

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A SPECIAL SESSION ON WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 FOR A FINAL BUDGET REVIEW AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: BRYAN COLLIER, KIM MERIDETH, PAUL PRATHER, VICKIE KIVETT,
DANIEL ELLIOTT, AND KELLY ALCALA. ALSO PRESENT WERE DAN BASTIN, MORGAN
COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY. DAVE ZOLLER WAS ABSENT.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Daniel Elliott*)

Final Budget Review

Bryan Collier stated that they called the meeting so that the Council would have time to review the changes made to the budget during the workshop before submitting the budget to the state for final approval.

Mr. Collier stated that some of the budgets went up and some went down. They also moved items into different funds. Mr. Collier stated that he would gladly go to bat for the employees and the \$300,000 spent in getting to the mid-point of the salary study in order to make the county a competitive employer going forward. Mr. Collier also pointed out that the health insurance has historically been underfunded and claims are up. Part of the \$700,000 increase is catching up the funding, part of it is higher claims, and part of it is a new philosophy of trying to get to the mid-point of anticipated claims. The \$240,000 increase in the Auditor budget is partly because of a new payroll system and new accounts payable system and this is the time to get it in place. The \$297,000 increase in the Sheriff's budget is due in part to the pension fund and Mr. Collier advised the Council to keep an eye on that. Another big increase was the cost of rotating vehicles in the Sheriff's Department. Several other increases in other departments were due to increased personnel. The \$300,000 expense in the Highway Department budget is in bridges and as the highway engineer explained, with the I-69 construction and asphalt plants close by, costs would be lower and it needs to be done. There will also be increases in paving for the same reason. The increase in the EMS budget is due to the cost of rotating ambulances.

Mr. Collier stated that the county is poised for growth and if they don't get the foundation correct now, the repercussions will be felt for years if not decades.

Vickie Kivett added that they considered the wage study and they respected the employees.

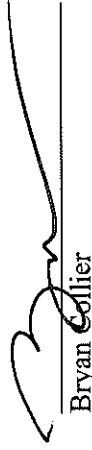
Kim Merideth stated that she talked to other counties and some Councils have to prepare budget documents themselves and she wanted to thank Dan Bastin for making their job much easier.

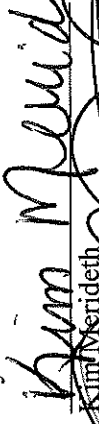
The public hearing will be September 16th.

Adjournment

Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Daniel Elliott. Motion carried 6-0.

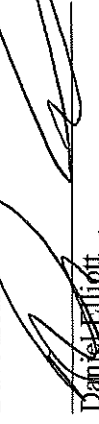
MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

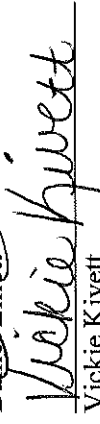

Bryan Collier

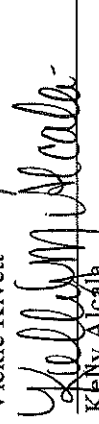

Kim Merideth


Paul Prather


Dave Zoller


Daniel Elliott


Vickie Kivett


Kelly Alcala

ATTEST:


Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor