

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY,
OCTOBER 4, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Introduction

Kim Merideth introduced Melissa Greene, the new Council Member for District 2.

Minutes

Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, August 12, August 16-17, and August 23-27, 2021 meetings and thanked Deb Verley for painstakingly taking them. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Recess

Vickie Kivett made a motion to recess the Council meeting and open the Public Budget Adoption Hearings. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearings - Budget Adoption:

Morgan County Solid Waste District

Kim Merideth stated that the adopted budget is \$363,170. Erick Kivett, Morgan County Solid Waste District Director, was present to answer any questions. There were no public comments or questions. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the budget. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0. Mr. Kivett stated that October 23rd is Tox Away Day.

Harrison Township Fire District

Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the budget of \$158,750. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Monroe Township Fire District

Mike Waggoner, Monroe Township Fire District, stated that the budget is \$324,600 for the General Fund; the total is \$459,706. Kelly Alcala stated that the fire district obtained an excess levy appeal from DGLF and since she works for the financial firm that the district retained, she would abstain from voting. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the budget. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 6-0-1. Kelly Alcala abstained.

Tall Oaks Lake Conservancy

The budget is \$63,654. There were no public comments. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the budget. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 7-0.

Close Public Hearing

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

County Budget Public Hearing

Jason Maxwell made a motion to open the public hearing for the county budget. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 7-0.

Morgan County Budget

Kim Merideth stated that the budget totals \$56,596,447. There were no public comments.

Close Public Hearing

Troy Sprinkle made a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the Council meeting. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Resolution – Employee Stipend

Kim Merideth stated that there were leftover CARES funds of approximately \$2 million that were transferred into the Rainy Day Fund. This resolution allows a one-time stipend of \$3,000

to be paid to county employees who meet the criteria. Ms. Merideth stated that full time employees must have worked all of 2020 and must be employed at the time the resolution is adopted. Jason Maxwell made a motion to approve the Resolution to Provide a One-time Stipend to County Employees for Their Dedication During the Pandemic. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations:

- *Coroner*

Mike Ellis, Morgan County Coroner, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$40,000 from the General Fund (1000) into Acct #1000.31230.000.0007 (Autopsies). Mr. Ellis stated that last year there were 96 cases; they are currently at 97 cases with three more months to go. Mr. Ellis stated that it is hard to see young people dying needlessly. The autopsy averages \$1,475 and toxicology is \$275. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 7-0

- *Commissioners*

Kim Merideth stated that the funds to pay the COVID stipend have been requested from the Rainy Day Fund (1186) into Acct #1186-19900.000.0068 (COVID Employee Supplement). This amount is estimated to be \$850,000. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0

Transfers:

- *EMS*

Keenan Blair, Morgan County EMS Deputy Director, stated that they are 12% above last year's run volume and the cost for ambulance supplies has gone up by 10%. They are trying to move funds around without requiring an additional appropriation, but there are still three more months to go. Mr. Blair requested a transfer as follows:

From:

\$37,000 from Acct #1151.44205.000.0000 (ALS Equipment)
3,500 from Acct #1151.32300.000.0000 (Travel & Lodging)

To:

\$15,000 into Acct #1151.15641.000.0000 (PRN Paramedics)
\$15,000 into Acct #1151.15650.000.0000 (PRN EMT Basic)
\$10,500 into Acct #1151.22000.000.0000 (Ambulance Supplies)

Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

Job Descriptions / Job Title Changes

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that there were several departments that wanted to change job titles or job descriptions and it was the Council's request that this be done at budget time. Some title changes are due to grant requirements or state requirements. Kelly Alcala stated that the full job description was not emailed with the meeting packet and she would like additional time to review them. Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the job titles for Court Services (Re-entry Officer, Community Supervision, Director of Court Services, Chief Probation Officer, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Officer, Community Corrections Coordinator, Adult Services, Community Corrections Probation Officer, Administrative Assistant) and four job titles for the Recorder's Office; and to table the job descriptions for the Assistant Parks Director, Chief Deputy Treasurer and Soil and Water Director. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

American Rescue Plan Subcommittee

Josh Messmer stated that the Board of Commissioners approved forming a subcommittee to discuss how the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds should be spent. The Board of Commissioners is in charge of laying out the plan. The Commissioners will name four members and they have asked that the Council name three. This would be an advisory role only; elected officials would make the decisions. Kim Merideth stated that they would work on this.

Veterans Service Officer

Rick Baum, Morgan County Veterans Service Officer, stated that he plans on retiring effective December 31, 2021. Mr. Baum thanked the Council for their support. Mr. Baum stated that they really need two people in the office that are qualified to file claims. They must be accredited

with the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, but also with the American Legion, in order to file claims. They also need a software license for the claims management software. Kim Merideth thanked Mr. Baum for his work and stated that he has been a blessing to the community.

AIC Conference

Kim Merideth stated that the AIC (Association of Indiana Counties) was held recently and asked Don Adams to come up. Mr. Adams stated that Tony Hinkle worked for the county part time while he was deployed in Kuwait with the National Guard. Mr. Hinkle was recognized by AIC as the County Highway Engineer of the year. Mr. Adams stated that is was his pleasure, on behalf of the Commissioners and Council, to present Mr. Hinkle with the 2021 AIC Outstanding Highway Engineer of the year award. Mr. Hinkle thanked many of the officials and employees present for their assistance.

Adjournment

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

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Merideth

Vickie Kivett

Kelly Alcala

Troy Sprinkle

Jason Maxwell

Chip Keller

ATTEST:

Melissa Greene

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor