

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

May 9, 2018

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, May 3, 2018 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Thor Hodges, Vice Chairman Chad Banks, Kim Wheeler, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, John Barrett and William Overdeer. Others in attendance were Commissioner George Schrupf, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator/Human Resource Director Angela Campbell, Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's Department, Butch Sterner from SDS Communications, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Gatton, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Tim Kumfer, Jill Snyder from Whitley DFI, Dani Tippmann from the Museum and County Prosecutor DJ Sigler.

Chairman Thor Hodges called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST AND SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT: Judge Fahl came before the Council with a request to add an additional full time employee due to the workload that the court has. Their criminal case load has increased significantly from averaging about 730-750 and in 2017 it jumped to 1,031. Legislation made changes that has transferred cases from Circuit Court to Superior Court as well which adds to the increased workload. His staff now consists of a Civil Court Reporter, a Criminal Court Reporter, Baliff and an assistant that helps all three positions. He is requesting for another assistant who will be cross trained on all of the positions but will most likely assist the Criminal Court Reporter. The temporary person that is currently helping the court will no longer be able to assist them because the funds are depleted at the end of May. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request and the new position for \$17,865.00 effective July 1, 2018, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE POLICE RETIREMENT PLAN AND IT PAY: Sheriff Gatton presented a pension request to the Council. Last year McCready and Keene, who handles the Sheriff Pension, wanted to change the program which is a deferred retirement option. Sheriff employees can join this program up to three years. There was a mistake and the paperwork didn't get completed for the program. In order for it to continue to be actuarial cost neutral, it is requiring the text of IC 36-8-10-12.2-1 to be added to the plan. McCready and Keene is recommending that the plan be amended to add this text to redefine the calculation of actuary monthly benefit. This would put the program into compliance with the Indiana code. Sheriff Gatton is requesting that the Council approve and sign the amendment for the program. Council member Bayman made a motion to allow the Chairman to sign it after he reviews and approves it, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote. In regard to the IT position at the Sheriff's Department, Chairman Hodges stated that the Personnel Committee will be looking into the position very soon for it to be factored. Sheriff Gatton then gave an overview of the annual Jail report for 2017. Drug related offenses went up 41.875% which was 640 in 2016 to 908 in 2017. There was a decrease in failure to appear at court hearings from 591 in 2016 to 542 in 2017. An offense that increased drastically was resisting law enforcement which went from 28 to 54. On a positive note, sex offenses went down 35% from 80 in 2016 to 52 in 2017. Overall, total persons booked into the Whitley County Jail increased from 1,139 in 2016 to 1,570 in 2017 for an increase of 431 bookings or 37.84%. Sheriff Gatton reported that the Jail will be upgrading to two commercial size washers to wash the inmates clothing and one new dryer. They are 45 pound washers and will be funded from Commissary funds. Janelle Schmitt gave an overview of E911 calls from 2016 to 2017. The increase in phone calls from 2016 to 2017 was 20.78%. In 2016 they answered 75,232 incoming calls and of those 10,036 were 911 calls. The department does "Text to 911" now and they had 175 text sessions. Total calls for service in 2016 was 16,622 and for 2017 it was 17,511 and of those 10,584 were 911 calls with 120 text sessions. In 2016, the Jail Commander met with the Jail Inspector and the Jail Inspector informed them that they were allowed to bill the DOC for Level 6 felons. Jody went back over all of the records and there were 4,039 bookings that she reviewed and identified the ones that would qualify to bill to the DOC for level 6 felons. There were certain criteria that had to be met in order to bill for them. She has begun billing them and has billed a total of \$779,415.00 just on the Level 6 felons per diem. This is \$35 per day per inmate that is sentenced and meets the criteria. They have begun processing the payments to the County as well and we will start to receive a total of \$189,700.00. They have denied \$61,320.00 and there is still \$528,395.00 pending just for the Level 6 per diem. When the funds are received they will be deposited into County General.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS AND SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR THE HIGHWAY: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester is requesting additional appropriations for line items that were in the red for winter operations and a prior commitment for the

Liberty Mills project. He is also requesting an additional employee and additional funds for bituminous for the Highway and Local Road and Street. There is also a request of funds for the construction of a salt storage facility. The funds for all of these requests would come from Highway funds or Local Road & Street funds. In regard to the salt storage facility, the Highway only has the capacity to store 400 tons at this time and this would allow them to store 1,500 tons. The current building the salt is stored in, the doors are rusting and they are out of storage space to store their new equipment so this space could be used to store equipment rather than salt. Engineering Consultants is who Brandon has been working with for the salt storage facility. Pending approval of funds from the Council, Brandon is ready to send out bids for the project. They estimated \$400,000.00 for the construction of the facility and Brandon added \$30,000.00 because the estimate did not include the floor and putting a concrete approach to the building. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the entire packet. After discussion of going item by item, there was not a motion for a second. In regard to the new employee request, Brandon presented a new job description to the Council. Council member Hodges stated that the new job description needs to go through the Personnel Committee first. He stated they would potentially approve a new employee but one with a current job description. Council member Bayman stated that he would like to see it go through the Personnel Committee first as well before the Council approves it. This position is under Personal Services and it would be called the Drainage Project Assistant. The Council stated that they would approve a position for an Equipment Operator but not the Drainage Project Assistant at this time because it needs to go through the Personnel Committee first. The request for additional appropriations are:

<i>Local Road and Street:</i>		<i>Request:</i>	<i>Approved:</i>
1169.21200.000.0217	Road Improvements	\$50,000	\$50,000
1169.21700.000.0217	Cold Mat/Wedging	\$100,000	\$100,000
 <i>Highway:</i>			
1176.11216.000.0201	Drainage Project Assistant	\$51,059	\$43,976
1176.11614.000.0201	Truck Driver-Overtime	\$15,000	\$15,000
1176.21002.000.0201	Stone & Gravel	\$100,000	\$100,000
1176.23001.000.0201	Bituminous	\$195,000	\$195,000
1176.27100.000.0201	Sodium Chloride	\$60,000	\$60,000
1176.40000.000.0201	Capital Improvements	\$430,000	\$430,000

Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the \$413,976.00 for the Equipment Operator, Truck Driver-Overtime, Stone and Gravel, Bituminous and Sodium Chloride, seconded by Council member Barrett. This is for the Personnel Services and Supplies and did not include the Capital Improvements. Council member Bayman withdrew his motion because it did not include the Capital Outlays for the construction of the salt storage facility. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the amount of \$843,976 for the Personnel Services, Supplies and Capital Improvements for the Highway fund, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote. The Council reviewed the additional appropriation request for Road Improvements and Cold Mat/Wedging in the Local Road & Street fund. Council member Wheeler made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request for the Local Road & Street fund, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DFI: Jill Snyder gave information to the Council in regard the Local Drug Free Communities Fund information. The comprehensive plan was approved by the State which allows them to move forward with the grant request. The grant total for the grant request was \$38,225.15 which includes prevention and education, treatment and intervention and criminal justice services. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the comprehensive plan, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 7/0 vote.

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

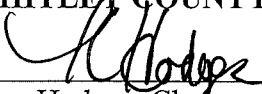
- Commissioner Amber reported to the Council that Scott Wagner came before the Commissioners to discuss a junk and trash extension. They had a situation where they had a junk and trash violation and bid out the project to a contractor. The contractor did not have the project completed by the deadline and came in and requested an extension to the Commissioners. The Commissioners gave an extension of seven days. Scott also spoke to the Commissioners in regard to a pool ordinance which was tabled because it needed to go through the fee committee first before it could be given approval.
- Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library Board came before the Commissioners requesting them to reappoint Gregory Hockemeyer to the Board. The Commissioners reappointed Gregory to the Board.
- There was a request to propose a sign for the alley from the Downtown Business Alliance. The Commissioners denied the request because it would have to be attached to the County Government Building.
- The Commissioners approved the quote from our website designer to improve our County website to make it user friendly.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the March 6, 2018 were reviewed by the Council. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote. The

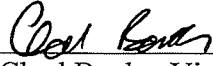
Council reviewed the April 3, 2018 minutes, Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 7/0 vote.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

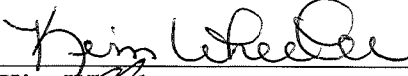
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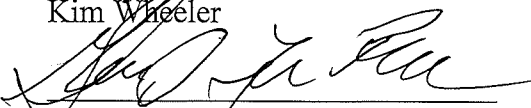
Thor Hodges, Chairman



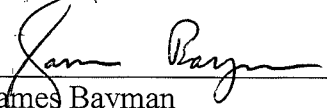
Chad Banks, Vice Chairman



Kim Wheeler




Glen LaRue



James Bayman

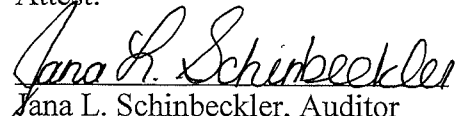


John Barrett



William Overdeer

Attest:



Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

