

**Grant County Council  
Special Session  
October 7, 2020**

The Grant County Council met in Special Session on Wednesday October 7, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

**Call to order**

President Middlesworth called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**Prayer**

Councilman Roorbach led prayer.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Perez led the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call**

In attendance were Council members Shane Middlesworth, Mike Roorbach, Mark Leming, Frank Hix, Mike Scott (entered at 6:27 pm), Mike Conner and Jonathan Perez. Also present were Council Attorney Phil Stephenson (entered at 6:19 pm) Auditor Jim McWhirt, Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

**New Business**

**A. Public Hearing-Public Safety Access Pint (PSAP) Local Income Tax:** President Middlesworth read allowed the public notice/ordinance for the PSAP (Ordinance modifying local income tax rates). Bob Jackson, EMA Director, presented a presentation informing everyone and the public what has gotten us to this point. Director Jackson explained the current and the new communication systems.

Garry Bates from Pyramid Consulting spoke about what the process is and what final costs and needs for completion of the PSAP.

Commissioner Mark Bardsley spoke about progress on the PSAP.

Mike Clayton E-911 Director spoke about the importance of the PSAP.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Clifford Sneed, Fairmount, spoke against the PSAP local income tax.

Victoria Herring expressed that the PSAP is a good thing but is against passing a new tax.

Kevin Hicks expressed that as a Fireman, with the current system it is hard to get a signal when out on a call.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Mike Conner spoke and is opposed to a new tax.

Councilman Mark Leming spoke and is on board for the upgrades and does not want a tax increase but is willing to pay the tax to get better service, but would like to see in the future something be given back to the community to help offset the tax.

Councilman Mike Scott spoke and does not want a tax increase and is willing to pay the tax if that is what is needed, but does understand the position we are in and is willing to make the best decision possible for the community.

Jonathon Perez expressed wants more information on how to pay for PSAP, and find a way to lower costs if possible. "If we can find a way to pay for it internally so be it".

Discussion ensued concerning options to pay for PSAP.

Ivan Popovic spoke (via electronic device) to Garry Bates concerning contract with Motorola. Garry Bates expressed this was not the forum to discuss the negotiations of contracts.

Councilman Perez made a motion to table the ordinance for PSAP until the meeting on October 21, 2020. Second by Councilman Scott: motion carried 5-2.

### **Old Business**

#### **2020 Budget: Discussion and Potential Action regarding Various Budget Matters**

The first item on the list is the General Fund:

**EMA-Director** Bob Jackson has requested the Director's salary be increased from \$36,867 to \$45,000 effective 1-1-21. Councilman Perez made a motion to increase the Director's salary to \$45,000. Second by Councilman Hix; motion carried 7-0.

**Area Plan Commission**-Larry Strange is requesting the part-time building inspector be changed to a full time position with an annual salary of \$32,579. Councilman Perez made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

**Emergency Medical Services**- Mr. Ashcraft has requested an increase for the EMT/Supervisor Billing Clerk from \$23,300 to \$29,800, increase hourly wages for EMT's from \$10.76 to \$15.00 increase hourly wages for drivers from \$9.71 to \$12.00 and increase the appropriation for EMT basic salaries from \$147,200 to \$208,425. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve increasing the Billing Clerk salary and approve the hourly rates as requested. Second by Councilman Perez: motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Conner made a motion to approve increasing the appropriation to \$208,425.00. Second by Councilman Perez: motion carried 6-1.

**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 21<sup>st</sup>. Council agreed by consensus.

The Commissioners are requesting two additional maintenance positions with annual salaries of \$28,388 each. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Perez: motion dies 2-5.

Councilman Perez made a motion to approve 1(one) maintenance position. Second by Councilman Conner: motion carried 7-0.

The Commissioners are requesting \$20,000 for EDC Contractual Services. Councilman Perez made a motion to approve \$10,000 for the EDC Contractual Services. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

The Commissioners are requesting \$50,000 Disaster Fund transfer. Councilman Hix made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 4-3.

**Public Defender**-Bruce Elliott is requesting salary increases for each of the ten public defenders in the amount of \$3,108. Councilman Perez made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner: motion failed 2-5.

**Local Health Maintenance Fund (1168)** - Dr. Moore is requesting a part-time Communicable Disease Nurse position have an appropriation of \$30,576 with an hourly rate of \$22.00. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 7-0.

**Health Insurance Fund (5200)** - We will be able to maintain the current contribution level of \$21,300 per employee for health insurance. That was the amount we established, effective 1-1-18 so 2021 would be the fourth year for that amount to be in effect. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

**County 911 Fund (1222)**-Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the E-911 budget as requested at \$413,252.00. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

**Central Dispatch Operations Fund (4922)**-Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve the Central Dispatch budget as requested at \$1,157,500.00. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

**Non-Union Salary Increases**-President Middlesworth recommends a \$1,000.00 pay increase for each non-union employee including the Commissioners, and to not include any of the raises that have already been given, positions that have been created, state mandated positions and the E-911 fund. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as recommended. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Conner made a motion to approve a 4% raise for the part-time rates excluding any departments that have already been taken care of in this budget process and excluding the union. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 7-0.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 pm.  
President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 10:16 pm.

