

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

December 7, 2021

The Whitley County Council met in session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair Thor Hodges, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Timothy Kumfer, Thomas Warner, James Argerbright, Joan Western and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioner George Schrupf, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tinch, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, County Treasurer Kay Gatton, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Marc Gatton, Jason Spencer and Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's Department, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, Mark Sturtevant from the Maintenance Department, Kennedy St. George from the EDC, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Judge Fahl, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library and Marci Diem and Jason Brooks from ChromaSource.

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

**PENSION SPECIAL EARLY RETIREMENT AND TRANSFERS:** Sheriff Gatton stated he will come back to discuss the Sheriff pension. Sheriff Gatton then presented transfers for the jail and sheriff budgets. (See below year end transfers)

**WIC DISCUSSION:** Health Director Scott Wagner was present to discuss the Health Boards decision to no longer house the WIC program. The program is going to need financial assistance that the County cannot give them. Scott also presented to the Council a request to use grant monies to compensate him for the extra 166 hours that he worked from January to May over his 37.5 hours a week. He gave the option of his hourly rate times the 166 hours totaling \$5,979.32 or whatever amount the Council was comfortable with. Kumfer made a motion to compensate Scott \$6,000 as a one-time payment out of the Safety Grant, second by Argerbright, passing with a 7/0 vote. Scott gave a quick update and let Council know that as a County we are in the red for COVID cases and that there are a lot of sick people right now with COVID and other illnesses.

**CHROMASOURCE:** Kennedy St. George was present for the EDC with Jason Brooks and Marci Diem from ChromaSource to ask for a 10 year personal property abatement. They purchased a property in Rail Connect that they will be using for storage. Jason stated that he plans to be able to employ 15 people to start with and might have a need for more at a later date. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-11 with a second by Argerbright, passing with a 7/0 vote.

**APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT REQUEST:** Mark Sturtevant was present to ask for \$220.19 that the County received a check for reimbursement for damage to the trash enclosure be placed back into the maintenance budget, as he paid for the repairs out of his budget. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to allow the funds to be put in the maintenance budget, second by Barrett, passing with a 7/0 vote.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:** Councilman Kumfer spoke on behalf of the personnel committee. The first recommendation that he presented was for the Planning and Permitting Tech from the Planning and Building department. They have reclassified the job description from a COMOT III to a COMOT II. Personnel committee recommends that they allow for the change. Kumfer made a motion to approve the reclassification with an effective date of January 2022, with a second by Western, passing with a 7/0 vote. The next recommendation that was discussed was whether the Probation employees should receive the cost of living increase that the State gives them only, or if they should receive the County's increase as well. Personnel committee recommended that they should only receive the State cost of living. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to have the Probation employees only receive the States cost of living increase. Seconded by Western and passing with a 7/0 vote. The last recommendation was for a new part time position for the health department. This position would be a lactation consultant and would work 12/week at \$20/hour. Scott has already put Danielle Henderson from WIC into this position as of October 1, 2021. Kumfer made a motion to allow the new part time position, with a second by Western, carrying with a 7/0 vote.

**YEAR END TRANSFERS & ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:** Auditor Deakins presented year-end transfer resolutions to the Council for approval.

### County General

#### *Sheriff:*

1000.36001.000.0105	Garage	1000.24000.000.0105	Uniforms	\$6,300.00
1000.33000.000.0105	Comm/Tech	1000.34000.000.0105	Telephone	\$1,000.00

#### *Clerk/Elections:*

1000.12000.000.0122	Prim Elect Board	1000.39003.000.0124	Election Meeting	\$700.00
1000.12109.000.0122	Gen Elect Board	1000.39003.000.0124	Election Meeting	\$700.00

*Planning & Building:*

1000.11322.000.0124	Building Inspector	1000.37000.000.0124	Equip & Prog Main	\$18,000.00
1000.11700.000.0124	Part Time	1000.30000.000.0124	Professional Services	\$2,400.00

*Superior Court:*

1000.35600.000.0137	Contracted Services	1000.12101.000.0137	Sr. Pro Term	\$500.00
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*Commissioner:*

1000.20000.000.0130	Supplies	1000.32005.000.0130	Liab & Prop	\$5,000.00
1000.42019.000.0130	Website	1000.32005.000.0130	Liab & Prop	\$5,000.00

*Jail:*

1000.11506.000.0132	Confinement Officer	1000.39008.000.0132	Meals	\$1,700.00
1000.12012.000.0132	Head Cook	1000.39008.000.0132	Meals	\$3,500.00
1000.12705.000.0132	Confinement Officer	1000.39008.000.0132	Meals	\$4,900.00
1000.12800.000.0132	Confinement Officer	1000.39008.000.0132	Meals	\$1,900.00
1000.13200.000.0132	Confinement Officer	1000.39008.000.0132	Meals	\$100.00
1000.13300.000.0132	Confinement Officer	1000.39008.000.0132	Meals	\$2,100.00
1000.13400.000.0132	Confinement Officer	1000.39008.000.0132	Meals	\$13,400.00
1000.31003.000.0132	Utilities	1000.20002.000.0132	Jan Supplies	\$10,000.00

**Health***County Health*

1159.30012.000.0214	Other Services	1159.17100.000.0214	FICA & MEDICARE	\$1,000.00
1159.32010.000.0214	Envir Health	1159.17100.000.0214	FICA & MEDICARE	\$300.00
1159.32010.000.0214	Envir Health	1159.17200.000.0214	PERF	\$200.00
1159.40000.000.0214	Cap Improvements	1159.17200.000.0214	PERF	\$2,265.83
1159.35600.000.0214	Contracted Services	1159.17200.000.0214	PERF	\$3,900.00
1159.35600.000.0214	Contracted Services	1159.17300.000.0214	Group Insurance	\$2,000.00

**Probation***Supplemental Juvenile*

2150.30012.000.0249	Other Services	2150.17100.000.0249	FICA & MEDICARE	\$100.00
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8111.20000.000.8211	Supplies	8111.30000.000.8211	Professional Services	\$600.00
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**IN THE MATTER OF APPROPRIATION REDUCTIONS:** Auditor Deakins presented appropriation reduction requests to Council for approval.

