

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
June 21, 2023**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday June 21, 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

Councilman Poling led prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Scott led the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

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

5. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session on May 17, 2023. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

6. Auditor's Report

Auditor Angie Jarvis expressed the health fund is staying stable, the general fund is staying stable. I do have in front of you the form 22's that show the spring settlement and the distributions to each of the funds.

New Business

A. Second Reading-Local Income Tax Structure-President Middlesworth expressed you have in front of you a resolution which would be resolution #1-2023. President Middlesworth read the title of the resolution. As you see the figures are what was passed at the last meeting. Also, at your table you should see the ordinance modifying the local income tax rate, essentially, they are the same thing. Council Attorney Nathan Meeks stated we used the 2018 ordinance and resolution as templates. On the resolution you will notice there are some paragraphs at the beginning of the document, and it then talks about an ordinance that is spelled out in the same document.

Public Comment-Adrienne Hammond President of the Growth Council shared some examples of how invaluable the Growth Council is to Grant County.

Chuck Binkerd Vice President of the Growth Council spoke about the value of the Growth Council to Grant County.

Mike Conner expressed his support for the Growth Council.

Larry Terwillegar President of Gas City Council and a member of the Growth Council spoke about the cost of Central Dispatch and how the numbers can be changed to give money to the Growth Council.

Councilman Leming made a motion to approve resolution #1-2023. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 5-2

Councilman Leming made a motion to approve ordinance #1-2023. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 5-2.

B. County Commissioners-Commissioner Ron Stewart is asking for an additional appropriation in the APRA funds in the amount of 2,200,000.00 for the following:

Airport Sewer/Water Project: \$500,000.00

Mill Township Fire/Administration Complex: \$200,000.00

Drainage Projects for General Drain Improvement Fund: \$200,000.00

Jail/Annex Chiller and Bailer Project: \$1,300,000.00

Dale Davis (via web ex) from Envoy explained about the chiller/boiler project. After some discussion Councilman Scott made a motion to table the Mill Township administration complex project. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 5-2. Deb Cain, Center Township Trustee, spoke about getting new radios for her fire department.

Councilman Conner made a motion to approve the rest of the Commissioners request. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 6-1.

Council Attorney Nathan Meeks expressed the rules of procedure say the rules for additional appropriation does not pass on the first reading there has to be a second reading. President Middlesworth expressed this will need to be brought back in July or August for a second reading.

C. County Sheriff Department-Sheriff Garcia is asking for the addition of a School Resource Officer/Gas City Work Crew position to be added to the Sheriff's office. The proposal is Oak Hill School System would pay a daily rate of \$267.98 for 180 days for a total of \$48,246.40 of the deputy salary package of \$73,688.00. This package total does include insurance, life insurance and FICA. This leaves a cost of \$25,441.60. The City of Gas City has purposed to pay \$25,441.60 to have a work crew assist them in mowing and cleaning up the city over the summer. This would not leave a balance for the county to pay for the new deputy's salary or benefits. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as presented. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried 7-0.

D. County Clerk-Clerk Pam Harris is asking to eliminate a position in the Clerks office, the position pays \$30,135.00. Clerk Harris expressed I would like to take the \$30,135 and divide it between the Clerk staff. This would be a salary ordinance amendment. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve to amend the salary ordinance. Second by

Councilman Perez; motion carried 5-2. This request will need to come back for a second reading.

E. County Health Department-Tara Street expressed the Commissioners agreed to renew the Preparedness Grant on June 5th, we have been receiving this grant since 2001. Nothing has changed from last year, same amount of money, same budget, everything is the same. We are just asking for your permission to renew again. Councilman Conner made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

Health Officer James Rudolph shared information about the Health First Indiana that the Commissioners have approved to accept to come to Grant County. Health Officer Rudolph expressed what they want us to do is increase the state investment per capita and not ask the counties to increase monies in public health. We have been told by the state this will be a reoccurring funding it will be a line item in the budget, so it is not a grant. Local officials get to choose if they want to participate in this or not, we have to opt in every 2 years. If you opt out then you will continue to do the budget the way you do and you won't receive the extra funds, we will need to match the monies at 20%. The Council agreed to accept the grant and to do one budget.

F. County Emergency Medical Services-EMS Director Duaine Ashcraft is asking to create a new part-time position as an ambulance coder/biller. This will be a non-benefit eligible for 18 hours at \$12.80 per hour, starting July 12th. I am also requesting a transfer of \$4,700.00 from EMT salaries to a new line item created for this position. Councilman Perez made a motion to approve as presented. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

G. County Court Services-Mark Spitzer presented handouts to each Council member. Judge Spitzer is asking to amend the salary ordinance and add one position (treatment coordinator). After some discussion Councilman Leming made a motion to amend the motion. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0. Councilman Leming made a motion to add a treatment coordinator with a salary of \$40,000.00 effective the next pay period to be paid out of restrictive. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0

H. County Public Defender-Public Defender Bruce Elliott is asking for two transfers one for \$7,220.00 from Depositions/Transcription fund to Witness Fees and \$7,000.00 from Depositions/Transcription fund to Hourly Investigation/Secretary fund. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

I. County Area Plan Commission-Area Plan Director Ryan Malott expressed we are looking at hiring a new attorney, we are currently budgeted at \$12,000.00 for an attorney. I would like to raise this to \$20,000.00. My part-time employees received a raise last year, but the budget did not get adjusted, this will put me short \$9,249.00. My building inspector has been suspended without pay, if his charges get dropped, he is entitled to back pay, right now that amount is \$18,452.00. If I can use this money, it will cover my

attorney and pay my part-time employees the rest of the year and allow me to hire someone and I will be fully staffed. I am wanting to move my employees around to then hire a part-time code enforcement secretary. In doing this I want to reallocate the salaries. After some discussion Councilman Conner made a motion to amend the salary ordinance, keep the current building inspector position, create a new building inspector position at 37,994.000, allow the domino effect for code enforcement at \$35,000.00, executive assistant at \$40,409.00, effective July 3rd. Second by Councilman Perez; motion carried.

J. IT-IT Director Marcus Elliott is asking for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,000.00 to contractual services for software. Councilman Perez made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 4-3. This request will need to come back for a second reading.

K. Compliance with Statement of Benefits-Councilman Conner made a motion to accept and approve the CF1 form from Dunham's Athleisure Corporation. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 7-0.

8. Old Business

None.

9. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion

None.

10. Public Comment

None.

Future Meeting Dates: July 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.