

**Grant County Council
Special Session
October 2, 2019**

The Grant County Council met in Special Session on Wednesday October 2, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Call to order

President Middlesworth called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Prayer

Laurie Myers led prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Scott led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

In attendance were Council members Shane Middlesworth, Mike Roorbach, Mark Leming, Frank Hix, Mike Scott and Jonathan Perez. Also present were Auditor Jim McWhirt, Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens. Councilman Mike Conner was absent.

President Middlesworth read a statement on behalf of the Council:

“The Council will not discuss the raises for any member involved in local IUPA local 825. The county is currently involved with negotiations and it is not appropriate to discuss these negotiations at this point”.

Old Business

2019 Budget: Discussion and Potential Action regarding Various Budget Matters-President Middlesworth expressed to Council they have a copy of the updated form 4B. The projected operating balance of what we have currently approved in the budget thus far is 2.6 million, that is the General fund, Health fund, Reassessment fund, and Cum Bridge fund combined. After four budget meetings of request for all departments this special meeting ties our process together with stuff that has been left undecided. I will be making recommendations to finalize those budgets.

The first item on the list is the General Fund:

EMA-Interim Director Bruce Bender had requested the Director’s salary be increased from \$35,067 to \$45,000 effective 1-1-20. Discussion ensued and Mr. Bender expressed this salary is reimbursed and this will not cost the county by granting this request. After further discussion Councilman Scott made a motion to increase the Director’s salary to \$36,820. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 4-2.

County Clerk-Pam Harris has requested the appropriations for Absentee Board, Canvas Board and Assistant, Precinct Board, voting Machine Mechanics and Roving Board mileage be restored at 2018 levels. Clerk Harris has also asked the appropriation for part time salaries be increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 6-0.

County Prosecutor-This budget includes two grant funds-Victims Advocate and Spot Light on Violence, both include personnel. Do we want to approve the salaries as shown in the grants? Councilman Perez made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

County Sheriff-This is for the contribution for the merit pension payments. The requested amount is \$801,078 which is the recommended amount by McCready and Keene. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve at the recommended amount of \$801,078. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

Area Plan Commission-The Commission has requested an appropriation in the amount of \$11,000 to pay members of the Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals \$50.00 for each meeting they attend. No motion was made on this request.

Emergency Medical Services- Mr. Ashcraft has requested an increase in salary for the EMT Supervisor/Billing Clerk from \$21,500 to 28,080, an increase in the EMT Basic Salaries appropriation from \$140,138 to \$202,800 and an increase in the hourly wage rates from \$9.25/hour to \$10.50 hour and \$10.25/hour to \$13.00/hour. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve the basic salaries at \$147,200. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 5-1.

Tyler Bundrick 212 W Lyons St. Swayzee and Virgil Hall 718 N 3rd St. Gas City spoke about the EMT salaries not being what they should be. Bundrick and Hall both expressed these people deal with saving people's lives and deserve to have better salaries.

Commissioners-We need to establish non-salary items in category 1 which are FICA, PERF, Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Unemployment and Workman's Compensation. Auditor Jim McWhirt expressed that Council can give the Auditor's office the authority to establish those amounts based on what salary changes are. These will be ready when we adopt the budget on the 16th. Council agreed by consensus.

The Commissioners are requesting the addition of an HR Coordinator, which is a new full-time position. The salary request is \$52,000. A full time secretary position at \$30,000 and a part-time position at \$16,300. Commissioner Mark Bardsley explained the request. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve a full-time HR Coordinator at \$52,000, a full time secretary at \$30,000 and a part-time position at \$16,300. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 4-2.

Drainage Board-The Commissioners have requested a salary increase for the Drainage Board secretary from \$21,012 to \$25,000. No action was taken on this request.

Data Processing-An increase in appropriation from \$100,000 to \$200,000 was requested. The department revised their budget and are now requesting \$180,000 (contractual services). Councilman Scott made a motion to approve \$180,000 in the Contractual Services account. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-0.

We also need to approve categories 3 and 4 (non-personnel items) for Data Processing. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve category 3 at \$263,420 and category 4 at \$125,000. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

County Auditor-Auditor Jim McWhirt is asking to move a portion of the salaries of three (3) deputies from the General Fund to the Plat Book Fund and to move all but \$2,000 of overtime/part-time appropriation from the Auditor's Ineligible Deductions Fund to the General Fund. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

Council-The levy for Grant/Blackford Mental Health was established in August, we have been informed of a revised maximum levy. We need to amend the amount from \$418,280 to \$404,105. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

Alcohol and Drug Services- Cindy McCoy has requested a stipend of \$1,500 to be added to a yet to be determined position. Cindy McCoy explained the process. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve \$1,500 in the Drug and Alcohol fund for a position to be determined by Mrs. McCoy. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

Health Insurance-We have been able to maintain the current contribution level of \$21,300 per employee, 2020 will be the third year for this amount. The proposed budget for the Health Insurance Fund for 2020 is \$7,000,000. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve \$21,300 per employee and \$7,000,000 for the Health Insurance budget. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

Health Fund-Dr. Moore has requested an increase in the appropriation for Health Board members and Health Board Secretary compensation from \$900 to \$1,100. Councilman Perez made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 2-4.

Bioterrorism Fund-No action was taken on this item.

Non-Union Salary Increases-President Middlesworth expressed "It is fair to say we are in a financial position that provides an opportunity to give a raise to our employees. A 1% increase will roughly cost the General Fund \$105,500, which includes FICA and PERF, but does not include raises for employees who receive state mandated raises. The state mandated raises are the Probation staff. A healthy operating balance is roughly 3 million. Currently we have 2.6

roughly. We don't want to cross a line to where we jeopardize our position financially. At this time I will open it up for discussion concerning raises".

Councilman Mike Scott expressed "Over the years we have asked our employees to do more with less. Our County employees have been faithful and faithful in their duties. I am glad we are in a position to do at least something".

Councilman Perez expressed "I feel anything less than what equates to 5% would be my bottom number".

Councilman Leming expressed "I am more comfortable with a flat rate and hopefully it is close to the 5%. Personally I am looking at \$1500.00".

Discussion ensued.

Councilman Roorbach made a motion to give an \$1800.00 raise in pay per employee excluding the Highway Department, Union, Council, and state mandated. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 6-0.

Clerk Pam Harris and Recorder Kathy Foy spoke about their staff's salaries and expressed, they would be willing to give their \$1800.00 raise to their staff.

Donnie Atkinson 715 E. Swayzee St., Marion spoke about the \$1800.00 raise and asked how the county would come up with that money. Auditor McWhirt explained how the budget process works and how the numbers are projected.

Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve the Highway Department request for a \$1,000 raise per employee. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Roorbach made a motion to give the Highway employees who did not get the raise in July get the \$1,800.00 raise. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Scott made a motion to give a 5% raise for the part time wage rate and part time/overtime accounts. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Perez made a motion to keep the Council members pay the same at \$5000.00. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 6-0.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday October 16th, at 6:00 pm.

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.

