

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A SPECIAL SESSION ON MONDAY,  
AUGUST 29, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, TROY SPRINKLE, KELLY ALCALA, JASON MAXWELL MELISSA GREENE AND CHIP KELLER. ALSO PRESENT WERE DAN BASTIN, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

**Modification of LIT Levy Freeze Rate – Public Hearing**

Kim Merideth stated that this proposed modification does not lower or increase the rate; it just moves parts of it around. The current LIT Levy Freeze rate is 1.218% and the ordinance will change it to 1.1963%. Melissa Greene made a motion to approve the rate. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

**Modification of LIT Economic Development Rate (Ordinance 2022-14)**

Dan Bastin stated that the decrease of the LIT Levy Freeze rate will be added to the LIT Economic Development rate. The current rate is 0.20% and will be changed to 0.2217%. Kim Merideth opened the public hearing and asked if there were any comments. There were none. Kelly Alcalá made a motion to approve the rate change. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

**Appointment- Morgan County Regional Sewer District**

Kim Merideth stated that the Council had appointed Bethaney Latham in 2021, who submitted a letter of resignation effective August 19<sup>th</sup>. Kelly Alcalá has been the Commissioners appointment, but her position must be a Madison Township resident (or own property in Madison Township) and she has moved out of Madison Township. Ms. Merideth suggested appointing Ms. Alcalá as the Council appointment and the Commissioners would need to appoint a Madison Township resident. Vickie Kivett made a motion to appoint Kelly Alcalá to take Bethaney Latham's position. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

**Review of 2023 Budget for Publication**

Chip Keller noted that the General Fund operating balance is showing a deficit when compared to the current year budget, but it spends down the cash balance from \$12.1 million to \$4.7. This is setting the county up for failure next year or the year after if they keep spending more than they are bringing in. They need to address this and they should look at the pay matrix that the Sheriff's Department submitted for next year. Kim Merideth stated that she compared the 2021 Salary Ordinance with the 2023 proposal and there is a big difference. Kelly Alcalá stated that it is a 20% increase and did not see how they could give that much of a raise to those employees. They have consistently spent down the balance over the last several years. They do not want to collect taxes that are not being used, but they also need to be in a good financial position. This means cutting down spending. Dan Bastin stated that they have scheduled September 12<sup>th</sup> as the public hearing for the budget, but they can change this date if the Council wishes to have further budget discussions. The Council agreed to meet on September 27<sup>th</sup> for a budget workshop, then hold a public hearing on the budget October 3<sup>rd</sup>, with adoption set for October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Veterans Service Officer**

Lindsay Smith, Morgan County Veterans Service Officer, and Courtney Kemp, Assistant Veterans Service Officer, were present to review budget cutbacks they had made in order to fund an administrative assistant. Ms. Smith stated that according to the GDX, they brought in \$3.5 million over last year for a total of \$28.6 million. This money goes into the pockets of Morgan County veterans and is then available to spend in Morgan County. This is the most desperate need for their office. Ms. Kemp stated that she currently fills the role of the administrative assistant and having an assistant would free up her time in order to process more claims for the veterans.


**Adjournment**

Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

  
Kim Meredith

  
Vickie Kivett

  
Troy Sprinkle

  
Kelly Alcala

Jason Maxwell

  
Melissa Greene

  
Chip Keller

ATTEST:

  
Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor