

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
May 15, 2019**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday May 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Call to order

President Shane Middlesworth called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Prayer

Commissioner Bardsley let in prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Leming led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

In attendance were Council members Mark Leming, Shane Middlesworth, Frank Hix, Mike Conner, Jonathan Perez, and Mike Roorbach. Also present were Council Attorney Phil Stephenson, Chief Deputy Auditor Angela Jarvis, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens. Councilman Mike Scott and Auditor Jim McWhirt were not present.

5. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Conner moved to approve the minutes of regular session April 17, 2019 as presented. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

6. Auditor's Report

President Middlesworth expressed Auditor McWhirt did submit the reports for the Auditor's report in the packets. The only thing I want to note is the General fund balance is in the red, but is substantially better than it has been in years past. I also want to note that the Auditor and the Treasurer ending March 31st they balance to 0, I think that is a good sign.

New Business

A. Public Defender-Bruce Elliott is asking to fill a vacancy of a Public Defender position. Mr. Elliott is hoping to have this position filled in a couple weeks. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve the filling of the vacancy as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 6-0.

B. Correctional Services-Chris Cunningham is requesting additional appropriation for Adult Probation User Fees in the amount of 6,680. This increase is to supplement the Indiana Department of Correction grant salary and benefits for the period of July through December 2019. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the appropriation as presented. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-0.

C. Community Corrections-Chris Cunningham is asking for approval of the Re-entry Court Grant. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the request as presented. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-0.

D. County Prosecutor-Rodney Faulk is asking to fill a vacancy by moving an employee up to that position and then hiring to fill in the domino effect. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the filling of the vacancy with the domino effect. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-0.

Rodney Faulk is also asking for an additional appropriation in the amount of 5,201 to fund the local portion of an Indiana Department of Correction Grant that supports the Felony Pretrial Diversion Program. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

E. County Commissioners-Commissioner Mike Burton is asking to fill a vacancy for a HR director. This positions salary pays up to 35,000. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve filling the vacancy as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Mark Bardsley is asking to change the hourly rate of pay for the interim EMA director from \$19.19 per hour to \$25.00 per hour. This will just be until the end of the year or until they are able to hire a full time EMA director. Councilman Perez made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Hix; motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Bardsley also gave an update of the Grant County Dispatch Unification Proposal. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the study is complete. On May 6th the Grant County Commissioners unanimously approved moving forward with the proposal. Commissioner Bardsley is asking for support from the Council. The Commissioners will be coming back to Council in June to ask for an additional appropriation of \$60,000 for the project if Council gives their support. Dispatchers Debbie Carmichael, Jessica Bohner and Janell Sharp expressed their concerns and asked questions as to what the plans were and how things were going to work, as they had not been told anything. Their questions could not all be answered by Council members but they were encouraged to go to one of the public meetings so they could hear what plans were and how things would work. Councilman Conner made a motion to move forward with the proposal. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

F. County Auditor-Jim McWhirt is asking for additional appropriations in the amount of 60,148 for the Low Associates Software and 8,000 for the services of Tax Management Associates, for a total of 68,148. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-0.

G. County Council-Salary Ordinance MVH Fund: Councilman Frank Hix expressed the Highway Department is doing a good job with the roads and are good stewards with their money. I think we need to give them a 3% raise on their CDL drivers, starting the first of June. After training and some experience the drivers are leaving and going elsewhere because they can make more money. It is a waste of our time and money to keep losing our drivers to other companies after putting money into them for the training. After further discussion Councilman Perez made a motion to give a 6% raise to the Highway Department except for the bookkeeper and single hand. Second by Councilman Hix: Councilman Roorbach expressed he would like to amend the motion to giving a 6% raise to all County employees. There was no second: motion dies. Back to the original motion of 6% raise to the Highway Department: 2-4 v motion dies.

Councilman Hix made a motion to give a 3% raise to the Highway Department except the bookkeeper and single hand. Second by Councilman Perez: motion carries 5-1, to the second reading.

Highway Superintendent David White expressed he would like to fill a vacancy of a truck driver that just became available. Mr. White would like to start someone in this position as soon as he can get someone hired. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the filling of the vacancy as requested. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-0.

8. Old Business

None.

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

Councilman Roorbach reported on the AIC district meeting in Columbia City. They went over all the things the Legislators did that will affect the counties this year. June 29th is the state AIC meeting for county council people in Shelbyville.

Councilman Roorbach also expressed he would like to do a better job of communicating with each other as a whole.

Councilman Conner expressed to look on Facebook for Jonesboro Indiana Neighborhood Association; it is a new Facebook page for the private citizens trying to promote Jonesboro.

Councilman Perez express the CIE resolution we voted on did get passed by Marion. Mr. Perez also expressed concerns on how Council votes on approval of vacancies.

President Middlesworth expressed the August Council meeting will be the 14th and we will have a review of the property tax levy limits and the estimated circuit breaker reductions. Our July

17th Council meeting we will have our LIT review. Our budget hearings will be August 21st, 22nd, 28th, and 29th.

The next Council meeting will be June 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

10. Adjournment

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.