

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY,
APRIL 1, 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 FRUITT, 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 March 4, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer's Report/Clerk's Report

The Council acknowledged the receipt of the Treasurer's Report and Clerk's Report. Linda Pruitt noted that the Auditor's Budgetary and Financial Statement was presented as well as the monthly financial reports from Reedy Financial.

Additional Appropriation/Reduction:

• *Coroner*

Debbie Ellis, Coroner's Office, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$15,000 from the General Fund (1000) into Acct #1000.39500.000.0007 (Vehicle Lease Rental). Ms. Ellis stated that the vehicle lease rental was in the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (1138) and they need to reduce that fund and appropriate it from the General Fund (1000). Chip Keller made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$15,000 and also the reduction of \$15,000 from Acct #1138.4404.000.0007 (Vehicle). Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

• *Health*

Tricia Runningen, Health Department Director, and Elizabeth Young, Environmental Health Specialist, were present to request an additional appropriation of \$57,254.89 from the Local Health Maintenance Fund (1168) into Acct #1168.36100.000.0000 (Contractual Services) and an additional appropriation from the Local Health Dept Trust Acct (1206) of \$112,000.00 from Acct #1206.36100.000.0000 (Contractual Services) and \$45,646.70 from Acct #1206.40000.000.0000 (Equipment). The Health Department will no longer be receiving funds from the Tobacco Settlement Fund. These funds will be eliminated and the state is recommending that these funds be spent down before spending the Health First funds. Ms. Runningen handed out information regarding the new funding and how it will be used. Typically, Morgan County spends approximately \$11 per person on public health. The additional funds will increase that to \$20. This year they are receiving \$726,000 from the state and this should double next year. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$57,254.89 from the Local Health Fund (1168). Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$157,646.70 from the Local Health Dept Trust Account (1206). Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Redevelopment Commission Annual Report

Chelsey Manns, Morgan County Redevelopment Commission, was present to submit the annual report. Ms. Manns stated that it is a requirement that this report be uploaded to Gateway by April 15th. She has been working with the Auditor's Office to complete the report and it is submitted to the Board of Commissioners and County Council in advance of the deadline. New statutory requirements state that it must formally be presented to the Board of Commissioners and Council. Revenue received was \$3,101,496.58, interest paid was \$128,831.95, rent was \$12,000. Expenditures made during 2023 totaled \$1,115,000.00 bond principal payment \$379,481.26 bond interest, \$196,502.96 professional service fees, \$32,984.00 contractual services, \$15,115.02 transfer to debt service reserve, \$7,626.00 Waverly Park development, \$950.54 interlocal agreement with Hendricks County, \$500 bond insurance, \$253.92 legal notices and advertising. They hired new legal counsel in 2023, Adam Steuerwald, Barnes & Thornburg; continued work at Waverly Wastewater Treatment Plant; did not pass through any excess TIF revenues; terminated and dissolved the existing WestPoint TIF area and created

WestPoint 2 and WestPoint 3 in partnership with Hendricks County as well as the developer. The Eagle Valley Enhancement Economic Development Area was amended and that created the Whetzel Trace Allocation Area and additional work was completed on Old Town Waverly Park. Kim Merideth stated that she and Troy Sprinkle also serve on the RDC and it gets interesting sometimes.

Transfers:

- *Clerk (Records)*

Tammy Parker, Morgan County Clerk, requested a transfer of \$11,584.99 from Acct #1000.11231.000.0279 (First Deputy Records) to Acct #1000.40000.000.0279 (Equipment). Ms. Parker stated that they have old microfilm that was purchased prior to 2006 and it is not going to last much longer. Approximately 8.8% of the total cost (\$1,117.00 of \$12,702.84) could be paid from the Title IV-D Incentive Fund. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

- *EMS*

Brent Worth, Morgan County EMS Director, stated that since they did a wage increase for 2024, they have been able to hire 14 people over the last three months. Mr. Worth handed out a spreadsheet showing wages and overtime compared to 2023. The spreadsheet also compared call volumes and collections by the billing company.

Mr. Worth stated that he overlooked the equipment line item when he did the budgeting and requested a transfer of the following funds totaling \$25,000 into Acct #1151.40000.000.0000 (Equipment):

- \$5,000 from Acct #1151.24400.000.0000 (Supplies-Training)
- 5,000 from Acct #1151.32300.000.0000 (Travel & Lodging)
- 10,000 from Acct #1151.36102.000.0000 (Other Services)
- 5,000 from Acct #1151.39500.000.0000 (Instruction & Education)

Mr. Worth stated that they needed to replace some furniture and replacement bags and equipment for the ambulances. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Salary Ordinance Amendments

Linda Pruitt stated that these amendments are mostly housekeeping, there were some inconsistencies with the appropriation numbers and other items needed updated, such as the number of positions for probation and jail maintenance, the salary ranges for probation, Health Department classifications, hourly rates and part time rates, positions paid from the Reassessment Fund, and pay matrix for Sheriff, Jail and Work Release. The matrix was not being administered as the Sheriff expected it to be, so it has been decided that employees will move up on the matrix as of their anniversary date. These changes do not affect the budget. Brian Culp made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance clean-up amendment. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriation:

- *Commissioners*

Josh Messmer stated that at the previous Council meeting, they discussed a possible purchase of property off of State Road 67 for a recycling center, and approved a resolution to being the process. The purchase is contingent upon the seller signing the contract. The seller originally rejected the contract and had issues with the appraisals. These issues were brought to the appraisers and the average of the two appraisals went from \$262,500 to \$298,000 and the seller signed the contract. Mr. Messmer requested approval of Resolution 2024-3-4B (which was approved at the last meeting, but the amount has been updated) and approval of Ordinance #2024-5. If they move forward with this purchase, they would also need to approve an additional appropriation. Vickie Kivett asked if it was the intent to also make this an EMS station. Mr. Messmer stated that that is correct. Mr. Messmer stated that several funds were listed for the additional appropriation, but if they decided to use funds from ARPA, they did not need an additional appropriation because it was appropriated at budget time. Anne Cowgur noted that the purchase is contingent upon environmental tests and other items. Vickie Kivett made a motion to fund the \$300,000 purchase from the ARPA Fund, Account #1112.40002.000.0068. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Resolution 2024-3-4B – Land Acquisition

Chip Keller made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3-4B A Resolution of the County Council of Morgan County, Indiana and Intent to Conduct Due Diligence and Inspections for Purchase of Real Estate. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 3-0.

Ordinance 2024-5

Chip Keller made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-5 An Ordinance to Approve and Fix Terms and Conditions for the Purchase of Land. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

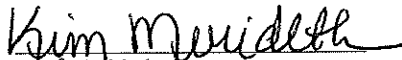
Next Meeting

Kim Merideth noted that they will be setting up for Election Day the evening of May 6th, so the next Council meeting will be Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30 pm.

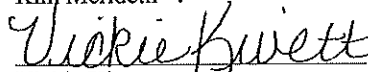
Adjournment

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

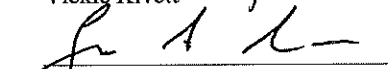
MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL



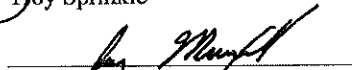
Kim Merideth



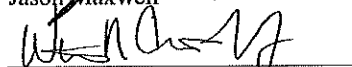
Vickie Kivett



Troy Sprinkle




Jason Maxwell



Chip Keller

Melissa Greene

ATTEST:



Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Brian Culp