

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
January 18, 2023**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday January 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**1. Call to order**

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

**2. Prayer**

Sheriff Garcia led prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Leming led the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Roll Call**

In attendance were Council members Shane Middlesworth, Frank Hix, Mark Leming, Mike Roorbach, Mike Scott, Chuck Poling and Mike Conner. Also present were Auditor Angela Jarvis, Chief Deputy Auditor Cori Anderson, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

None.

**6. Auditor's Report**

Auditor Angie Jarvis expressed until Council request what you want to see, I will continue to just provide the general fund balance and the health insurance balance.

**New Business**

**A. Election of County Officers**-Shane Middlesworth opened the nominations for President. Councilman Conner made a nomination for Shane Middlesworth as President. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 6-1 (Shane Middlesworth abstained).

Councilman Conner made a nomination for Mark Leming as Vice President. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 6-1 (Mark Leming abstained).

President Middlesworth expressed the committee recommendation for County Attorney is Nathan Meeks. Councilman Leming made a motion to accept the nomination as presented. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-1 (Mike Conner abstained).

Nathan Meeks introduced himself to everyone.

**B. Correctional Services**-Melissa Stephenson is asking to transfer 1000.00 from Overtime to Salary. Melissa Stephenson is not present. Councilman Scott made a motion

to suspend the rule. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

**C. County Health Department**-Tara Street is asking for additional appropriation from 8908 COVID Testing grant fund for the cost of 3 radios with set up, for EMA to have direct communication with ESF-8 and Local Health Department for the EOC in the event of an EOC activation. Councilman Hix made a motion to approve as requested pending advertisement. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

Tara Street is also asking for an additional appropriation from the 1159 General Health fund to the following line items:

1159-Overtime in the amount of \$5,000

1159-FICA in the amount of \$373.00

1159-PERF in the amount of \$710.00

Council has asked that Tara bring this back to the meeting in February.

Tara Street is asking a salary ordinance amendment to increase the part time nurse's hourly rate of pay from 22 to 23.10 in the ILHDTA grant line item. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

**D. County Prosecutor**-Deputy Prosecutor Scott Hunt is requesting a salary ordinance amendment. Prosecutor Hunt wants to drop the Victims Asst. Support Clerk and increase the prosecutors salaries. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 7-0.

**E. Area Plan Commission**-Area Plan Director Ryan Malott and Rex Maynard, Area Plan Commission President are asking for an additional appropriation in the amount of 6,000.00 so the Area Plan Commission can hire a third-party attorney to review the Grant County Solar Ordinance to ensure its legality and to review the conduct of the APC members thru the solar ordinance process. After some discussion, no motion was made, and no action was taken at this time.

**F. Grant County Visitors Bureau**-John Lightle is not present but presented a letter asking for a replacement of the appointment for the County Council on the Grant County Convention, Recreation and Visitors Commission. President Middlesworth expressed we will advertise the position and will take applications until February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We will approve this at the next Council meeting.

**G. Gas City Development Committee**-Mayor Bill Rocks is asking to nominate Adam Skeens for the Gas City Development committee appointment. President Middlesworth expressed we will advertise this position and will take applications until February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We will approve this at the next Council meeting.

**H. Highway Department**-President Middlesworth expressed this is a Community Crossings Grant the Commissioners have already approved, this is a formality. Highway Superintendent White requested we sign this letter of intent that any funding he gets from Community Crossings he will be able to match. Mr. White needs this letter signed saying this body is willing to do the match/appropriation. President Middlesworth read the letter aloud. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the Community Crossings grant partnership. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

## **8. Old Business**

**A. Local Alcohol and Tobacco Board**-President Middlesworth turned this over to the committee chairman Mark Leming. Councilman Leming expressed Liz Wright has held this appointment for 2 years. We have a new applicant this year Mr. Dean Small. Mr. Small works for the county, since he does that type of work as a group, we feel it to be appropriate to recommit Liz Wright to that appointment, so we do not have a conflict of interest. That is our recommendation. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve Liz Wright to the Alcohol and Tobacco Board. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 7-0.

**B. County Treasurer**-President Middlesworth stated at the last meeting we approved an ordinance, there was some spelling errors on the ordinance. This ordinance is before us again, however they decided to change the ordinance number to 1-2023. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve ordinance #1-2023. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 7-0.

## **9. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion**

**Committee Reports**-President Middlesworth expressed it is that time of year we start thinking about members committee assignments. Mr. Poling has given notice he does not want to be on the Economic Growth Council, so that is up for appointment. Mr. Hix you serve on the EMA advisory board as well as the Area Plan. Mr. Leming on the Nomination committee as well as the Union Negotiation committee. Mr. Conner is the Legislative Liaison. Mr. Roorbach served on the Nomination committee and Grant County Community Corrections. Mr. Scott serves on the Union Negotiation committee. Be thinking about your committee assignments if you have any questions or want to change let me know.

## **10. Public Comment**

Rex Maynard, Jonesboro expressed I am the citizen that represents Jonesboro in the APC and the BZA. I would like to clarify some stuff you guys said here earlier. We are not fighting with the Commissioners. What we are doing is looking at the ordinance to see if it follows IC code or is it wrong. We do not want later down the line someone to find something wrong and we get sued.

Ed Hartman, I watched the December meeting on web-ex, the Treasurer came before this body said there was a state auditor checking accounts and she found some problems. Were you asked to spend 273,000.00 to settle that problem, can you clarify that?

President Middlesworth stated that recommendation was from the State Board of Accounts, and this had been on going for some time, the Treasurer not being balanced with the bank. The recommendation from the State Board of Accounts was to clean the books so to speak. Auditor Jarvis explained we wrote a check out of County General for the Treasurer so she could write it on her cash book to come back to a more balanced number.

Ted Otis, 4389 E 00 W Marion, expressed I have been coming here for a long time and this is the first time someone complained about spending tax-payer money. I wish I could hear that more often. Mr. Otis also spoke about the solar panels.

Andy Ellis, 8320 E Jefferson Place Fairmount, spoke about the solar ordinance need to get this resolved, there is a large concern by the community. We are trying to get this right.

**Future Meeting Dates:** February 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

#### **11. Adjournment**

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 7:29p.m.