting-Wednesday March 20, 2024.

**10. Adjournment**

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.