

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
July 18, 2018**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday July 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Call to order

President McWhirt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Prayer

Councilman Conner led prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Leming led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

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

5. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Conner moved to approve the minutes from the Special Session on June 13, 2018 and the June 20, 2018 meeting as presented. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0, Councilman Mark Leming abstained from the June 20, 2018 minutes as he was not present at the meeting.

6. Auditor's Report

Auditor Roger Bainbridge reported from the general fund balance report. The receipts for the month of June are about a million dollars higher than they typically are. I am not sure what to say about that, we don't have much control over the receipts; we can only control the disbursements. This could be because a certain number of people chose to pay for the entire year than normally do, so this could change come December.

Auditor Bainbridge also reported from the Health Insurance fund balance report. This is down a little bit from last month. There is a consistent balance and this looks like a fairly good report.

7. New Business

A. County Highway Department-Superintendent David White is asking for an additional of 1,000,000.00 to be put into the MVH account for paving projects and a transfer of 500,000.00 from the Garthwaite Road account into the MVH account. Superintendent White is also requesting additional funding for Cumulative Bridge Fund for Repair and Maintenance in the amount of 200,000.00. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve all 3 requests as presented. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

B. County Assessor- Assessor Gary Landrum is asking to transfer 1,593.00 to correct a salary mistake, to be effective January 1, 2018. Assessor Landrum is also asking for 1,000.00 to be transferred from Contractual Services and 593.00 to be transferred from Office Supplies into Salaries to make this possible. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the request. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

Assessor Landrum is also asking to transfer 680.00 within the Reassessment fund from Contractual Services to Part Time Salaries. This will be for a part time employee to finish 2018 doing reassessment work. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve the request. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

Assessor Landrum is requesting to change the hourly pay of 3 PTABOA board members from 12.00 per hour to 14.00 per hour. This will correct a mistake that was made. Councilman Middlesworth made a motion to approve the request and to amend the salary ordinance. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

C. County Area Plan Commission-Area Plan Executive Director Larry Strange is requesting a part time position at a pay rate of \$10.35 per hour, to help support Area Plan. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the request and amend the salary ordinance. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 7-0.

D. County Sheriff-Sheriff Reggie Nevels is asking to transfer 100,000.00 from salaries to over-time. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 2-5.

Sheriff Nevels is asking to fill the position of 2 Merit deputies. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve the request. Second by Councilman Hix; motion carried 6-1.

Sheriff Nevels is also asking to fill the position of 2 Dispatchers. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the request. Second by Councilman Hix; motion carried 4-3.

Tony Hendey 1617 S Nebraska Street Marion spoke of the importance of the dispatchers jobs.

E. County Commissioners-Commissioner Mark Bardsley is requesting a transfer from part time janitor to salaries in the amount of 4,335.60. This transfer is to pay out the retiring mail clerk/secretary. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve the transfer. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

President McWhirt expressed we would go ahead and hear the Commissioners item that is listed under Old Business.

Commissioner Bardsley is back seeking approval of staffing changes and a change in the salary ordinance. At last month's meeting the Commissioners were requesting adding the HR duties to the secretary's duties with a salary of 35,000 per year, and hire someone to do mailroom and assist with clerical duties in the office, to be paid 12.00 to 15.00 per hour (asking for appropriation of 15,000.00). This item is now up for a second reading since there was not a unanimous vote last month. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as presented. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 5-2.

F. Public Hearing-Annual Review of Local Income Taxes (LIT)-President Jim McWhirt opened the public hearing with some background information. Every year the County Council has held a public hearing since we adopted the Local Income tax (LIT), to determine if there is anything we want to do differently than what we are currently doing. Currently at this time we have 2.25% local income tax in Grant County. One (1) percent of that is what we call COIT, county option income tax. This money gets distributed to the county, the cities and towns, townships and libraries; in 2018 that generated 11.048 million dollars county wide. Grant County Government received 4.937 million of that. We also have a .25% income tax formally called CEDIT which is currently distributed to the county, cities and towns and the Growth Council. County wide we generate \$2,776,000.00, Grant County's share was 1,188,860.00; 12% of that .25% goes to the Economic Growth Council (333,237.00). We also have 1% (LOIT) we use as property tax relief. Dollars we collect from the income tax payers that live in Grant County, the money gets split among the property tax parcels within the county to reduce property taxes; that number is 11 million plus to use for that purpose. Nothing has been changed to this structure since we put it into place originally in 2009 effective 2010.

Discussion ensued concerning what the options are in changing the structure we currently have in place. Darren Bates had a power point set up showing the different options.

Mark Spitzer from Circuit Court expressed his thoughts about property taxes and income taxes and stated it is a tough decision for the Council.

Brad Luzzadder, Marion City Council President, 916 W Spencer, Marion, expressed his thoughts.

Mark Bardsley, Grant County Commissioner spoke about his thoughts concerning income tax, the Commissioners and insurance.

Jim Brunner, City Council member, expressed his thoughts concerning public safety and raising taxes.

Tony Hendey 1617 S Nebraska, Marion, expressed his thoughts concerning public safety and raising taxes.

Jerry Shull 2120 N Wabash, Marion, told about an experience in the courthouse and his thoughts on public safety.

Discussion ensued concerning what the options are in changing the current structure we have in place. Darren Bates (Data Pitstops) had a power point set up showing the different options. Following much discussion Councilman Roorbach made a motion to retain the local income tax (LIT) at 2.25%, being realigned as 1.2% going to certified shares, .25% entirely to the general fund and .8% to property tax relief. Second by Councilman Scott...Councilman Conner asked that the motion be changed to vote on the CEDIT piece separately. Councilman Roorbach agreed to that part being voted on separately. President McWhirt asked for public comment before voting on the motion that was made.

Henry Smith 1626 W 7th Street, Marion, asked a few questions on the timing of the process and the money received.

Mark Spitzer expressed his concern about the money lost for the schools.

Brad Luzadder expressed this motion does not do much to help the city of Marion.

Jerry Shull expressed concern about the property tax.

This motion was put to vote; 5-2 motion failed.

Councilman Leming made a motion to raise the certified shares from 1% to 1.3% keeping the other factors as they are. Second by Councilman Hix; motion carried 5-2.

Councilman Scott made a motion to lower the CEDIT from .03 to .01 (money going to the Growth Council). Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 6-0, 1 abstention.

8. Old Business

A. County Prosecutor-Prosecutor Jim Luttrull is not present. President McWhirt expressed we can suspend the rule and go ahead and vote on this item if we want. Councilman Conner made a motion to suspend the rule and vote without Prosecutor Luttrull present. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

Prosecutor Jim Luttrull is requesting additional appropriation of 1,984.62. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the request of appropriation. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

B. Superior Court II-Magistrate Brian McLane is asking to replace the vacancy of a court reporter. Discussion ensued concerning how to best make the situation work. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the filling of the vacancy with 75% coming from IV-D and 25% from General fund, being a full time court reporter. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion

A. Committee Reports-None.

Our next regular meeting will be August 15, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

10. Adjournment

President McWhirt adjourned the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

