WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

January 4, 2022

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Timothy Kumfer, Thomas Warner, James Argerbright, Joan Western and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioner Chad Banks, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Chief Deputy Jason Spencer, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Assessor Kim Erdly, Highway Director Katy Fry, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Mary Hartman from Peabody Public Library and Robert Schuman.

Vice Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Councilman Warner nominated Council Kumfer for Chair, with a second by Argerbright, passing with a 6/0 vote. Councilman Argerbright made a motion to keep Councilman Wheeler the Vice Chair seconded by Western passing with a 6/0 vote.

ORDINANCE FOR UNDER $25 TAX PAYMENT: Treasurer Kay Gatton presented Ordinance 2022-01 which would allow for tax payments under $25 to be made in one installment. Councilman Warner made a motion, with a second by Western, passing with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Planning and Building:
1000.11319.000.0124 Planning and Permitting Tech $1,836.00
Western made a motion, second by Warner, and passed 6/0 vote.

Community Corrections:
1122.11210.000.0311 Case Manager $46,348
Western made a motion, second by Wheeler, passing with a 6/0 vote.

1122.12208.000.0311 Shift Supervisor $559.00
Western made a motion with a second by Wheeler, passed with a 6/0 vote

9104.11325.000.9104 Pre-trial Assistant $1,127.00
Western made a motion, seconded by Argerbright, passing with a 6/0 vote.

1122.17300.000.0311 Group Insurance: $275,000.00
Western made a motion, with a second by Warner. Passing with a 6/0 vote.

Health Dept:
Coronavirus Relief fund budget was missed and put in for 2023 not for 2022.
8901.11700.000.0901 $15,000.00
8901.20000.000.0901 $15,000.00
8901.35600.000.0901 $5,000.00
8901.41001.000.0901 $20,000.00
Motion by Argerbright, seconded by Wheeler passing with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ENCUMBRANCE REQUESTS: Several encumbrance requests for the 2021 budget were presented to Council.

Engineer:
1135.39600.000.0256 Bridge Replacement $496,961.01

Planning and building:
1000.37000.000.0124 Equip/Program Maintenance $16,000.00

CEDIT:
1112.59000.000.0433 On/Off site $23,000.00

Health Department:
1159.35600.000.0214 Contracted Services $2,460.00
1159.37004.000.0214 Equipment Repair $2,346.35
1159.24000.000.0214 Uniforms $232.08
1159.32000.000.0214 Postage $47.49
1159.38000.000.0214 Dues & Subscriptions $180.00

Highway Department:

1169.41001.000.0217 Equipment	$299,000.00

Clerk:

1000.32003.000.0122 Maintenance	$8,250.00
1000.39003.000.0122 Elections Meeting/Conference	$1,130.84

Councilman Warner made a motion to approve all encumbrance request, seconded by Western and passed with a 6/0 vote.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT TRAVLERS CHECK: Chief Deputy Jason Spencer was present to ask that the Travelers insurance check be put into Cum Cap from a total loss vehicle. Councilman Wheeler said that he believes the Sheriff's Department needs to pay for cars out of the LOIT tax not Cum Cap. Funds are already in Cum Cap Council just needs to make a motion to approve the use of these funds. Chair Kumfer has stated Council wants to table until February meeting.

ORDINANCE 2020-12 AMENDMENTS: Council voted at the December 2021 meeting to give Scott Wagner a $6,000 COVID compensation so we need to update the salary ordinance to reflect that change. Councilman Argerbright made a motion to approve, with a second by Warner, passing with a 6/0 vote.

ORDINANCE 2019-11 AMENDMENTS: HR Director Jennifer Shinabery was present to discuss changes made to Ordinance 2019-11 so that excluded employees can earn compensatory and overtime. Jennifer also updated the ordinance by changing some of the information to better suit Whitley County and our policies. Council woman Western made a motion, seconded by Wheeler passing with a 6/0 vote.

HIGHWAY FOREMAN POSITION DISCUSS: HR Director Jennifer Shinabery was present to discuss upcoming changes in the Highway Department. The County would like to eliminate the highway assistant director position and put back in place the foreman position. The Commissioners agree with HRs decision and the Commissioners feel a foreman is needed. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve the request with a second by Warner, passing with a 6/0 vote.

LONGEVITY PAYDATE DISCUSSION: Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher was present to ask that we change the longevity pay date from November 2022 to January 2023, and moving forward paying out in January. Commissioner Banks would like to look at the policy manual. Motion to table by Wheeler to understand the policy better.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2021 BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS: The Council reviewed the 2022 Board Appointments and Assignments. John Barrett would like to continue to serve on the JDAI board. No changes were made for the 2022 Board assignments. Chair Kumfer would like to table until February meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Banks gave a report from the Commissioner meeting:

- Commissioner Banks informed the Council that he will be the Chairman for 2022 and Commissioner Green will be the Vice Chair.
- There was a discussion to use CEDIT dollars to cover EMS services. Commissioners would like to use $125,000 from CEDIT to cover for 2020-2021 payments. The Community Foundation pays for a portion from their trust and the County covers the rest. Wheeler made a motion to allow Commissioners to use on/off site for EMS. With a second by Western, passing with a 6/0 vote.
- Chad Nix was present to present some projects to the Commissioners for use of ARP funds. Commissioners are considering this, but Banks would like to have a meeting of the ARP committee.
- Health Director Scott Wagner gave an update from a public health standpoint.
- In December the Commissioners signed contracts for an owner's rep and an architect to get the jail project rolling.
- Commissioners are exploring having an on-call engineer to cover the vacant position. Commissioner Banks doesn't feel that we need a full-time engineer as the last 5 years we have had a part-time engineer. The Commissioners have thought about a split Engineer between the city and county.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Council reviewed the December 7, 2021 regular meeting minutes, Councilman Kumfer stated that there were some updates that need to be made. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes with those updates, seconded by Warner and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Kumfer adjourned the meeting at 9:26 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Chair Timothy Kumfer

Vice Chair Kim Wheeler

James Argerbright

Thomas Warner

Thor Hodges

John Barrett

Joan Western

Attest:

Tiffany Deakins, Auditor