

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 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, Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, Timothy Kumfer and William Overdeer. Absent was Councilman John Barrett. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, HR Director/County Coordinator Angela Campbell, Sheriff Gatton, Jail Commander Sean Martin, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, Kyle Peppler and Mark Sturtevant from the Maintenance Department, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Director Vicki Builta from the South Whitley Community Public Library, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Jennifer Shinabery, James Argerbright and Tim Summers.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ABATEMENT REQUEST:** EDC President Jon Myers presented an abatement request to Council for a company currently located in Columbia City and manufactures surgical tools for the orthopedic industry. They need to expand their operations and do not have room at their current location. Under the project as it is currently being proposed, Michael J. Kinder & Sons would construct a new building for the company at Park 30. The building would be constructed on one of three lots that were recently re-platted. PB Development, a real estate development company affiliated with MKS, is requesting a ten year tax abatement for the new building to be constructed by PB Development and leased to the company on a triple net basis. The Redevelopment Commission has given a favorable recommendation to the Council for approval. Council member Wheeler made a motion to approve the ten year abatement request per Resolution 2019-03, seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** Sheriff Gatton was present to ask the Council to re-appropriate funds that were refunded to the County from our insurance company due to a vehicle accident. The amount the County received back from the insurance company was \$13,369.70. He is requesting that the funds be re-appropriated to Cumulative Capital Development to purchase a new vehicle. Councilman Overdeer made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request for \$13,369.70, seconded by Banks and carried with a 6/0 vote. Sheriff Gatton also discussed the different issues they are having at the Jail and the over population. He is looking into options for inmates due to the overcrowding. He would like to move male inmates to other County Jails to make room for more of the female inmates. In order to send inmates to other facilities, it would be \$35 per day per inmate. He would like to send approximately 15 inmates to other facilities, which would be \$525.00 per day and \$191,625.00 per year. He also stated that other Counties will not take female inmates, only male. Gatton is requesting that there be a committee formed made up of Commissioner and Council members to look into all of the different options there are to resolve the overcrowding. The Commissioners and Council members were for creating a committee.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REALLOCATION OF CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS:** Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant was present to request the Council to reallocate the funds they approved for projects from the April meeting. This is due to Mark being informed that the downtown revitalization study for the City is being planned for this summer. According to the Mayor, this may lead to the City replacing the sidewalks so the County may not have to fund the replacement of them. If the Council decides to change their approval by removing all of the projects related to the sidewalks and adding the replacement of the heat pumps and replacing the remaining 44 Jail lavatory valves, it would cost \$80,490.00. This is \$4,740.00 less than what was previously requested and approved. Council member Overdeer made a motion to continue to replace the sidewalks and fund them out of Cumulative Capital Development and pay for all other projects out of County General. The motion died for lack of a second. Council member Wheeler made a motion to approve the funding of replacing the four remaining Courthouse heat pumps for \$35,000, replacing the remaining 44 Jail lavatory valves for \$38,390 and replacing the East steps of the Courthouse for \$7,100.00 for a total of \$80,490.00. Council member Banks seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SWCPL BOARD OF TRUSTEES RE-APPOINTMENT:** South Whitley Community Public Library Director Vicki Builta was present to request the re-appointment of Alice Nicodemus for another 4 year term to the library board. Council member Warner made a motion to approve the re-appointment, seconded by Banks and carried with a 6/0 vote.

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

- Commissioner Schrumpf informed the Council that the renewal of liability insurance is coming up soon.
- In regard to the Jail tax, Commissioner Schrumpf stated that he would like to have a public hearing at the June meeting. They hope to get the income tax adopted to begin accumulating funds for a new facility. In July, the law changes for the income tax and it only allows for 20% of the funds to be spent on operating expenses. Schrumpf will be requesting someone from Umbaugh attend the meeting to answer any questions anyone may have. The Public Hearing will be advertised 10 days before the meeting in the newspapers.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the April 2, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 5/0 vote with Hodges abstaining.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented the five year employee improvement plan for the Department. Over the next five years, he would like to hire a part-time contracted Health Educator, a part-time Weights and Measures Inspector, a full time Immunization Clerk, a full time Employee Health Educator and a full time Code Enforcement Inspector. Scott presented this improvement plan to the Council for budget purposes. Lindsey Grossnickle presented a transfer request to the Council for JDAI.


8111.30000.000.08211 Professional Services                      8111.20000.000.8211 Supplies                      \$4,952.00  
Council member Kumfer made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Warner and passed with a 6/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Hodges adjourned the meeting at 9:15 AM.

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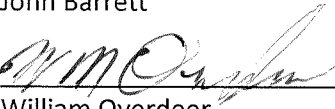
  
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Thor Hodges, Chairman

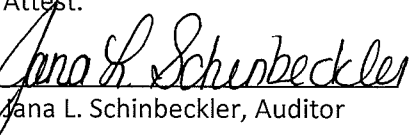
  
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Chad Banks, Vice Chairman

  
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Kim Wheeler

  
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Thomas Warner

  
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Timothy Kumfer

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John Barrett  
  
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William Overdeer

Attest:  
  
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Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor