

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

August 02, 2022

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, in the Meeting Rooms A/B, located in the basement of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair Timothy Kumfer, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges, James Argerbright, Joan Western, John Barrett, and Thomas Warner. Others in attendance were Commissioner Baysinger, Commissioner Schrumpf, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Chief Deputy Planning & Building Director Nathan Bilger, Health Director Scott Wagner, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Nick Brewer, Assessor Kim Erdly, Tim Summers from the Maintenance Department, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Highway Director Katy Fry, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Jennifer Patrick from the Prosecutor's Office, Jennifer Stephenson from the Engineer's Office, Jenni Fulk from the Prosecutor's Office, Cindy Baker with the Troy Center, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Sheriff Marcus Gatton, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Spencer, and Todd Cook, Jody Hollenbaugh, Sean Martin, and Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department.

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

PRO TEM JUDGES TRANSFER & ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Judge Fahl from Superior Court was present to request to move \$500 from the insurance line item to the Pro Term Judges line item. Judge Fahl stated with the lack of senior judges available he has had to use a lot more Pro Term Judges than in the past. Judge Fahl also requested a \$10,000 additional appropriation into the Pauper Attorney & Appeals. Fahl explained that he's doing the work of 1 ½ judges and they are using a lot more public defenders due to addiction. Many of the addiction cases are unable to provide their own attorney. Local public defenders are hard to find and they have to also pay for their travel. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the transfer and additional request, seconded by Barrett, carrying with a 7/0 vote.

PRETRIAL DIVERSION ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Jennifer Patrick from the Prosecutor's Office was present to request an additional appropriation of \$20,000 to establish an equipment line item under the Pretrial Diversion fund. They have a cash balance in the fund, but it was not budgeted. The money comes from a fee from criminal charges that qualify for a deferral such as first-time marijuana cases. They would like to use the money to help with a vehicle purchase for Community Corrections. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the additional request, with a second by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote.

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT GRANT TRANSFER REQUEST: Health Director Scott Wagner was present to request a transfer from Office Supplies and Equipment into the Part-Time line item to cover a previously approved position that was approved to be paid out of the grant but was not budgeted for. Councilman Hodges asked if it was appropriate per SBOA to add a line item in the middle of the year. Chief Deputy Auditor let the Councilmen know that it was okay to do so as the grant had the funds available, and the position was approved to be paid out of the grant. Council member Warner made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.

AUDITOR'S ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher presented the request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$4,100.00 to be put in their Equipment & Program Maintenance line Item. Tincher explained that during the transition of payroll software companies the Commissioners decided to keep the previous payroll software company, Right Stuff on for an extra month. This caused the Auditor's Office to have to pay for both software companies for one month. This was not budgeted, and they have nowhere else to move the money from. Councilman Argerbright made a motion to accept the additional appropriation, with a second by Warner and carried with a 7/0 vote.

SHERIFF REQUEST FOR FUND REIMBURSEMENT: Sheriff Gatton was present to request that their Equipment Maintenance line item be reimbursed. One of their padded cells were damaged by an inmate. They submitted a request for restitution for \$3,245.00. A partial payment was received in the amount of \$1,355.00. They would like the funds to be put back into the line item. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve the line-item reimbursement, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.

CORONAVIRUS GRANT ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Community Corrections Director Paula Worden and Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher explained to Council that due to this being a onetime grant in 2021 no money was appropriated in 2022 to cover the last pay of 2021 that came out in 2022. The additional appropriation will just clean up the fund. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,964.93, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.

TROY CENTER UPDATE: Cindy Baker was present to give the Council an update on the Troy Center. They have entered into a contract with Whitko Career Academy so their students can go the academy. They recently hired their own in-house mental health staff for their students. They are accredited by the state of Indiana and

the only accredited alternative school in Whitley County. They have about a 90% graduation rate. They receive a lot of their funds from grants, fundraisers and the school scholarship fund.

SALARY AMENDMENT: Councilman Kumpfer spoke on the three salary ordinance amendments. All of these changes were previously approved. They included the Clerk/Exemption Deputy, Jail Commander, and the IV-D Court Admin. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the salary amendments as presented, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.

REATHORIZATION OF RDA MEMBERSHIP: Dale Buuck presented the RDA Membership. There's no cost association to be apart of the RDA. We have to be a member of the RDA to get access to certain grant funds. It is a 8 year commitment and the Commissioners have given it a favorable pass. In the past they have given money for things such as the Fahl Aquatic Center. There are 11 counties in Indiana apart of the RDA. Councilman Argerbright made a motion to approve ordinance number 2022-13 for the RDA Membership, seconded by Western and carried with a 5/2 vote.

ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMITS: Councilman Kumfer asked the public if anyone had anything to say regarding the property tax levy limits. Assessor Kim spoke saying that as previously discussed they are continuing to reduce the balance, but the levy stays the same. Highway Director Katy Fry spoke regarding the Cum Bridge max levy stating she has bridge projects lined up that she will need those funds for. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the max levy limits with no change, seconded by Hodges and carried with a 7/0 vote.

SURF BROADBAND PRESENTATION: Commissioner Baysinger introduced the Steve Carender from SURF. Carender gave a PowerPoint presentation. SURF stated they have already invested 5 million in Whitley County. The Commissioners are asking to put 1.7 million towards fiber and SURF will match \$870,550 with their own private funds. SURF would do this in a 5-phase process. The cost to residents will be \$35-\$85 depending on the speed and the price will be locked in as long as they are on that plan. Highway Director Katy Fry asked questions regarding boaring and communication. Carender stated he will work closely with the Highway Department to come up with the best solutions for everyone and will work closely together.

IV-D COURT ADMIN & JAIL COMMANDER ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS: Chief Deputy Auditor reminded Council that while the council approved the salary ordinance amendment, we would also need to discuss the additional appropriations needed due to the salary adjustments. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the additional requests, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Schrumpf stated the Commissioners are still consumed with the jail project. The bids have been sent out and the Wiegand contract has been signed. Schrumpf stated our health insurance fund is doing well.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Councilman Kumfer stated they had three position changes that were passed in the personnel committee, and they sent them to WIS to be refactored. Highway Director Katy Fry and Jennifer Stephenson from the Engineers Dept presented the three job changes. Fry stated she would like to share the Highway Drainage Assistant with the Engineers Office. She would like to then open up an Equipment Operator position and move the Head Mechanic into the open Equipment Operator position. She would then like to fill the Head Mechanic position with someone with formal training that would have the ability to work on the newer equipment. The Head Mechanics wages were re-evaluated due to the increase of requirements. WIS also refactored the Foreman that is over the Head Mechanic, so he wasn't making less than the Head Mechanic's wages. Councilman Hodges expressed his concern about moving the Head Mechanic down to a lower paid position. Fry stated we would need a additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,700 in the Engineer's Department for the Drainage Assistant position as it will all be paid out of the Engineer's Department. This will not take place of an Engineer and they still have a need for an Engineer. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve all the position changes, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.

MINUTES: The Council reviewed the July 6, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

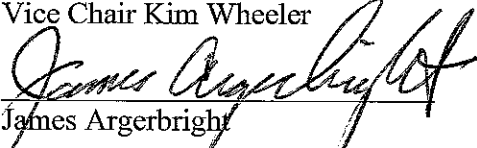
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: The Council Meeting was reopened after a member of the public asked to speak. A Whitley County resident by the name of Sarah took the podium. She stated that she is a new resident in CC Union and is not happy with the internet options. She is a content creator, and her work depends on her ability to upload and download content for her fans. Due to the internet lag, she has lost money. She urged the Council to consider the presentation provided by SURF.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Kumfer adjourned the meeting at 9:40 AM.

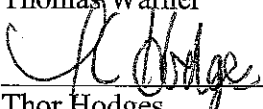
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



Chair Timothy Kumfer



Vice Chair Kim Wheeler


James Argerbright

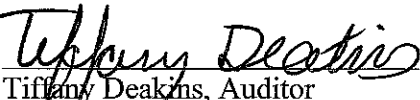

Thomas Warner


Thor Hodges


John Barrett


Joan Western

Attest:


Tiffany Deakins, Auditor