

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 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*)

Minutes

Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the December 5, December 19, 2022 and January 3, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene.

Additional Appropriations:

- *Sheriff*

Sheriff Rich Myers and Jail Commander Dave Rogers were present to request an additional appropriation of \$42,000 from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (1138) into Acct #1138.49000.000.0380 (Equipment f/ Repair & Maintenance) and \$65,000 into Acct #1138.44310.000.0380 (Computer Equipment). Commander Rogers stated that this was overlooked when budgets were moved into different funds. Melissa Greene made a motion to approve the additional appropriation totaling \$107,000. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Dispatch*

Scott Hamilton, Morgan County 911 Dispatch Director, was present to request an additional appropriation from the PSAP Personnel Fund (4915) as follows: \$127,400 into Acct #4915.11802.000.0000 (Shift Supervisor), \$10,335 into Acct #4915.16500.000.0000 (PERF), and \$9,750 into Acct #4915.16510.000.0000 (FICA). Mr. Hamilton stated that due to changes in the way dispatch is funded, two positions were inadvertently left out of the approved budget. Linda Pruitt stated that this is in the Salary Ordinance, but was left out of the budget. Melissa Greene made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfer

- *Highway*

Grant Collinsworth, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, requested a transfer of \$34,100 from Acct #1176.36100.000.0529 (Contractual Services) to Acct #1176.40004.0529 (Right of Way Acquisition). Mr. Collinsworth stated that this is to pay the court ordered appraisal that they knew would be required, but the money needs to be paid out of a different line item. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Salary Ordinance Amendments:

- *Sheriff*

Sheriff Myers stated that the Merit Board has not had an increase in stipend for quite some time and requested that the stipend be increased from \$45 to \$75 per meeting. This was mentioned at budget time, but overlooked. They meet once a month unless there is no business. There are five members. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the increase. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Parks & Recreation*

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that the position in the Parks & Recreation Department titled "Maint/Laborer" should be "Maint/Equip Operator". The Job Maintenance Committee has approved the title. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the job title change. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Recorder*

Linda Pruitt stated that the Salary Ordinance has the Chief Deputy position and Bookkeeper position under the same account number (11216) and an account number of 11200 needs to be added for the Chief Deputy position. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the correction. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Dispatch*

Linda Pruitt stated that the Salary Ordinance has one extra supervisor position for 911 Dispatch and this needs to be removed. Vickie Kivett made a motion to reduce the number of positions from three to two. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Property Acquisition

Josh Messmer stated that included in the meeting information were pictures of a dump truck that was turned on its side. Earlier in the meeting, the Council approved a transfer of \$34,100 as part of an eminent domain process to clean up a corner on Bottom Road. A landowner continually put obstacles in the roadway in the belief that he owned the property to the edge of the road and did not want anyone on the property. Snow and ice froze the logs and when the truck hit it, it caused the truck to overturn. In previous years, The Commissioners had \$100,000 in the budget that could be used for this type of situation, but this has been removed from the budget for the past few years. Fortunately, the Highway Department was able to cover it, but had they not been able to, the Court Order ordering the county to pay could have been a major obstacle. The Commissioners would ask that the Council consider allowing this line item back into the budget. Kim Merideth stated that they understood the need and agreed to consider this at budget time.

Resolution to Terminate Interlocal Agreements

Josh Messmer stated that the process to abolish all the buffer zones started quite some time ago. The municipalities have been working with them and the next step is to remove the Interlocal Agreements with each municipality. The Board of Commissioners and the Council are both parties to the agreements. The Board of Commissioners approved the resolutions at their meeting this morning. Chip Keller made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-2-6a, 2023-2-6b, 2023-2-6c and 2023-2-6d, Joint Resolutions of the Morgan County Board of Commissioners and Morgan County Council Terminating an Interlocal Agreement Between Morgan County and the City of Martinsville, Town of Monrovia, Town of Mooresville and Town of Morgantown. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Special Duty Incentive Pay Ordinance

Dave Rogers stated that they presented a proposal at budget time for a special duty incentive to benefit staff that go above and beyond, such as SWAT Team, CIRT Team and different specialty groups that are in the Sheriff's office, or for education, such as a college degree. This was proposed for all staff, but the Auditor's Office had a different interpretation and there needs to be clarification as there was not discussion during budget time. Mr. Rogers stated that the education portion was for recruiting purposes. Sheriff Myers stated that this is becoming common practice with police departments across the state because of the job openings available and the lack of applicants. Sheriff Myers stated that the intent was to offer a \$3,000 incentive to attract applicants and retain employees. Kim Merideth stated that her impression was that this would be for deputies only, not all staff. Linda Pruitt stated that the ordinance does not exclude the incentive pay from the overtime amount, and it does not include work release. Money has been transferred to pay this, but the Salary Ordinance would need to be amended to include this. Mr. Rogers stated that they modeled this after the dispatch shift differential pay, but wanted the flexibility to remove the incentive if needed or add it if someone attained a certification mid-year. Since salaries are paid from several different funds, the work release was overlooked. The additional amount would be an extra \$1.44 per hour. Jim Wisco stated that this is a working draft for the ordinance. Mr. Rogers stated that they need authorization from the Council on including all staff or if the incentive is only uniformed staff. Chip Keller noted that they had not had time to review the draft ordinance. Linda Pruitt stated that \$150,00 was budgeted and with 55 people receiving the incentive, this would be \$165,000. There has been a \$21,000 transfer to offset the difference. Kim Merideth stated that in all fairness to employees, there could be an incentive for all departments, but there might not be the funding to do this. Mr. Rogers stated that currently, there are seven non-matrix employees that are included in the incentive. Josh Messmer noted that the draft ordinance is not ready for approval, it was just a template to be fleshed out by the Council. Vickie Kivett made a motion to table the issue until March so the Council could gather more information, and to continue to pay the employees as they have been doing for the last two pay periods. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0. More discussion followed regarding training requirements.

Contract Position – Surveyor

Kenny Hale, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that the Commissioners approved a request from the Surveyor's Office to remove a position from the Salary Ordinance and make it contractual. This was discussed at a previous Council meeting and no action was taken. The contract has since been amended. Mr. Hale stated that this will benefit both parties, as the employee will be able to access retirement funds and the county will save benefit costs. Mr. Hale stated that he would hate to lose the experience and knowledge this employee provides. Kim Merideth stated that this was discussed in November, but the contractual agreement did not meet the IRS requirements and the Council did not make a decision at that time. Ms. Merideth stated that she did not receive a copy of the updated contract until late afternoon and did not have time to review it before the meeting. There followed several questions. Jim Wisco responded to several of the questions.

Terry Brock, Morgan County Surveyor, stated that he has been working with the Auditor since June on the contract and they did everything there were asked to do. The employee will be retiring on February 28th. If they are unable to retain his services, it will take two additional employees; one to perform the Stormwater Coordinator duties and one for the MS4 duties. The current employee has 33 years of experience and IDEM requests his services. He saves the county thousands of dollars because he reviews plans and they don't have to send it out to a contractor. Kim Merideth stated that they are not questioning the knowledge, they just want to make sure there is no question that this is a contractor. Mr. Brock stated that two attorneys have reviewed the contract. Josh Messmer stated that the reason the contract was put before the Council, was not for approval of the contract itself, but to make sure the Council was comfortable with the concept. The Commissioners will take the comments under advisement and will incorporate them as legal advisors recommend. Troy Sprinkle stated that the supervisory language from the prior contract has been stricken and that was a huge obstacle. Terry Brock stated that that was an oversight. Bryan Collier recommended that a few Council members work together with a Commissioner to fine tune the agreement. Mr. Collier stated that he was comfortable moving forward as he is not qualified to take over MS4 nor does he currently have time to set up a whole new department. Vickie Kivett stated that not only is the position vital to the county, but also to municipalities throughout the county. Kim Merideth stated that she appreciated that they brought it before the Council to let their concerns be heard. Brian Culp made a motion to approve changing the position from employee to contractual pending further definition of the contract. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

Bottom Road

Terry Brock thanked the Commissioners and Highway Superintendent Grant Collinsworth for obtaining the right of way to improve the corner on Bottom Road; they have been dealing with issues on that corner for 20 years.

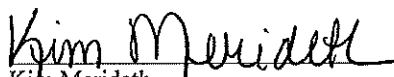
Coroner Report

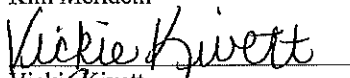
Morgan County Coroner, Mike Ellis, handed out an annual report showing a 37% increase over 2021. There were 25 overdoses and 15 suicides included in the total calls. Mr. Ellis stated that he needs help and does not feel that he is being heard. Volunteers are not easy to find and calls and paperwork are increasing. Mr. Ellis stated that he needs a full time and part time person.

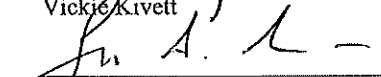
Adjournment

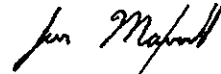
Brian Culp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

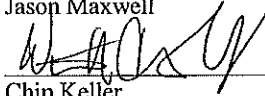

Kim Merideth


Vickie Kivett

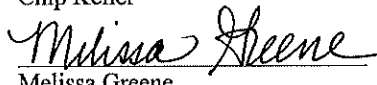

Troy Sprinkle



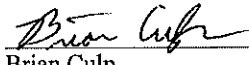
Jason Maxwell



Chip Keller

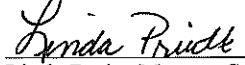


Melissa Greene



Brian Culp

ATTEST:



Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor