

1/5/26 County Council Meeting

Meeting minutes

Opening: Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

The first meeting of 2026 for the Morgan County Council began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Joe Crone and a prayer led by Vickie Kivett.

2026 Council Reorganization

The meeting opened with the annual reorganization of the Morgan County Council. The outgoing president announced she was the first woman president of the council and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve but requested not to be nominated for 2026, wanting to allow someone else the opportunity to lead.

Nominations were opened for the position of Council President. Troy Sprinkle nominated Chip Keller for the position, which was seconded by Brian Culp. With no further nominations, Vickie Kivett moved that nominations be closed seconded by Brian Culp. The vote for Chip Keller as President was unanimous, 7-0.

For the Vice President position, Vickie Kivett also indicated she did not wish to continue serving in that capacity. Melissa Greene nominated Brian Culp for Vice President, seconded by Joe Crone. With no other nominations, Troy Sprinkle moved to close nominations, seconded by Vickie Kivett. Brian Culp was elected unanimously as Vice President with a 7-0 vote.

Following the vote, the new leadership team took their positions at the council table to continue conducting the meeting.

Request to Fill Positions:

Recorder

The Council addressed two position requests. First, Anna Voyles, County Recorder, requested permission to fill a position due to the retirement of Karen Brummett on January 30th. Ms. Voyles noted this position would be paid from the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund rather than the General Fund. Council members asked about the possibility of cross-training before the retirement, which Ms. Voyles confirmed she could handle financially from her perpetuation fund. It was noted that Karen Brummett was retiring at age 81 after over 50 years of service.

Motion to approve filling the position in the Recorder's Office for the remainder of 2026.

Moved by Kim Merideth, seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Approved 7-0.

Veterans Service Office

Daree Fry, HR Director, presented a request to fill the Veterans Service Officer position following a resignation effective December 28. She explained this was a full-time 40-hour position. Ms. Fry clarified that the office has two full Veteran Service Officers, a Deputy Veteran Service Officer (which differs primarily in supervision and payroll responsibilities), and an Administrative Assistant who has all the training and qualifications to be a Veteran Service Officer. The position would be posted to see how it "shakes out." When asked about the interview process, Ms. Fry noted it was a Commissioner hire, with interviews conducted by the three Commissioners, herself, and Kyle Swalls, County Administrator.

Motion to approve filling the Veterans Service Officer position. Moved by Vickie Kivett, seconded by Brian Culp. Approved 7-0.

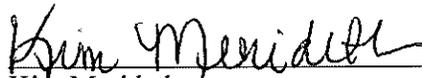
Other Business

The Council received notification from the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) regarding the 2026 budget. All budgets were approved at the adopted amount, and the three-year maximum levy appeal was also approved. The tax rate would be 0.4981, compared to the 2025 rate of 0.4453. The Council was informed that Tyler from Reedy Financial would be providing various tax rate scenarios for their consideration, similar to the previous year. Council members were advised to check their email frequently, as the deadline to respond to the DLGF was January 12th. The Council would need to approve the rate by email consensus.

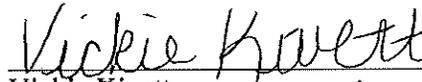
Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Melissa Greene, Seconded by Kim Merideth. Approved by unanimous consent.

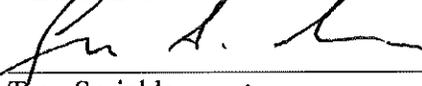
MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL



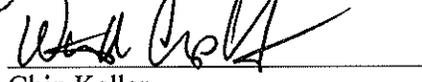
Kim Merideth



Vickie Kivett



Troy Sprinkle

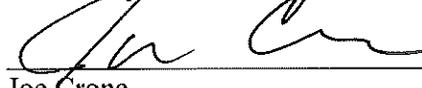


Chip Keller

Melissa Greene

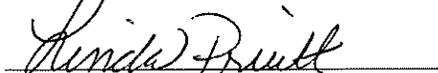


Brian Culp



Joe Crone

ATTEST:



Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor