

# WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

March 6, 2018

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Thor Hodges, Vice Chairman Chad Banks, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, John Barrett and William Overdeer. Absent was Council member Kim Wheeler. Others in attendance were Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Hamilton, County Coordinator/Human Resource Director Angela Campbell, Commissioner George Schrumpf, Barbara Hohenstein, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff Department, Todd Geiger from the Purdue Extension, Sheriff Gatton, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, Leslee Derbeck from STAR Insurance, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Tim Kumfer, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, County Recorder April Whetstone and Jay Lockett from the Post and Mail.

Chairman Thor Hodges called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** County Coordinator/Human Resource Director Angela Campbell requested to the Council that she be on the Personnel Committee as a non-voting member and the Attorney be part of the Committee as well when he is needed. The Council came to the consensus to add Angela Campbell and the County Attorney to the Personnel Committee.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 4-H PROGRAM UPDATE:** Todd Geiger from the Extension Office gave an update on the Youth 4-H program. The program is available to all kids in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The mini 4-H program is open to all kids in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. There are 140 youth who live outside Whitley County involved in the 4-H program. There is also a handful of youth that live outside of Indiana that enroll in the program as well. This past year they had 770 kids take part in the Whitley County 4-H program. There were also 160 adult volunteers who helped run the program as either club members, board members, volunteers during the week of the fair or assisted in different clubs. There were 58 different projects that kids could participate in for 2017. There will be 61 in 2018 and the new non-traditional clubs are Whitley County RC cars, Junior Chef Academy, Whitley County Jr. Barnstormers, Robotics Club and Robotics Experience. The new traditional clubs are Beekeeping, Construction Toys, Homemade Ice Cream and Mini 4-H Livestock Mentor Project. In regard to the 4-H STEM Connection Program, this is a program where they are taking 4-H youth into county schools to work with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and older. They do hands-on activities in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This program has 11 members on the team this year and 6 are new to the team. He also informed the Council on the Camp Steam Ahead which is a unique camp that focuses on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics with kids.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JAIL TASK FORCE:** County Prosecutor DJ Sigler gave an update to the Council in regard to the Jail Task Force. DJ is the Chairman of the Task Force and stated that the non-compliance with the law is a huge problem in the community for the Jail. They are working diligently towards a solution but he does not have a formal report to give them at this time. They have been looking into a Technical Rules Violator Center because the majority of the inmates in the Jail at this time are individuals who have violated their probation. The Commissioners approved Michael Kinder and Sons to perform a study whether it is possible to have a Technical Rules Violator Center. As long as they continue to work on this issue and show progress, the State has been allowing an extension to fix the issue. The Council did not have any questions for DJ at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTIMATES FOR PROJECTS:** Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant gave estimates for projects to the Council. The first project is to replace five heat pumps and they are \$7,500.00 per pump so the cost of the five pumps will be \$37,500 and there are 9 pumps remaining that need replaced. The Commissioners gave a favorable pass to Council for this project. The life expectancy of a new heat pump is ten years. Council member Bayman made a motion to replace the 5 heat pumps and for the funds to be taken from Cumulative Capital Development, seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote. The second project is the Courthouse Chimney Restoration. Mark provided the Council with information on this project with pictures. The chimney is not in use at this time and the Council did not make a decision because part of the cost will be paid with the CEDIT plan for 2018. In regard to the Jail Recreational Area project, the Commissioners made a favorable pass to Council to approve the project. This is for the two columns supporting the overhead door. The total for the project is \$17,018.00. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the project and fund it out of Cumulative Capital Development, seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote. The Jail Exterior Masonry restoration project was presented to the Council for approval and for funding. The cost of this project is \$94,885.00. This includes painting the building, replacing the joints and 225 bricks that need to be replaced. There are also stress fractures that need to be sealed and a section of the foundation that needs to be fixed. Anything that has a seal will need to be caulked so water is not getting in. This does not include replacing the exterior doors. Mark stated there are a few things that can wait until next year but others are urgent. At this time, the plan for

funding this project is for \$70,600 to come out of CEDIT and \$24,285 potentially out of Cumulative Capital Development. The Council would like to wait to make a decision until the CEDIT plan is discussed.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE TEMP POSITION IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:** County Assessor Kim Erdly had made a request at the last Council meeting to create a temporary position in the Assessor's Office. This temporary position is no longer needed so she is asking them to make a motion to rescind the motion at their last meeting. Council member LaRue made a motion to rescind the motion to approve the temporary position in the Assessor's Office, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 5/0 vote with Barrett abstaining.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Schruppf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

- Commissioner Schruppf presented the 2018 CEDIT plan to the Council.
  - o Project 1: \$185,000 - Provide funds to the Whitley County Economic Development Corporation
  - o Project 2: \$25,000 – GIS Projects for updates and upgrades
  - o Project 3: \$200,000 – On site/off site improvements for economic development
  - o Project 4: \$25,000 – Provide assistance to Whitley County Council on Aging
  - o Project 5: \$25,000 – Funds to Troy Center
  - o Project 6: \$15,000 – Provide assistance to the Whitley County Humane Shelter
  - o Project 7: \$110,000 – Dispatch computer system and system upgrade
  - o Project 8: \$100,000 – Loan payment for Health Insurance
  - o Project 9: \$10,000 – Assistance for City Aquatics Center
  - o Project 10: \$30,000 – Judge Chambers security upgrade
  - o Project 11: \$50,000 – Utilities assistance for Community Corrections
  - o Project 12: \$295,479 – Fund facility repairs for the Courthouse and Jail

The Council reviewed the 2018 CEDIT Plan and Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the plan as presented along with the Courthouse Restoration and the sidewalks, seconded by Barrett and motion did not pass with a 4/2 vote with Hodges, Banks LaRue and Bayman voting against. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the CEDIT plan as presented, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 4/2 vote with Banks and Bayman voting against. In regard to the Jail Exterior Masonry Restoration, Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the \$24,285.00 for the sidewalks out of Cumulative Capital Development, seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote.


**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the February 6, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 5/0 vote with Barrett abstaining.


There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

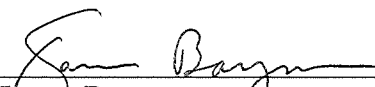
**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

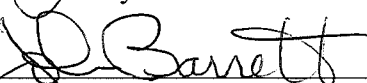
  
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Thor Hodges, Chairman

  
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Chad Banks, Vice Chairman

  
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Kim Wheeler

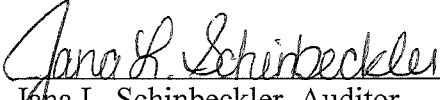
  
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Glen LaRue

  
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James Bayman

  
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John Barrett

  
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William Overdeer

Attest:

  
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Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor