

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

September 6, 2017

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 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, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges and Chad Banks. Absent was Vice Chairman William Overdeer. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Barb Hohenstein, Rita Harness, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Tyler Roebuck from IN Whitley County, Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's Department, Linda Thomson from the Post & Mail, Tad Varga from the Columbia City Council, Mark Green from the Columbia City Parks Department, Jason Spencer and Brandon Smith from the Sheriff's Department, Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant, Sheriff Marcus Gatton, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, County Assessor Rita Saunders, Jorell Tucker from Solid Waste, Angela Campbell from the Engineer's Office, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, County Recorder April Whetstone, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Jenny Stephenson from Planning & Building, Tamela Hamilton from the Auditor's Office and Jennifer Nix.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2018 WHITLEY COUNTY BUDGET AND SOLID WASTE BUDGET: There were not any questions or comments at this time from the public or the Council.

IN THE MATTER OF THE JAIL OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AREA: Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant presented a few different projects to the Council members. The first project was for the jail outdoor recreation area structural masonry. The inside walls of the outdoor recreation area are exposed to the elements and the columns/pilasters supporting the steel beam that divides the covered and uncovered area is being exposed to the elements as well. An inside inspection of the block columns is needed to see if there are steel support columns inside or if the blocks are reinforced and filled with concrete. The blocks themselves show significant signs of distress and may be supporting the overhead beam themselves. Mark gave costs associated with opening, inspections and closing up the two columns. The inspection will allow Martin Riley to provide the necessary details and work description notes to allow qualified contractors to quote the necessary repairs. The inspection by Martin Riley is \$3,800.00 and the exterior restoration, if it needs completed, would be \$2,233.00 from Atlas Building Services, Inc. for a total of \$6,033.00. The Commissioners made a favorable pass to Council with a 2/1 vote. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request to be paid out of Cumulative Capital Development, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/0 vote. Mark then re-presented the Jail walk-in cooler and freezer refrigeration units replacements. The Jail has a walk-in cooler and freezer refrigeration units that are thirty years old and need replaced. From June 2015 to April 2017, the County has incurred \$10,271.00 in repairs between the cooler and the refrigeration units. The project will take a few days and Mark is recommending the Council approve the Hosler's Appliance estimate for \$12,944.00 and the temporary refrigeration and freezer units for a total of \$15,493.00. There is also an extended warranty for \$520.00 for a total cost of for the entire project of \$16,013.00. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve the purchase for the \$16,013.00 out of Cumulative Capital Development with the warranty, seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote. The third project request was for a new water softener at the Jail. The current water softener is approximately 25-30 years old and is basically worn out and no longer working correctly. Softener resin in a commercial setting has a life span of approximately 15 years. The average water usage at the Jail is 350,000 gallons a month. Based on this usage, softened water is crucial to maintaining proper equipment operation. Hard water is destroying equipment and valves which the Maintenance Department just had to replace a \$2,500.00 dishwasher booster heater due to lime build up. Mark received two quotes for water softeners. The first quote was from Heat Power Engineering for \$17,868.00 and the second quote was from Wien Shearer Mechanical for \$19,976.00. The Commissioners made a favorable pass for the water softener. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve the water softener purchase out of Cumulative Capital Development, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 6/0 vote. The last project presented by Mark was for the Courthouse first section of tower repair. On August 8, 2017, Council approved the use of a specialized lift for inspecting the first and second sections of the Courthouse tower to determine the extent of damage and estimated cost for restoration. The inspection revealed the upper section is in good condition, however, the base of the tower between the roof and the louvered section needs extensive work. In conclusion, a total restoration is needed and this requires an extensive amount of scaffolding. Due to the amount and size of pieces that have already fallen off, immediate action should be considered. The two quotes for the restoration that Mark received were from Atlas Building Services for \$121,289.00 and Trisco Systems Inc. for \$137,881.00. The Commissioners made a favorable pass to Council to approve the Atlas Building Services bid for \$121,289.00. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the Atlas Building Services bid for \$121,289.00 to be paid out of Cumulative Capital Development, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Whitley County Prosecutor DJ Sigler presented an additional appropriation request to Council for the Prosecutor Incentive fund. Due to new

