

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

March 7, 2017

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chairman William Overdeer, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges and Chad Banks. Absent was Chairman John Barrett. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner George Schrupf, Lori Heuer from Whitley County Consolidated Schools, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, Derreck Stahly from IN Whitley County, Whitley County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder and Sheriff Gatton.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELECTION OF FULL TIME STATUS: County Prosecutor DJ Sigler notified the Council by statute that he has elected to devote his full professional time to the duties of the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney beginning retroactively January 1, 2017. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will continue to have three prosecuting attorneys and Cory Springer will be the Chief Deputy. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request for County Prosecutor DJ Sigler to be full time, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUEST FOR A WRECKED CAR: There was a Sheriff's Department vehicle that was totaled on December 31, 2016. The total paid back to the County by the insurance company was \$19,874.56. It will approximately cost somewhere between \$7,800 and \$8,500 to finish the purchase of the car and install new equipment and old equipment that was salvaged. Sheriff Gatton is requesting the \$19,874.56 to be used to pay for a new car in addition to \$4,902.44. The additional funds that are needed will be paid out of the Commissary fund. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve Sheriff Gatton's request, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PART TIME POSITION REQUEST: Treasurer Laurell Hodges presented a request to Council for a part-time person to be added to the Treasurer's Office. There are already four part-time employees in the Office but they are only seasonal. Laurell is requesting a part-time person who can work year around one to two days a week. The Chief Deputy in the office received five weeks of vacation this year and coverage for the office will become difficult. The other factor is the State Board of Accounts requires internal controls which is hard to achieve if there is only one person in the office. At the end of 2016, there was \$3,787 left in the Treasurer's part-time budget. There is an additional \$1,100 which should allow around \$4,900 extra dollars for 2017. Her goal is to preserve the integrity of the office with advanced training and she is trying to prepare for the future. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the yearly part-time person, seconded by Banks and carried with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Redevelopment:

4500.59008.000.0608	Tax Revenue Bond Surplus	\$67,600
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The Council reviewed the additional appropriation request for Redevelopment. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Lori Heuer from Whitley County Consolidated Schools gave the Council a presentation in regard to "Whitley Works!". Whitley County Consolidated Schools, Smith Green Community Schools and Whitko Community Schools are partnering up to ensure Whitley County employers have their workforce for the future. This initiative is geared towards helping students graduate with an education employers need. They would like government leaders in Whitley County to participate in a discussion of the necessary job skills for today's graduates. The Summit is an advanced community engagement summit and everyone will have the chance to learn about the innovative efforts at the high schools, work and establish a plan for well-prepared graduates, understand opportunities the program can provide and contribute expertise to be a part of the talent development grant application for the schools in the County. The Whitley Works! Summit will be on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at the Eagle Glen Event Center from 9AM to 12PM. The Council thanked Lori for her time. The Council received a certificate of appointment from Ted Linn for the Local Alcoholic Beverage Board. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve Ted Linn's appointment to the Local Alcoholic Beverage Board, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the February 7, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote.

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

- Commissioner Schrumpf reported to the Council that the Commissioners made an amendment to the Equal Employment Opportunity policy and the PTO policy. The County had to add sexual orientation and gender identification to the Equal Employment Opportunity policy to be in compliance with the EOC. In regard to the PTO policy, the amendment was changed to prorate upon hire rather than prorate after the introductory period.
- Tom Paine from IGS Energy gave a report to the Commissioners on how much money the County saved. The County is in a contract with IGS Energy for another two years of a three year contract.
- Commissioner Schrumpf reported that the comp time balance is \$559.96.
- Commissioner Schrumpf reported the 2017 cost savings to the County General fund. The total cost savings for 2017 comes to \$413,685.00. This includes the Jail switching IT providers, the EMS partial payment from the Whitley County Community Foundation, EMS automobile coverage moved to Parkview, removing the Commissioners and Council from the medical insurance plan, and switching the worker's compensation insurance plan to IPEP.
- Commissioner Schrumpf attended the Community Corrections Advisory Board meeting and Recovery Works made a presentation to the board. The representative from Recovery Works stated that 57% Federal and 70% of State inmates use drugs regularly before going to prison. Statistics show that 45% of Federal, 56% of State and 64% of the jail inmate population are considered being seriously mentally ill. The general public is 4.1%. In regard to inmates that are addicted to drugs, 74% State, 64% Federal and 76% of local jail inmates are addicted to drugs. 8.4% of the general public are addicted to drugs. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that this is a huge issue and he hopes that we can expand the Community Corrections building to add more beds and get people that need help out of the jail system.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

John Barrett, Chairman

William Overdeer, Vice Chairman

James Bayman

Glen LaRue

Kim Wheeler

Thor Hodges

Chad Banks

Attest:

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor