

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
October 4, 2023**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday October 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

1. Call to order

President Middlesworth called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Prayer

Nathan Meeks 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 Scott, and Chuck Poling. Also present were Auditor Angela Jarvis, Chief Deputy Auditor Cori Anderson, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens and Council Attorney Nathan Meeks. Councilmen Michael Conner and Jonathan Perez were absent.

New Business

A. County Sheriff Department, Union Contract-President Middlesworth expressed right now we do not have a contract for consideration. I will turn it over to the committee chairman Mr. Scott for the update. Councilman Mike Scott stated we have been meeting with representatives from the Sheriff's union regarding the contract. We have a mostly agreed upon contract, there is one item remaining to make that contract official. What we do have agreement on is the following, a 7% increase in base pay from 2023 to 2024, this is a 2-year agreement so there will be a 0% increase for 2025 with a 7% increase overall for 2024. We were able to build some specialty pay as a lot of us know there are additional, special responsibilities the Sheriff's department members take care of. One is our K-9 position, we were able to get an adjustment for specialty pay for K-9 positions, we gave 5 accident reconstruction team members a little extra for those responsibilities, we were able to adjust comp hours, Sheriff's department members are making up to and maxing out at 4 days, right now we are waiting out the retiree insurance, the Sheriff's department and the Commissioners are leading in that regard. Once we have that ironed out we will have a solid contract and then we will have a contract that will be ready to be signed. Councilman Scott thanked Mr. Shields, Shane Middlesworth and Chuck Poling for their role in the negotiations, along with the members of the Sheriff's union for their leadership.

8. Old Business

2023 Budget Issues-President Middlesworth expressed we are her to finalize the 2024 budget. President Middlesworth read the budget goals. Auditor Jarvis gave an update on form 4-B. President Middlesworth stated I want to address the raise for the county

employees, the committee's recommendation is a 5% increase for the county employees, that is excluding the state mandated raises, the Public Defender, the Prosecutor and 4-D, the Clerk and Voter Election, Elected Officials, and the Sheriff's union. The Public Defender I am recommending what is on the worksheet you have in front of you, we would approve. The Prosecutor office the committee recommends we approve what the Prosecutor has requested. When it comes to excluding the Elected Officials from the 5% raise there is a wage comparison worksheet in your packet. This is the recommendation of the committee to bring the average of those Elected Officials position up to an average comparable to other counties. Councilmen Scott and Leming spoke about these recommendations. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed the other recommendation is to bring the Sheriff's Chief to \$67,000.00 and part-time county employees to \$14.00 per hour minimum or 5%. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth stated we will go through the outstanding budget issues you have in front of you. The Sheriff is requesting a medical hospital, the Sheriff gave us a worksheet from Quality Care with 3 options. There were no questions, comments or a motion made. We will leave this as the same.

Next item under the Sheriff is the recommendation contribution under the pension. In years past we have done the recommended rate, it is \$963,420.00, this is what we have worked up in the budget. Councilman Leming made a motion to approve the recommended rate of \$963,420.00 for the pension fund. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed Justin's recommendations are in your packet. Within the county Recorder his recommendation is to increase the chief deputy's pay \$2,500.00. My recommendation would be to accept Justin's recommendation and include the 5% as well. The other recommendations are county extension 2nd deputy \$1,000.00 raise, Surveyor chief deputy \$2,000.00 raise, and the Drainage Board secretary \$3,000.00 raise. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth stated Area Plan Director Ryan Malott requested a full time Code Enforcement Secretary and to keep a part-time permits clerk. Councilman Scott made a motion to table this until the next meeting. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed EMS Director Duaine Ashcraft requested we raise the part time rates to \$15.24 for drivers and \$20.00 for EMT's, and to allow the restructuring of the director and the biller position, eliminate the medical billing administrator and create a certified code biller at \$32,760.00. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the part time increase for Emergency Medical Services and to eliminate the medical billing administrator and create a certified coder biller at \$32,760.00. Second by Poling;

motion carried 5-0. Councilman Scott made a motion to amend the prior motion to reduce the part time rate for EMT's from \$20.00 to \$19.00 per hour. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed the Auditor will establish the non-salary items FICA, PERF, Health Insurance, Life Insurance, and Workman's comp.

President Middlesworth expressed the county is contractually obligated to transfer \$511,000.00 regarding the Central Dispatch fund. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the \$511,000.00 to the Central Dispatch fund. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed the Commissioners requested and additional increase from \$6,000.00 to \$9,000.00 which is 50% compensation for Drainage Board members, the members would be paid \$75.00 per meeting rather than \$50.00 per meeting. There was no motion.

President Middlesworth stated the disaster fund will have \$150,000.00, the max for this fund is \$250,000.00. Do we continue to fund the request? Councilman Scott made a motion to approve a \$50,000.00 appropriation to the disaster fund. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth stated the Public Defender request is a salary increase for the secretary to be comparable to the Prosecutor's office to \$40,000.00. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the increase to the office manager/secretary wage rate to \$40,000.00. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed the request within the Public Defender's office for the contractual amounts are \$96,820.00 in Contractual and \$55,000.00 in CHINS. Councilman Leming made a motion to establish the contractual amount of \$96,820.00 as well as the CHINS in the amount of 55,000.00. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed Superior Court II asking for consideration for Court Reporter salary increased to \$44,900.00. No motion

President Middlesworth expressed the Treasurer is asking for a full-time 2nd Deputy. No motion.

President Middlesworth stated within the Clerk's budget 2024 is a presidential election year, do we adopt the requested amount for voting, machine mechanics, roving board, mileage, absentee voting boards, canvas boards. Precinct board and the primary in general. I would make the recommendation we adopt what the Clerk has requested. This is the election board budget. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the election board budget at the recommended rates. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed we are at the Health Fund; do we approve the requested salary changes withing the 1161 and the \$1,000.00 increase to the vital records clerk/secretary? Just a note the Local Health Maintenance fund will be ending n12-31-2023, as well as the Local Health Department Trust account: 1206 will end 12-31-2023, the immunization and vaccine fund will end 12-31-2023. WE approved these depending on the raise amounts we gave the employee to what was requested. After some discussion Councilman Scott made a motion to table the health fund until the next meeting. Second by Councilman Poling; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth stated the health insurance fund is good financially at this time. We will approve the total for the health insurance fund, which is 7 million dollars. The contributions are as follows:

General Fund: \$2,038,417.00
CEDIT Fund: \$1,586,000.00
MVH Fund: \$431,440.00
Health Fund: \$121,300.00
Reassessment Fund: \$86,150.00
Central Dispatch Fund: \$189,530.00
County 911 Fund: \$34,460.00
Other Fund: \$637,703.00
Employee Withholdings: \$390,000.00
Retiree Contributions: \$0
Miscellaneous: \$190,000.00
Total: \$5,705,000.00

Councilman Poling made a motion to approve as presented. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed we need to approve the no cost extension grant fund 9124 at \$21,125.51 and the pre-trial grant 9145 at \$248,954.00. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-0.

President Middlesworth expressed Superintendent White at the Highway Department asked to increase the MVH buyout fund from \$10,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Scott asked about having a rainy-day fund. After some discussion Auditor Jarvis will come up with an amount and this will be reviewed at the next meeting.

President Middlesworth stated our projected net operating balance for December 31, 2023, with a portion of the general fund, health fund, reassessment fund and cum bridge fund is \$8,448,878.00, with the following assumptions the projected circuit breaker losses are included in these funds with 2.4 million, the budgets that have been approved so fare in the process are included, the only raises that are included are the state mandated ones which are the probation officers.

Future Meeting Dates:

Regular Meeting- Wednesday October 18, 2023

10. Adjournment

President Middlesworth adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.