

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

April 4, 2017

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman William Overdeer, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges and Chad Banks. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner George Schrumpf, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Park Director Mark Green from City of Columbia City, Mayor Ryan Daniel, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Derrek Stahly from IN Whitley County, County Clerk Debbie Beers, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Cindy Barnett from Purdue Extension, Planning Director Nathan Bilger and EDC President Jon Myers.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW AQUATIC CENTER: City of Columbia City Park Director Mark Green and Tad Varga from the City Council gave a presentation to the Council in regard to the new aquatic center in Columbia City. The new aquatic center will be named the Russel and Evelyn Fahl Aquatic Center. The Russell Fahl family made a big donation to the project and the amount needed for the project is \$4.2 million. They would also like to add an ice skating facility next to the aquatic center. The City expects it will take four to five years to receive 100% recapture rate of the project. The Burnworth Pool was opened in 1960, lasted 57 years and was built for \$78,000. The reason a new facility was decided on was because a study done in 2012 showed many structural and mechanical issues which would have cost over \$1,000,000 to repair. Mark then stated how the City came up with the project. They formed a Pool Task Force and developed an outdoor family aquatic center concept which would be a destination for local families and visitors to the community. It will have more than 7,500 square feet of outdoor recreation space including a competition pool with six 25-meter lanes, an adjacent zero depth entry pool with a water play feature, multiple waterslides, etc. Mark presented a breakdown of the donors for the current funding for the facility. The total amount raised for the project is \$3,400,000 and the amount still needed \$861,304.79. They are hoping to receive a grant for the remaining funds needed. The City is still trying to raise an additional \$180,000 for an outdoor pavilion and additional storage. They are asking if the County would be interested in helping with the donation towards the facility, possibly \$100,000. They are hoping to not have separate City and County rates to the citizens in Whitley County.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION UPDATE: Cindy Barnett from the Extension Office gave an update to the Council. One of the handouts Cindy given to the Council is "What is Purdue Extension?" The Extension Office is part of a worldwide organization and part of the US Department of Agriculture. The mission of the Extension Office is to provide education to the citizens in an informal way (not in a school setting). There are four main areas that the Extension Office works with: agriculture and natural resources, health and human services, 4-H youth development and community development. One of the handouts included some of the programs that the Extension Office offers including: Extension Homemakers, Michiana Fruit and Vegetable Growers Meeting, the 4-H STEM Connection Program, NEPAC Field Days, Youth Pork Quality Assurance plus Training, Captain Cash, Let's Talk Turkey, Whitley County Master Gardeners and Private Applicator Recertification Program. In the 4-H Youth Program there were 748 youths that were enrolled in 2016. They have 15 township clubs and 32 project specific 4-H clubs.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RDC ANNUAL REPORT: Planning Director Nathan Bilger and EDC President Jon Myers presented the RDC Annual report to Council. The report includes an introduction, an overview and purpose of the Redevelopment Commission, 2016 accomplishments, financial summary, revenues, information on each TIF district, and the TIF parcels in each district. A few of the 2016 accomplishments had to do with infrastructure: County Road 600 East Project, Coesse Sewer Project and Indiana Materials Processing Project. Other accomplishments were for development: Church of the Brethren property, Whitley RC Investments Project Bounce, Pyrotek Training four tax abatement approvals. In regard to the financial summary, the total expenditures were \$3,952,446.53 and the total revenue was \$4,951,099.27. There are two TIF Districts that the Commission oversees which are the Union TIF District and the Rail Connect TIF District. The Union TIF District was established in 1993 which replaced a TIF established in 1987. The Rail Connect TIF District was established in 2010. There are 266 parcels in the Union TIF and 9 in the Rail Connect TIF.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: County Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester spoke to the Council in regard to his transfer requests. Also, in regard to the new Gradall that the County would

like to purchase from LaGrange County has an agreement. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the agreement to purchase the Gradall, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS:

Highway:

1176.33005.000.0201	Worker's Comp Ins	1176.41001.000.0201	Equipment	\$98,508.00
1176.25001.000.0201	Fuel Station Supplies	1176.41001.000.0201	Equipment	\$49,000.00

Clerk:

1000.20001.000.0201	Election Supplies	1000.11605.000.0122	Overtime	\$60.00
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A transfer request was presented from the Highway Department. This transfer was to cover the equipment purchases that the Council approved earlier in the year. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote. A transfer request was presented to the Council from the Clerk's Office. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: Commissioner George Schrupf presented two salary ordinance amendment requests to the Council. George stated that the Personnel Committee has met and refactored the Human Resource Director position and created a new position called Human Resource Coordinator. The current salary of the Human Resource Director is \$49,329 and it was refactored to be \$58,262. The Human Resource Coordinator position would be full time and the salary is \$32, 270. The Commissioners gave a favorable pass to Council for both positions. The Commissioners also agreed to pay the difference to 2017 out of CEDIT funds and then budget the salaries for 2018. Commissioner Schrupf stated that the biggest change for the position is the compliance that needs met by the County for different State and Federal programs such as ACA, FMLA, etc. Council member Wheeler stated that the County needs to look into a different system or company to refactor positions because he doesn't believe it is the most effective system to be using. Commissioner Schrupf stated that they are looking into different companies to change the refactoring system. Wheeler also stated that, in his opinion, there is a considerable amount of overlap for the Human Resource positions. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the salary ordinance amendments for both positions. The motion died for lack of a second. Council member Bayman requested that the Commissioners bring the positions back up at budget time. Council member Bayman stated that there may be a need for an extra part time person. Council member Overdeer made another motion to approve the Human Resources Director salary ordinance amendment. The motion died for lack of a second.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Paula Worden informed the Council that Cathy Schrader is retiring April 21, 2017. Also, Liane Minier is working on a report that shows a three year financial impact of Community Corrections. She will get the report to the Commissioners and Council as soon as possible. Council member Barrett informed the Council that he attended the exit interview with the State Board of Accounts for 2014 and 2015. The majority of the issues dealt with the previous Auditor but overall it went well.

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


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


- Commissioner Schrupf had a request for an office remodeling which would be cutting a door into the Commissioner's room and using the storage room on the other side of the wall as a Commissioner's Office with three desks. Then the Commissioners would like to have the other regular meetings, such as the Plan Commission, Drainage Board, etc in the meeting rooms in the basement. The only meetings held in the Commissioner's room would be the Commissioner's meetings and the Council meetings. The total amount for the remodel project is \$48,928.00. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the office remodeling, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 6/1 vote with Banks voting against.
- The Commissioner's have taken a look at the E911 Director position. The E911 Director position was combined with the Dispatch Communications Director. The new position will need to be refactored and presented to Council after it has been through the process with the Personnel Committee. Jody Hollenbaugh will be helping with the IT Services as well and there may be a change to her salary as well.
- Commissioner Schrupf reported that they will be combining their GIS Department with the Planning Department and GIS will be under the Planning Director.
- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council that distributing medication at the Jail and Community Corrections is becoming a problem. The County does not have trained employees to distribute the medication.
- The Department of Child Services would like to expand in the Annex building. Schrupf stated that this is a slow process through the State.

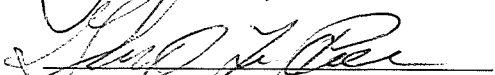
There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.

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

