

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
April 17, 2024**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday April 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Call to order

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

2. Prayer

Councilman Commer led the prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Leming led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

In attendance were Council members Shane Middlesworth, Frank Hix, Mark Leming, Mike Conner, Jonathon Perez, Mike Scott, and Chuck Poling. Also, present were Auditor Angela Jarvis, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens. Council Attorney Nathan Meeks was absent.

5. Auditor's Report

Auditor Jarvis expressed I have nothing to report. There were no questions.

6. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Leming made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2024, regular session. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 6-1 (abstention).

7. New Business

A. Grant County E-911-Public Safety Director Kevin Hicks is not present. President Middlesworth presented. President Middlesworth read the request; Director Hicks is requesting the salary ordinance be amended to reflect the job title change of Marlana Wilson from Operations Manager/IDACS Coordinator to Deputy Director.

President Middlesworth expressed we can suspend the rule and act on this salary ordinance amendment.

Councilman Perez moved to suspend the rule. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Leming moved to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 7-0.

B. Grant County Court Services-Melissa Stephenson is asking for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$19,929.52 within the Grant County Drug Court, Opioid Settlement funds to cover the salary and benefits for the Drug Court Probation Officer position for 2024. Councilman Leming moved to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 7-0.

C. Grant County Commissioners-Commissioner Ron Stewart is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$151,884.00 from general fund (EMS fire insurance reimbursement) to repair building & structure. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Stewart read through the following ARPA spending items:

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	\$1,500,000.00	\$4,124,857.00																		
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT	\$1,075,000.00	\$3,049,857.00	INCLUDES (2) 9 TIRE ROLLERS, OIL DISTRIBUTOR TRUCK, CHIPPER BOX, AND SMALL PAVER																	
SHERIFF EQUIPMENT	\$49,857.00	\$3,000,000.00	INCLUDES NON LETHAL WEAPONRY, OFF ROAD VEHICLE																	
PUBLIC SAFETY RADIOS	\$1,600,000.00	\$1,400,000.00	SHERIFF, EMS																	
TOWNSHIP FIRE RADIOS	\$390,000.00	\$1,010,000.00	\$30,000 FOR EACH TOWNSHIP (13)																	
RIVERFRONT PROJECT	\$1,271,100.00	\$0.00	REMAINING GIVEN = \$1,010,000																	
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																	
DIGITIZING CLERK'S RECORDS	\$1,105,802.10																			
CARDINAL GREENWAY	\$300,000.00																			
KING'S ACADEMY DEMO	\$55,000.00		POSSIBLE \$55,000 FOR MATCHING OCRA GRANT																	
THOMPSON-RAY HOUSE	\$90,000.00		REPAIRS TO DRIVE, PORCH, GUTTERS																	
QUILTERS HALL OF FAME	\$25,000.00		FLOOR REPAIR																	
**ADMIN FEES FOR BONDING																				

Commissioner Stewart is asking the Council what they are sure on, and what they are not interested in spending these funds on that is on this list.

Councilman Poling asked what the Riverfront Project consisted of. Commissioner Stewart expressed I will have Robin Fouce speak about this. City of Marion's Chief of Staff Robin Fouce expressed the purpose is to develop the river front area. Chief of Staff Fouce explained the project. Discussion ensued.

President Middlesworth suggested 3 Council members meet with Commissioner Stewart to go over this list again before the next council meeting.

Councilman Scott moved to approve out of the ARPA funds the ambulance purchase (4) and the annex elevators (dual). Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 7-0.

Public input-Mike Duke expressed positive economic development is needed in Marion and Grant County.

Greg Kitts 2501 N River Rd, commented on the \$1.5 million jail plans and the Riverfront project.

Robin Fouce responded to Greg Kitts' comments on the Riverfront project.

President Middlesworth asked Commissioner Stewart about the Baird contract for the jail project, the authority to sign the contract, the \$5 million jail project, the contract with Conner Sullivan being lawyer approved and the rules and procedures for the County Commissioners. Commissioner Stewart responded and discussion ensued.

8. Old Business

A. Grant County Sheriff-Sheriff Del Garcia is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$400,000.00 for out of county inmate housing. Councilman Conner made a motion to untable this item from last month. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the request as requested. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 7-0.

B. Gas City-Mill Township Public Library Board-The Gas City-Mill Township Public Library Board is asking to reappoint Tim Luckey. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

C. Grant County Council-Tabled.

9. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion

Committee Reports-Councilman Conner expressed he had a meeting with Randy Atkins concerning the suspension of Ryan Malott. Councilman Conner read statute IC 5-14-3-4-BAA through C. Councilman Conner expressed any member of the community can ask for this information.

Councilman Scott expressed the jail review committee has not met in a few weeks. We have not met since the new house bill has passed. It appears the Council has been left out of a few things. I feel like we deserve some answers. President Middlesworth expressed we need to hold another joint session.

President Middlesworth expressed the ARPA review committee will consist of the President (myself), the Vice President and Councilman Conner.

Public Comment

Mike Duke expressed concerns about house bill 1120. Mr. Duke stated he sent FOIA letters to the Commissioners.

Ed Hartman expressed the Commissioners solar ordinance is illegal.

Future Meeting Dates:

Regular meeting-Wednesday May 15, 2024.

10. Adjournment

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.