

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

July 5, 2017

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, July 5, 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 Thomas Western, Chris Gionti and Glenn Pushis from Steel Dynamics, Linda Thomson from the Post & Mail, EDC President Jon Myers, Sonja Emerick, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Sheriff Gatton, Janelle Schmitt and Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's Department, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, Kevin Ousley from Indiana Farm Bureau, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Leslee Derbeck from STAR and Treasurer Laurell Schroeder.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ABATEMENT REQUEST PROJECT #1: EDC President Jon Myers presented an abatement request to Council regarding Warner Electric, Inc. for a proposal to add \$2.5 million in new equipment and eight new jobs to the current location in Columbia City. The project will increase capacity and improve efficiency for the Columbia City plant and position it for additional investment by the parent company. The abatement request is for a ten year period and the project breaks even for the County immediately. The Whitley County Redevelopment Commission reviewed the request at its June 27, 2017 meeting and have given it a favorable pass to the Council. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the abatement with Resolution 2017-08 for ten years, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ABATEMENT REQUEST PROJECT #2: EDC President Jon Myers presented an abatement request to Council regarding Steel Dynamics, Inc. for a proposal to add \$27.4 million in real estate improvements and \$51.3 million in new equipment along with adding .33 new jobs at their current location in Columbia City. The company is requesting a tax abatement on both the real estate improvements and the new equipment phased over a ten year period. The project will add a new production line to its current facility and it breaks even for the County immediately. The Redevelopment Commission reviewed the request at its meeting on June 27, 2017 and has given a favorable pass to Council. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-09 for ten years, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 6/0 vote with Bayman abstaining.

IN THE MATTER OF THE TROY CENTER: Nikki Trier from the TROY Center gave an update to the Council and to discuss their partnership with the County. TROY Center serves students who are in middle school or high school and for one reason or another, are not successful in a traditional classroom. In their statistics, the TROY Center was serving many kids who would end up going to court in front of the juvenile court judge. Over the last 18 years, they are trying to reach these students earlier before they have to go in front of the court system. A lot of what they teach is academics but they are also focusing on behavioral skills, support skills and teach life skills in all areas. They are a licensed school with the State of Indiana so any student that graduates from TROY Center does receive a diploma. Their budget is approaching \$350,000.00 per year which is a combination of receiving grants, donations, through partnerships with Smith Green and Whitko schools, a contribution from the Whitley County Community Foundation, etc. TROY Center has a max capacity of 35 students and they had 11 students on the waiting list at one point in time during the year. Their goal is to be able to serve 50 students at a time. They are now in the process of having a fundraiser again this year for the school, which is August 11, 2017. Last year they raised \$53,000.00 for scholarship funds. In regard to the contracts with schools, TROY Center has memorandums of understanding with Whitko and Smith Green Schools but they do not have one with Whitley County Consolidated. Nikki stated that she has reached out to them and she is hopeful they will use them in the future. TROY Center has an advisory board with 11 members and they are nominated through a nominating committee.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYEE SALARIES: Sheriff Gatton is before the Council again for the request he had at their May 2, 2017 meeting. On March 10, 2017 the E911 Director's position was eliminated from the County. There are a few duties that need to be taken over from that position due to IC codes in place and the IT work that was being performed has been passed on to another employee. He is requesting an increase of \$10,017.00 to Janelle's salary and \$7,981.00 for Jody's salary for a full year. He would like this change to be retroactive to March 12, 2017, which is when the duties were given to these other employees. The Sheriff's Department budget can fund the difference in their salaries with transfers from other line items. There will not be

an additional appropriation needed. Chairman Barrett asked why the request is to be retroactive to March 12, 2017 and Sheriff Gatton stated that the duties were given to these two individuals that day. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request as presented retroactive to July 3, 2017, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 4/3 vote with Hodges, Banks and Wheeler voting against.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented a request to Council at their last meeting to add an additional truck driver for 2017. The Council approved the request and now the additional appropriation and the salary ordinance amendment are being presented for that position. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the additional appropriation and the salary ordinance amendment, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS:

Commissioners:

1000.17400.000.0130	Unemployment Comp	1000.35000.000.0130	Printing	\$1,000.00
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The Council reviewed the transfer for the Commissioners from Unemployment Comp to Printing. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve, seconded by Banks and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Redevelopment:

4500.42009.000.0608	Tax Revenue Bonds	\$480,000.00
4800.35600.000.0608	Contracted Services	\$410,000.00

Highway:

1176.11109.000.0201	Truck Drivers	\$39,099.00
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The Council reviewed the Redevelopment Commission additional appropriation request. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 5/1 vote with LaRue voting against and Bayman abstaining. The Highway additional appropriation was referenced above under In the Matter of the Highway Department.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Scott Wagner from the Health Department reported to the Council that he was in attendance to support the wage increase that the Commissioners are recommending. He also informed the Council that there are individuals in the Health Department that perform more than one job. He stated he will be monitoring the amount of hours worked over to show the Council that they may need an additional person in the Health Department.

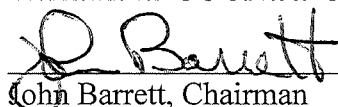
IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the June 6, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Council member Banks made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

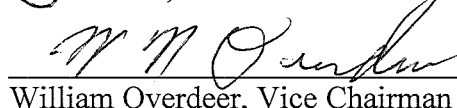
COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Western gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

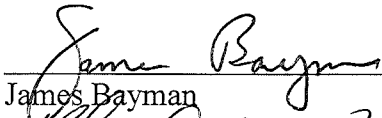
- Commissioner Western stated that the Commissioners received the wage proposals for 2018 from County Coordinator Pam Smith and she also presented a new consulting company that will factor the positions for the County. The Council asked Commissioner Western if the consulting company could come before the Council to make a presentation. If he is not able to attend a meeting, maybe they could have a video conference with him to discuss the options for the County in regard to factoring wages for positions.
- The Health Trust fund for the County has a balance of \$108,000.00.
- The Department of Child Services would like to rent the entire annex building. If the County agrees to allow them to have the entire annex building to rent, the Extension Office would have to move and the Commissioners are unsure of where they would move to.
- The wage recommendation for 2018 from the Commissioners was to add the 27th pay plus a \$0.40 per hour wage increase.

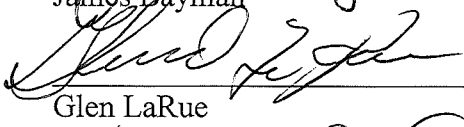
There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 AM.

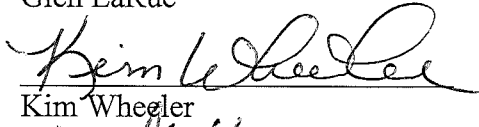
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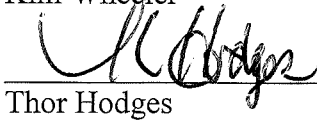

John Barrett, Chairman



William Overdeer, Vice Chairman


James Bayman

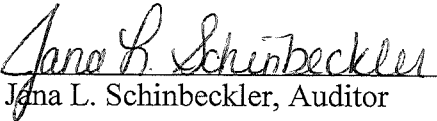

Glen LaRue


Kim Wheeler


Thor Hodges


Chad Banks

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