**County General:***Sheriff*

1000.12104.000.0105	Dispatcher	\$1,200.00
1000.12105.000.0105	Dispatcher	\$1,200.00
1000.12113.000.0105	Dispatcher	\$8,000.00
1000.11605.000.0105	Overtime	\$5,000.00
1000.11608.000.0105	Holiday	\$5,000.00

*Commissioners*

1000.17300.000.0130	Group Insurance	\$500,000.00
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**IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:** Auditor Deakins presented additional appropriation requests to Council for approval.

**County General***Sheriff*

1000.39008.000.0132	Meals	\$20,400.00
1138.37000.000.0256	Equip & Prog Maintenance	\$50,000.00

**LIT – Correctional/Rehab Facilities (Jail Tax)**

1233.41000.000.1233	Capital Outlays	\$349,960.70
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**Health**

1159.11700.000.0214	Part Time	\$3,120.00
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## Community Corrections

### Project Income

1122.11700.000.0311	Part Time	\$44,711.00
1122.12409.000.0311	WR Shift Supervisor	\$1,026.93
1122.17100.000.0311	FICA & Medicare	\$38,709.00
1122.17200.000.0311	PERF	\$23,894.00

### Community Transition

1123.20000.000.0274	Supplies	\$5,000.00
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There were several motions and seconds that took place for each of the transfers, the additional and reductions. All received a motion, a second and all passed with 7/0 votes.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2022 SALARY ORDINANCE APPROVAL:** The Council reviewed the 2022 salary ordinance. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the salary ordinance for 2022 per Ordinance 2021-12, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**EXCLUDED POSITIONS DISCUSSION:** Jennifer Shinabery spoke on behalf of an issue that the Auditors office had come across when updating their payroll system. When the County had Wagner Irwin and Scheele come in and evaluate and reclassify our positions there were 7-8 employees that were made "excluded" which means that they are not eligible to earn overtime or comp time. Since the ordinance 2019-11 was signed that is not how department heads and elected officials have been treating these employees. The Council needs to decide if they want to go with what the ordinance states or if they would like to amend the ordinance. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to amend the ordinance to eliminate the part of excluded employees not being able to earn overtime and comp time. Employees can continue to earn overtime and comp time between now and when the amended ordinance is approved. Seconded by Argerbright, carrying with a 7/0 vote.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Schrumpf gave a report from the Commissioner Meeting:

- Commissioner Schrumpf informed the Council that the Commissioners are wanting to go back to using Region 3A for help with grants- they would no longer use our current contracted grant writer. This would be a cost savings for the county, it would only be \$13,300/year. Councilman Hodges stated that he is not in favor of using Region 3A with the experience that we had in the past with them. There was a 6/1 consensus.
- The Commissioners have signed an agreement for the opioid settlement that is still currently in the courts, if they award any monies from the settlement the County might receive a small piece of that.
- Commissioner Schrumpf stated that Brandon Forrester would not be extending his contract to be the County Engineer and Highway Director. They have sent the job descriptions to WIS and they have come back with a salary range of \$57,974-\$74,077 for the Highway Director and \$87,723-\$112,000 for the Engineer. They are looking to hire for the Highway Department right now and are trying to decide what to do with the Engineers office.

**MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the October 5, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 7/0 vote.

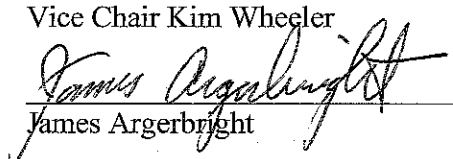
**OTHER BUSINESS:** Council member Argerbright asked Commissioner Schrumpf for an update on the jail project. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the County is currently working on contracts with BW and Elevatus, they are also working on the 1263 house bill that includes public hearings and more. Schrumpf also stated that the Sheriff has had input on what is needed. Councilman Kumfer wanted to state that December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Pearl Harbor and he wanted to honor that. Chair Hodges thanked everyone that was present for being at the meeting.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Hodges adjourned the meeting at 9:51 AM.

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

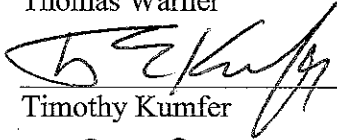
Chair Thor Hodges

Vice Chair Kim Wheeler

  
James Argerbright



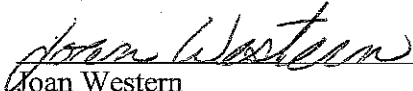
Thomas Warner



Timothy Kumfer

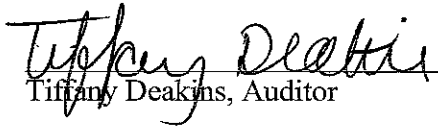


John Barrett



Joan Western

Attest:



Tiffany Deakins, Auditor