

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2009

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Thomas Western, Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, John Barrett, William Overdeer and James Banks. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Tom Rethlake, Mike Schrader, Don Amber, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Dave Koenig, Scott Brown, Don Wood, Doug Wood, Dave Wood, E-911 Director Scott Jones, Chief of Communications Kathy Shively, Terry Knee, John Toumey, County Assessor Angela Adams, Tax Deputy Jennifer McGuire, Jennifer Zartman Romano and Post and Mail reporter TJ Hemlinger. Chairman Western called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of March 3, 2009 were approved as submitted.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT: David Koenig of Region III-A gave a brief background on 80/20, Incorporated and then explained the desired ten-year tax abatement. The company will be constructing a 45'x 75' building addition in order to add their own anodizing equipment. The company currently out sources this service, but would like to do it in house. The estimated cost of the addition is \$300,000, with construction beginning 4/15/09 and completed by 10/15/09. The new process should add three new employees. A ten-year tax abatement for personal property is also being requested in order to add \$700,000 of anodizing equipment. The estimated time for installation is from 4/15/09 to 10/15/09. The Redevelopment Commission passed Resolution No. RC-2009-01 bringing a favorable recommendation to Council. Resolution No. 2009-03 was introduced to Council and if approved would grant tax abatement for a period of ten years for both real estate and personal property. After further discussion, Bayman moved, seconded by LaRue, to approve Resolution No. 2009-03 and grant ten-year tax abatement for both real estate and personal property to 80/20, Inc. The motion passed 7/0. (See Resolution No. 2009-03 on file in the auditor's office)

IN THE MATTER OF E-911 FUNDS: Scott Jones and Kathy Shively were present to discuss the use of E-911 Funds as set out by the State of Indiana. Guidelines have been established for expenditures and are limited. Jones is asking for support of purchases not included in the guidelines and offering to fund salaries of one full-time dispatcher or two part-time dispatchers. Salaries for dispatchers are allowed under current guidelines. Jones was instructed to include the dispatchers in his proposed 2010 budget.

IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF RETIREMENT PLAN: The IRS is requiring that all citations to Indiana law be removed and that the reference to "termination of employment" be changed to "severance of employment" in the current Sheriff Retirement Plan. A revised Plan was presented to council members for review and approval. County Attorney Dan Sigler had also reviewed the changes prior to this meeting. John Barrett moved, seconded by James Bayman, to approve the new version of the Whitley County Police Retirement Plan and to allow Chairman Western to sign on behalf of the County Council. The motion passed 7/0.

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT PROCESS: County Assessor Angela Adams and County Auditor Linda Gerig arranged for the Department of Local Government Finance to have representatives from that agency speak to the County Council on the Tax Abatement Process. John Toumey, Field Representative and Terry Knee, Assessment Division Supervisor was both present to give a formal presentation and answer questions from council members.

IN THE MATTER OF COPS GRANT: Sheriff Mark Hodges was present to discuss the possibility of applying for a COPS Grant. The grant would fund the starting salary for a deputy for a period of three years. Any increases during that time would be covered by the county. The employee would then have to be employed for one more year or the monies received would have to be paid back. Chairman Western called for a "straw vote" and the consensus was not to apply at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Tom Rethlake reported on the following matters from the meeting on April 6, 2009:

- Bids were received for the 2011 Reassessment. Assessor Angela Adams will review and make a recommendation on April 20, 2009.
- The road/drainage issues on David Schulenburg property have been taken care of.
- A Zoning Amendment was approved changing the guidelines for floodplains.

- Three bids have been received for carpet repairs in the courthouse. Overdeer moved, seconded by Wheeler, to accept the lowest bid of \$1660.68 from Aumsbaugh Flooring. The motion passed 7/0.
- The courthouse dome is in need of repairs due to ice damage.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed with Parkview Whitley Hospital, The Oaks and Oak Point. This will enable EMA to assist in the case of a disaster.
- April 17 will be the State of the County Address at the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. Chairman Tom Western was selected to speak briefly representing County Council.
- An Executive Session was held April 6, 2009.
- An Executive Session will be held April 10, 2009.
- Several employee meetings are being scheduled and those were explained by Amy Crickmore.

The rest of the session was used to review Compliance with Statement of Benefits for tax abatements.

There being for further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Thomas Western, Chairman

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

James Bayman

Glen LaRue

John Barrett

William Overdeer

James Banks

Attest:

Linda J. Gerig, Auditor