mandates from the State, they are required to purchase a new shredder for \$1,650.00. They also have to convert to e-filing and several changes need to be made including new computers and dual monitors to accommodate e-filing. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve the request for an additional appropriation for \$6,000.00, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE TRANSFER REQUEST: Judge Fahl presented a transfer request to Council to transfer \$10,000.00 from Pauper Attorney & Appeals to Contracted Services. He informed the Council that they need to hire a temp to help them catch up on work. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMPLOYEE PAY: Sheriff Gatton stated he is returning to the Council for an amendment of two salaries. The first salary is Jody Hollenbaugh's and she is the Account System Coordinator. Back in March, the E911 Director position was eliminated and Jody took over some of the duties and responsibilities that the previous E911 Director had and so did Janelle Schmitt. The requested increase for Jody's position is \$7,417.00 for one year. Her current salary would go from \$41,912.00 to \$49,329.00. Council member Banks stated that he is not in favor of this amount of an increase but he would like to hear more on what the additional duties are. Jody is still in charge of the front office area, she took over more responsibility for the in-car computers such as installing new software and keeping them up to date and there are 69 computers she does maintenance on. Jody also adds new users for computers, makes the security cards and updates the phone system for the County and she is on call 24/7. Council member Barrett asked what percent of her day is the new additional duties. Jody stated that around the additional duties are around 50% of her day. Council member Hodges stated he is in favor of a raise, but not a 17% raise. Sheriff Gatton informed the Council that the previous E911 Director's salary was \$58,262.00 and only 30% of that wage is being asked for between the two employees. Sheriff Gatton also stated that if the Council does not approve this request, these will be the first two County employees that did not receive the increase the Personnel Committee recommended. Council member Banks made a motion for a 3% increase in pay for Jody and to reconsider this position's salary after the new factoring system for positions is brought into the County, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 5/1 vote with Barrett voting against. In regard to Janelle Schmitt's position, the increase would be from \$48,245.00 to \$58,262.00 with a difference of \$10,017.00. The increase would be paid out of the E911 funds. Council member Barrett again asked what percent of her day is the new duties and responsibilities. Janelle stated about 35% of her day is the new duties and responsibilities. Janelle is also on call 24/7 and has been working on updating Spillman but they have assisted her with the update. Council member Hodges stated that he is in favor of an increase but not a 20% increase. Hodges made a motion to give Janelle a 3% increase and to reconsider her position when the new evaluation system for wages is put in place, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 5/1 vote with Barrett voting against. The Sheriff returned later in the meeting and informed the Council that Jody and Janelle are going back to their old job duties and are not accepting the 3% increases that Council approved.

IN THE MATTER OF THE AQUATIC FACILITY: Tad Varga from the City of Columbia City Council and Mark Green from the Columbia City Parks Department made a presentation to the Council for the aquatic facility. The bids came in over the amount that was raised for the facility and the original plan included a pavilion that they would like to still build if possible. They stated they would like to charge the same amount countywide for families rather than charge a different amount for City residents and out of City residents. As of right now, the season pass for City residents would be \$200.00 and County residents would be \$300.00. Tad and Mark requested that the Council pay \$10,000.00 per year for ten years for a \$100,000.00 donation to the aquatic facility. Commissioner Schrumpp stated that the Commissioners did not provide a favorable pass to Council. Council member Hodges made a motion for the County to contribute \$10,000.00 per year but to go through approval each year for the \$10,000.00 and for the funds to come out of CEDIT. Council member Wheeler seconded the motion with discussion. Wheeler stated he would like to see it be looked at each year to ensure the County has the funds to contribute. Tad stated that swimming is a huge sport and this would attract and retain talent. It is an outdoor facility that will have a competitive pool and another pool with slides. With no further discussion, the motion did not pass with lack of majority with a 3/3 vote with Barrett, LaRue and Bayman voting against.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: In regard to the Ordinance 2002-10 that addresses salaries and the Personnel Committee, Council member LaRue made a motion to rescind Ordinance 2002-10, seconded by Hodges with discussion. Hodges stated that Council will make the decisions on increases until another system is put into place and they will follow the wage scale. The motion passed and the Ordinance 2002-10 was rescinded with a 6/0 vote. In regard to the Probation Department, the department received a grant that included hiring a full time Field Officer. The salary ordinance must be amended and the amendment be approved for this position that is funded by a grant. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment for the Probation Field Officer, seconded by Bayman and carried with a 6/0 vote. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented the potential longevity pay date to the Council as November 21, 2017. This pay falls in between two pay dates and the total

amount paid out of County General as August 16, 2017 is \$57,250.00. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the longevity date for November 21, 2017, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2018 BUDGET: Chairman Barrett stated that last week was the budget workshop with the Department of Local Government Finance. Michelle Rogers from the DLGF recommended several options for the budget. She recommended that the County stay as close as possible to the 2017 budget that was adopted so the cash balance at the end of the year is higher. Council member Hodges recommended that the Council approve \$1,730.00 flat increase for employees. This raise would be added to every employee's salary and then divided by 27 pays. Council member Hodges made a motion to give a \$1,730.00 raise for all employees and elected officials, with the exception of mandated salaries and the Council. The Commissioners are to receive a \$500.00 per person increase and this increase does not include part time employees. Council member Wheeler seconded the motion and motion passed with a 5/1 vote with Bayman voting against. In regard to part time employees, the maximum wage is \$17.00 per hour. Council member Wheeler made a motion to leave the maximum wage for part time employees at \$17.00 per hour, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 6/0 vote. Several County employees expressed their concern about the increase with having the 27th pay in 2018 rather than 26 pays.

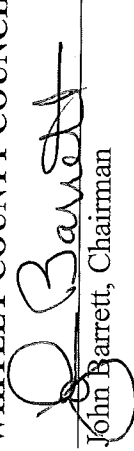
IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 6/0 vote.

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

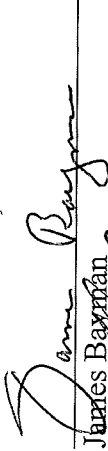
- Commissioner Schruppf presented the request for MDF Consulting for reclassifications of positions. This request is to be in the 2018 budget. Council member Wheeler made a motion to approve MDF Consulting for reclassifications paid out of the General fund, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 5/1 vote with Bayman voting against.
- Commissioner Schruppf stated that the Commissioners approved their 2018 meeting schedule, the 2018 holiday schedule, the 2018 AP schedule and the payroll schedule. Council member Hodges made a motion to approve all of the schedules, seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schruppf gave the Council a facility overview from Mark Sturtevant of all of the projects that need attention in regard to maintenance.
- Commissioner Schruppf reported that the County Coordinator/HR employee Pam Smith is no longer employed with the County.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 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

