

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2024 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; LINDA PRUITT, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; ANNE COWGUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY; AND JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

Minutes

Brian Culp made a motion to approve the December 18, 2023 and January 2, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Introduction

Kim Merideth introduced and welcomed Anne Cowgur, the new Morgan County Attorney.

Treasurer's Report/Clerk's Report

Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Clerk's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

Budget Reduction - Highway

Eddie Fisher, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, requested a reduction of \$25,000 from the LIT (1112) Fund, Acct #1112.12200.000.0529 (Overtime). Mr. Fisher stated that payroll for several employees was moved to the MVH Fund (1176) and this line item is not needed in this fund. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the reduction. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations:

• *Highway*

Mr. Fisher requested an additional appropriation of \$25,000 from the MVF Fund (1176) into Acct #1176.12200.000.0529 (Overtime). Mr. Fisher stated that this is the fund that the employees will be paid from. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

• *Veteran's Service Officer*

Kim Merideth stated that the Administrative Assistant position in the Veterans Service Office was originally calculated at a part time rate, but this is a full-time position. The difference is \$8,494. Lindsay Smith, Veterans Service Officer, sent a letter requesting an additional appropriation from the General Fund (1000) into Acct #1000.11400.000.0012 (Administrative Assistant). Brian Culp made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfer:

• *Highway*

Eddie Fisher requested a transfer of \$200,000 from Acct #1169.46400.000.0000 (Equipment Lease Purchase) to Acct #1169.35900.000.0000 (Vehicle Lease/Rental). Mr. Fisher stated that this is a new line item created for the leased vehicles. Jason Maxwell made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

Introduction - Ordinance 2024-1 – BOT III

Zach Klutz, Taft Law, stated that the bonds were priced on January 25 through a competitive bidding process. The lowest bidder was Baird and they will serve as the underwriter and purchaser of the bonds. The interest rate is 3.712%. The bonds will be sold on February 8th. The bond proceeds are technically issued to the Building Corporation as this is the entity that is issuing bonds through the name of the county. As part of the project, they need to own the project that they are building, and that means the real estate. According to statute, two appraisals were done and the Building Corp. will be acquiring the real estate (Courthouse) from the county and will hold it until the bonds are paid, at which time, it will revert back to the county. Of the bond proceeds, \$2.45 million will be going to the county as consideration for the purchase of the real estate. These dollars will now need to be appropriated towards the project. Mr. Klutz is asking for an appropriation of the \$2.45 million to be spent for the Courthouse renovation project. Mr. Klutz noted that notice of the public hearing was published at least 10 days before the meeting. The county won't technically receive the money, it will go straight to the trustee in the project fund. By statute, the amount comes from the appraisal.

Recess

Vickie Kivett made a motion to recess the meeting. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0. Melissa Greene made a motion to open the public hearing. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearing

Kim Merideth asked if there were any comments regarding Ordinance 2024-1 An Ordinance of the County Council of Morgan County, Indiana, Providing for the Appropriation of a Portion of the Proceeds of the Morgan County, Indiana Building Corporation's Ad Valorem Property Tax Lease Rental Bonds of 2024. There were none.

Reconvene

Vickie Kivett made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Kim Merideth made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance 2024-1

Melissa Greene made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-1. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Annual Statement of Receipts and Expenditures

Linda Pruitt handed out copies of the Annual Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for 2023. Ms. Pruitt stated that this information is being published in the newspapers and has also been posted at the Administration Building, Courthouse and library. The beginning balance for 2023 was \$101,990,695.85; receipts totaled \$229,807,844.87; expenditures totaled \$232,649,808.07; leaving an ending balance of \$99,148,732.65. The total payroll for the year, with an average of 408 employees was \$19,836,273.43.


Job Maintenance Committee

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that she onboarded the new Health Department Director, Tricia Runnigen, today. Adding the new position of director changed the duties of the office manager, as this position is no longer in charge of scheduling employees. The changes to the job description were reviewed by WIS (Waggoner, Irwin & Scheele) and the classification has been changed from a COMOT III to COMMOT II and the salary will be reduced from \$22.145 to \$21.368 per hour. Ms. Fry noted that this will also change the Salary Ordinance. Vickie Kivett made a motion to accept the reclassification for the Board of Health. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment

Brian Culp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

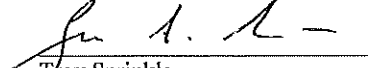
MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL



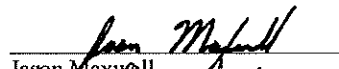
Kim Merideth



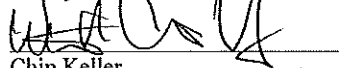
Vickie Kivett




Troy Sprinkle



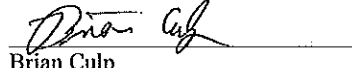
Jason Maxwell



Chip Keller

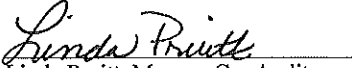


Melissa Greene



Brian Culp

ATTEST:



Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor