

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

Welcome

Kim Merideth welcomed new member Brian Culp and new County Auditor Linda Pruitt.

Reorganization

Vickie Kivett nominated Kim Merideth for President. Melissa Greene seconded the nomination. Vickie Kivett made a motion to close nominations. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Kim Merideth was elected as President with a vote of 7-0.

Kim Merideth nominated Vickie Kivett as Vice President. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to close nominations. Vickie Kivett was elected as Vice President with a vote of 7-0.

Resolution for Public Meetings

Kim Merideth handed out a copy of the resolution the Board of Commissioners adopted for conduct at their meetings and asked the Council to review it and adopt a similar resolution for their meetings.

Vickie Kivett stated that they unofficially adopted a policy of finalizing the Council agenda the Wednesday before a meeting in order to give them time to research and read the material for the meeting. Ms. Kivett asked that this be continued. Kim Merideth asked that a memo be sent out to departments so they are aware of the deadline.

Job Description – Parks Department, Part-time Maintenance/Equipment Operator

Daree Fry, HR Director, stated that this position was budgeted, but there wasn't a job description for the position. The Job Maintenance Committee has met and recommended that the description be approved. Vickie Kivett made a motion to accept the recommendation and approve the job description. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Monroe Township Fire District

Fire Chief Chris Mills and Advisory Board Chairman Mike Wagner were present to discuss their request for ARPA funds in order to purchase turn-out gear. Mr. Wagner stated that they must order the gear ahead of time because it takes approximately eight months for delivery. They approached the Town of Monrovia for additional funding and were turned down. Kim Merideth stated that they created an ARPA Committee comprised of several individuals throughout the county. The Board of Commissioners bring requests to the committee, the committee then determines what projects they can fund and request the funding from the Council. Vickie Kivett asked if they had a "Plan B". Mr. Wagner stated that other options are to borrow the funds, use savings, or lease purchase. Their run load is rising and the station is not manned from 5 to 10. They are not far from needing paid personnel 24/7. Troy Sprinkle stated that the building is 20 years old and there will be needs there also.

Comment

Morgan County Commissioner, Don Adams, stated that he has put together "Coffee with the County" to meet with citizens and the first meeting will be this Saturday at Bran & Shorts in Mooresville. He and Brian Culp plan to attend and anyone else is welcome. Chip Keller stated that transparency is important in local government and commended Mr. Adams for doing this.

Bryan Collier, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that he would like to start radio interviews after Council and Commissioner meetings as there is so much information circulated that isn't accurate and this could help combat this. They have also signed the agreement with Erin Pipkin as public relations consultant.

Adjournment

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

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Merideth
Kim Merideth

Vickie Kivett
Vickie Kivett

Jason Maxwell
Jason Maxwell

Chip Keller
Chip Keller

Melissa Greene
Melissa Greene

Brian Culp
Brian Culp

ATTEST:

Linda Pruitt
Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor