

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
September 20, 2017**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday September 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Call to order

President McWhirt called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Prayer

Councilman Roorbach led prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Middlesworth led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

In attendance were Council members Jim McWhirt, Frank Hix, Mark Leming, Mike Roorbach, Mike Conner, Shane Middlesworth and Mike Scott. Also present were Council Attorney Phil Stephenson, Auditor Roger Bainbridge, Chief Deputy Auditor Angela Jarvis, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

President Jim McWhirt expressed he needs to add an item to the agenda; he received after the agenda was prepared. Under new business item C will be the Health Department.

5. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Leming moved to approve the minutes from the regular session for August 16, 2017. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

6. Auditor's Report

Auditor Roger Bainbridge reported from the General Fund Balance Comparison report. The red numbers at the end of August are consistent with the red numbers in August from previous years, so there is nothing out of line.

Auditor Bainbridge also reported from the Health Insurance fund report, there have been some changes and adjustments made to some of the ending balances. Auditor Bainbridge asked Chief Deputy Angie Jarvis to explain. Chief Deputy Jarvis explained she had reviewed the receipts and there were checks written out and adjustments were made accordingly. There is an increase due to life insurance being put into an incorrect fund, so there was a bump of 164,000.00, to increase the health insurance.

Auditor Bainbridge expressed that Tax Management Associates, the firm doing the personal property audits, has a nationwide data base of tax payers, they have asked if they could examine our homestead deduction file. This is to give us an outlook as to if there is some homestead deductions out there. Basically we can look at this in the state of Indiana, to see if an individual is "double dipping" or claiming more than one homestead, but outside of the state of Indiana we have no way of knowing. They (TMA) have identified 90 potential homesteads they want to let us know what 90 are out there. They (TMA) are asking for 30% to perform this service. Auditor Bainbridge does have a contract from TMA for this service, and is purposing to enter into this agreement. Auditor Bainbridge will have Kyle Persinger look over the contract to make sure everything is ok. Auditor Bainbridge will need to ask for an additional appropriation at some point to pay for this. Council is in agreement to allow Auditor Bainbridge to move forward with the contract with TMA.

New Business

A. County Clerk-County Clerk Carolyn Mowery is asking for approval to fill a vacancy. The vacancy is for Superior Court I Deputy Clerk position, the current salary is \$24,398.00. Clerk Mowery would like to have a start date of October 10, 2017. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the filling of the vacancy in the Clerk's office as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0

B. County Highway Department-Highway Superintendent David White is asking for transfers in MVH, Local Road & Street, and Cum Bridge funds to clean up some negatives before the end of budgets. Superintendent White presented a list of these request to Council. Councilman Scott moved to approve the transfers in the MVH fund, Local Road & Street fund and Cum Bridge fund as requested. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent White is asking for approve to fill a vacancy. The vacancy is for an Equipment Operator position, the current salary is \$31,357.00. Superintendent White would like to have a start date of as soon as possible. Councilman Leming moved to approve the filling of the vacancy as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

C. County Health Department

Health Department Health Officer John Kennedy is asking for a salary increase for a grant funded Environmental Health Specialist. The increase will take the current annual salary of 27,709 to 30,000. This will be at no cost to the county since it is grant funded. Dr. Kennedy would like this to be effective October 2nd. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the increase as requested and to amend the salary ordinance. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-1.

8. Old Business

President McWhirt expressed we cannot do items A & B, the public hearing, until 7:00 pm. We are going to do item C-2018 Budget at this time. President McWhirt presented to everyone a copy of a list of items that recaps the list of items to consider. President McWhirt will read the items on this list and these items can be discussed. Our adoption night for the budget is Wednesday October 18. This discussion this evening is to get us prepared for a special meeting on Wednesday October 4th at 6:00 pm, to go over these items and make a decision, and to redo our public hearing.

The first item is the Extension office. They are asking us to reinstate the reduction we made in the 2016 budget.

The Clerk's office-Election Board, how much do we put in, do we reinstate the 2016 budget amounts or the amounts requested? In the Voters Registration do we move a 2nd deputy position or leave it in the current location and in that budget?

The Prosecutors office do we give flexibility to assign salaries or maintain current amounts? In the IV-D department do we permit a move to their general fund or do we assign those positions to certain funds, and do we grant the additional deputy prosecutor position?

The Sheriff's department do we permit the Merit pension raise?

The Assessor's office do we grant the part-time salary increase?

Emergency Medical Services do we increase the EMT salaries?

The Commissioners-we need to establish non-salary items-FICA, PERF, Life Insurance, and Unemployment & Workman's Compensation. Do we grant the request for the part-time HR position request from 20,000 to 28,000? Do we increase the cell phone appropriation account from 7,800 to 9,200?

Public Defenders do we grant them the 600.00 raise request?

Reassessment Fund they are asking to increase the hourly rate for members of the board of review from 14.00 per hour to 16.00 per hour.

Highway do we increase longevity pay calculations to 2017?

Health Insurance Fund we have been asked to increase employer transfers from 17,000 to 23,000 per employee. The purposed budget for the health insurance fund for the 2018 budget is 7 million dollars.

In reviewing our financial position, the four funds we always have to focus on: general fund, health fund, reassessment fund and cum bridge, the projected operating balance at December 31st 2018 for the combination of those 4 funds we have is 252,005 as our operating balance with the following assumptions: All budgets we have approved thus far are included.

The only raises are those that are required.

Longevity for the Sheriff's department is included.

The employer health insurance contribution increases are not included in the total.

The reinstatement of 2017's tax levy, the dollars we should be raising from the tax payer, for our payment to Carey Services and Grant Blackford Mental Health total 494,629 was not given to us in our levy. I have been in contact with the DLGF and should have some answers soon concerning this issue. We should be able to get this reinstated.

We have a lot to consider. Do we stop paying employees share of perf? Do we reduce salary and wages? Do we eliminate positions? Do we reduce cum bridge fund budget?

A. Public Hearing-Facility Project Financing-Public Hearing-Additional Appropriation:

Council attorney Phil Stephenson expressed this is the 2nd hearing. The purpose of tonight is to make the preliminary determination regarding the issuing of the bonds. Those bonds at this point are not to exceed 8,750,000.00. Right now they have a maximum term of 20 years and a maximum interest rate of 6%. The purpose of this hearing is for the resolution to determine the issue of these bonds for this particular project. Attorney Stephenson asked Ameresco to give a short description of the project for the public.

An Ameresco representative gave a review of the scope of the work involved. The project contains the following:

- Jail/Complex generator
- Jail/Detention security upgrades improvements
- Jail/Detention water infiltration project
- Complex water infiltration project
- Complex basement dedicated air handling unit
- Complex back hallway exit
- Jail building envelope improvements
- Lighting upgrades at the courthouse
- Courthouse fan coil replacement
- Jail sanitary plumbing upgrade

Right now our cost with construction is 8,012,304.00. There were no questions and no public comment.

Attorney Stephenson requested Council to approve resolution #1-2017. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve resolution #1-2017. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

President McWhirt closed the public meeting.

9. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion

Committee Reports- Councilman Roorbach reported he will be attending the AIC meetings next week, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

President McWhirt expressed we will have a special meeting October 4th at 6:00 pm regarding budget issues. Our regular session meeting will be October 18th at 6:00 pm.

10. Adjournment

President McWhirt adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

