

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

June 6, 2017

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, June 6, 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, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's Department, Dani Tippmann from the Historical Museum, Tyler Roebuck from IN Whitley County, County Treasurer Laurell Hodges, Janelle Schmitt and Sheriff Gatton from the Sheriff's Department, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Jill Snyder from Drug Free Indiana, John Woodmansee from Purdue Extension, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, County Recorder April Whetstone, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Zain Bengali and Abid Bengali from Indiana Materials Processing, Lori Shipman and Wayne Smith from the EDC.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Judge Rentschler came before the Council to request an additional appropriation in the Circuit Court's budget for pauper attorney services. The 2017 expenditures have been exacerbated due to the court coming short of budget funds in late 2016 so bills from late 2016 were paid in early 2017. By March 1, 2017, the court had spent \$30,000 of the \$50,000 appropriated. Therefore, there were insufficient funds budgeted for 2017 and Judge Rentschler hopes to remedy the situation by asking for a larger budget in 2018 for these expenditures. The rate for public defenders in Whitley County is set by a contract amount. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request for \$35,000, seconded by Banks and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INDIANA MATERIALS PROCESSING ABATEMENT REQUEST: Lori Shipman from the EDC came before the Council with an abatement request on behalf of Indiana Materials Processing. Lori stated that the company has grown over the past few years and now they need to expand again. The company would like to purchase new equipment that is a custom system to process, refine, blend, manufacture to chemistry, condense and package challenging ferrous scrap materials into furnace ready product. Indiana Materials Processing is requesting a ten year tax abatement for the purchase of this equipment. The net estimated values upon completion of the project is \$3,600,000.00. Council member Overdeer stated that the Redevelopment Commission approved the abatement request and recommended that the County Council approve the request. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the abatement request per Resolution 2017-07 for Indiana Materials Processing and the amount to not exceed \$3,600,000.00, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FUNDING REQUEST: Sheriff Gatton presented a request to Council to put \$1,580.00 back into the Sheriff's budget for uniforms. The money was paid out of the Sheriff's budget uniforms account on December 5, 2016 for bulletproof vests. The federal government offers a grant that will reimburse up to 50% of the costs for the bulletproof vests. The Sheriff's Department applied for the reimbursement and the full amount requested was direct deposited into County General on May 11, 2017. Now the Sheriff needs the funds put back into the uniform line item in the budget. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Hodges and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE TATTOO ORDINANCE: Scott Wagner from the Health Department informed the Council that he is requesting the Commissioners approve a new ordinance that would change the fees for Tattoo establishments. There are three locations within Columbia City that are tattoo/body piercing establishments. Each establishment must be licensed and the license will cost \$500.00 annually and will expire on December 31st every year. Each person that desires to perform the tattoo/body piercing shall obtain a license from the Health Department. The cost of the license will be \$100.00 and will expire on December 31st every year. There are many rules and regulations within the ordinance. If any person fails to obtain a facility or artist license prior to, or after expiration, suspension or revocation and conducts business may be subject to a fine up to a maximum of \$500.00. Any violation to the ordinance, by any person, may be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 per violation per day.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW FEE SCHEDULE ORDINANCE: April informed the Council that the Recorder's Office fees have changed and the changes will be effective July 1, 2017. The new statute states that the County shall adopt an ordinance establishing the new bulk copy fees. The Recorder's Office does have one customer that requests bulk copies and statute allows for 0.10¢ but if there is a need for the fee to be higher it can

be. April is requesting the fee be 0.13¢ per image due to the software company charging the County 0.03¢ per image. This ordinance is State mandated and the Recorder's Office must change their fees to comply.

IN THE MATTER OF DRUG FREE INDIANA: Jill Snyder presented the Whitley County DFI 2016 Grant Cycle approval for funding request. The total amount available to be used is \$33,821.36 for programs and administrative costs for the upcoming calendar year. There has been \$4,600.00 approved for administrative costs leaving \$29,221.36 for programming. Council member Hodges made a motion to disburse the DFI funds, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE AND BUDGET: Highway Department Engineer Brandon Forrester gave an update to the Council on the Highway Department. The projection of increased revenues from LTAP and the estimate is around a \$1,200,000.00 increase in revenue. In regard to the Community Crossings grant, the County must commit \$333,333.33 to be paid into the grant for the County to receive \$1,000,000.00. Brandon stated that he needs a letter of commitment from the Council and possibly the Auditor. Council member Bayman made a motion to allow the Chairman and the Auditor to sign a commitment letter for the \$333,333.33 for the Community Crossings grant, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote. Brandon presented a five year road plan to the Council and is hoping the new chip spreader the County purchased arrives this week. The Highway Department hopes to chip and seal 100 miles of road in 2017. A five year equipment plan was presented to Council and Brandon asked to purchase a new truck in 2018. Council member Bayman made a motion for Brandon to commit \$200,000.00 in 2018 to purchase a new tandem axle truck, seconded by Banks and passed with a 7/0 vote. In regard to employees, Brandon would like to hire three new employees within the next year. He would like to hire one immediately. Council member LaRue made a motion for Brandon to hire one employee right now, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote. Brandon also informed the Council that the roofs on the Highway Department buildings need replaced and there are other structures at the Highway Department that need painted or updated. He hopes to start working on updating the buildings within the next year.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS:

Commissioners:

1000.20000.000.0130	Supplies	1000.35000.000.0130	Printing	\$358.12
1138.25002.000.0256	Computer Software	1138.41001.000.0256	Equipment	\$32,000.00

The Council reviewed the transfer for the Commissioners from Supplies to Printing. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve, seconded by Banks and carried with a 7/0 vote. The Council reviewed the Cumulative Capital Development transfer for the CAD system. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Sheriff:

1170.41001000.0179	Equipment	\$107,000.00
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The Council reviewed the additional appropriation request for the final payment for the Sheriff Department's new CAD system. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ABATEMENTS: Auditor Schinbeckler stated that she has reviewed the abatements for real property and personal property for businesses within Whitley County. She recommends that the Council approve the abatements and give the Chairman permission to sign the abatements. They are available in the Auditor's Office for anyone's review. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the abatements and for the Chairman to sign them, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: John Woodmansee from Purdue Extension gave an update to the Council on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Recent Program History. In regard to the General ANR Programs, John does a weekly newspaper article and tries to keep up with current issues. He stated that client inquiries/home and farm visits range from about 10 to 35 per month. John attended the 2017 Fort Wayne Farm Show and also offered Private Applicator Recertification Programs. He works with Master Gardeners and in the fall of 2016 for the Master Gardener Basic Training which had 16 individuals sign up and 15 graduated from Noble and Whitley County. John is also involved with assisting both County 4-H fairs (Noble and Whitley), assisted with 4-H retinal imaging for sheep and goats, President of the ANR section of Indiana Extension Educators association, on the Extension Boards for both Counties and on the ANR Program Advisory Committee. The Council thanked John for his Extension update. Dani Tippmann from Whitley County Museum/Historical Society informed the Council that the new building that was built last year is officially paid off as of last month. In the building, there are 2,400

square feet on the first and second floor and the project cost was around \$150,000.00. Dani Tippmann gave a report to the Council for the events and projects that the Historical Museum has had. In 2016, the Museum had 5,026 people in attendance or interaction count which is almost double from the count in 2015 of 2,547. There were around 1,500 people at the Indiana Bicentennial Celebration at Morsches Park. There are 21 Bicentennial projects that the Historical Museum is working on. These include Military books, the gardens installed, Local Legends Display and the Research and Education Center building. The Whitley County World War I Veterans book is in the process of being completed and they will also have a new display: I Stand for the Flag and Kneel for Prayer. This celebrates the faith and patriotism in Whitley County history. The Local Legends Display includes vignettes of Whitley County citizens that are known throughout the county and across the nation. These include Bill Schwarz, Janie Fricke, Oscar the Turtle, Dean Jagger, Keller Rockey and Leonard Barnum. The Historical Museum is also holding the 9th annual camp which will teach about 25, 10-13 year olds about Whitley County in the Civil War. In regard to the Whitley County Treasurer's Office, Laurell Schroeder informed the Council that 97.6% of taxes have been collected. The dollar amount that hasn't been collected is \$347,000.00. The tax sale will be on October 18, 2017 and Laurell thinks there will be around thirty properties. She stated the Treasurer's Office still needs part time help and hopes to have a person hired by next year. In regard to the County Council State Called Meeting, Council member Banks volunteered to attend the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the May 2, 2017 meeting were reviewed. There were two changes under, "In the Matter of the Project Sport Abatement Request" and "In the Matter of the Broadband Project Abatement Reconsideration". Both of the sections read the motion passed with a 3/0 vote and they should both read it passed with a 7/0 vote. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the minutes with these changes, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

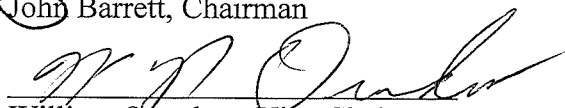
COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Schrupf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

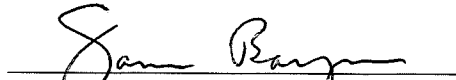
- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council that the County is participating in the YMCA Corporate Challenge again for 2017.
- Wood Land Lakes presented a request to the Commissioners for their 2018 budget. Stanley Crum asked if the Commissioners would appropriate \$500.00 to pay to Wood Land Lakes for 2018 and the request was approved
- Senator Andy Zay was in attendance at the Commissioner meeting.
Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant came before the Commissioners to request replacing the water heaters at the Work Release Facility. The Commissioners were given two options and after review the Commissioners approved the quote from Flow Tech Plumbing with Option 1: The traditional water heater.

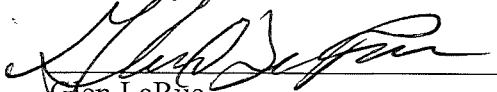
There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.

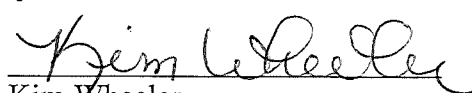
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL


John Barrett, Chairman

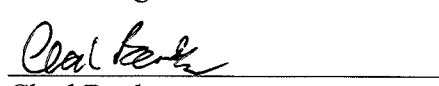

William Overdeer, Vice Chairman


James Bayman

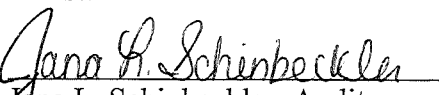

Glen LaRue


Kim Wheeler


Thor Hodges


Chad Banks

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

