

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**September 4, 2019**

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 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, Thomas Warner, Timothy Kumfer, John Barrett and William Overdeer. Others in attendance were Commissioner Don Amber, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, EDC President Jon Myers, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Prosecutor DJ Sigler, Randall Holler from the South Whitley Library, Tim Summer from the Maintenance Department and County Recorder Rosemary Brown.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2020 WHITLEY COUNTY BUDGET AND SOLID WASTE BUDGET:** Chairman Thor Hodges asked for any public comment on the 2020 budget at this time. County Assessor Kim Erdly asked if the Council would be using the recommendation by WIS for the Chief Deputy's salaries, which is their salaries need to be 85% of the Elected Officials salary. Council stated that they are taking all of WIS's recommendations under consideration at this time. Mark Sturtevant also had questions about his budget. With no further comments from the public, Chairman Hodges closed the public hearing at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PART TIME WAGE:** Prosecutor DJ Sigler came before the Council to request an amendment to the part time wage on the salary ordinance. The max part time rate that the Council set for 2019 is \$17.00 per hour. There is currently an individual in the Prosecutor's Office that is full time and will be going to part time to train their replacement. There was some miscommunication between a previous County employee and DJ's Office Manager that the individual could make \$18.84 per hour. DJ is asking for this individual to make \$18.84 per hour and to begin retroactively on August 26, 2019. Council member Overdeer made a motion to allow the part time wage for this individual of \$18.84 per hour, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 5/2 vote with Hodges and Wheeler voting against.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SALARY SCHEDULE AND COMPENSATION POLICIES ORDINANCE:** Waggoner Irwin Scheele recommended that the Council pass the Salary Schedule and Compensation policies ordinance, which puts the Personnel Committee into place and the job classification system. Council member Kumfer made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-11, seconded by Banks and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant presented a request for additional appropriations to the Council.

Janitorial Supplies	1000.20002.000.0131	\$11,000
Building Maintenance	1000.36004.000.0131	\$12,000

Mark stated that the request for the Janitorial Supplies additional appropriation request was due to taking on a new building this year, Branch Court. The Building Maintenance additional appropriation request was due to repairs that were mandated for the elevator service contracts that were unforeseen before the 2019 budget was set. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Banks and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S ASSISTANT POSITION:** Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery requested some clarification from the Council regarding the Waggoner Irwin Sheele report. When Jennifer was hired as the Commissioner's Assistant, the position was presented to her as a PAT III. After WIS reclassified all of the jobs, the job classification changed and she is now a PAT IV. Jennifer stated that she is currently making a PAT III salary and would like the Council's consideration to remain a PAT III.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION:** Randall Holler from the South Whitley Public Library came before the Council to request the approval of an additional appropriation resolution. The resolution states that the Board of Trustees of the library finds that its present facilities are not adequate to provide the proper library services to present and future library patrons utilizing its facilities. The estimate cost of the renovation of and improvements to the library at the present time is \$1,000,000 and the funds are not within the budget which requires an additional appropriation. Randall is requesting the Council to approve, per resolution, an additional \$385,125 for their Rainy Day fund and an additional \$16,253 for the Library Improvement Reserve fund. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-11 contingent to the County Attorney's approval, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CF-1 FORM APPROVAL:** EDC President Jon Myers stated that this CF-1 form approval is a follow up to the amended resolution for Micropulse which added PNC Equipment to their abatement. The CF-1 needs approved to add PNC Equipment to it as well. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the CF-1 form, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LONGEVITY PAY DATE:** Auditor Jana Schinbeckler requested on behalf of the Payroll Deputy in the Auditor's Office for the longevity pay date to be November 26, 2019. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the longevity pay date, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2020 SCHEDULES:** The Council reviewed the payroll schedule for 2020. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the 2020 payroll schedule, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote. The next schedule they reviewed is the accounts payable schedule. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the 2020 accounts payable schedule, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote. The last schedule they reviewed was 2020 meeting schedule. Council member Banks made a motion to table the meeting schedule, seconded by Overdeer and tabled with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Schrupf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting.


- Commissioner Schrupf stated that the Commissioners approved the three voting locations for the Municipal General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
- Emergency Management would like to hire a new Deputy Director and was seeking approval of the appointment from the Commissioners. The Emergency Management Advisory Board requested that the Commissioners appoint Daniel Monaco for the position of the Deputy Director. He has a Master's Degree in Emergency Management and is also a Hazardous Materials Technician. The Commissioners approved the appointment for Daniel Monaco.
- The Commissioner's passed an ordinance stating that Whitley County is a broadband ready community.
- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council that the Commissioners and County Attorney has reviewed and approved the Branch Court property agreement with Parkview.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the August 6, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Banks and passed with a 6/0 vote with Kumfer abstaining.

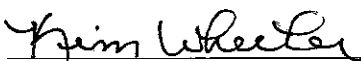
**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** The Council discussed 2020 budget matters. Councilman Kumfer stated that he believes the Council needs to move all employees up to the external midpoint for their base salary. Councilman Kumfer then made a motion to bring all employees up to the external midpoint, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote. The next issue the Council discussed was the maximum part time wage for 2020. The current maximum part time rate is \$17 per hour. Councilman Banks made a motion to raise the maximum part time hourly rate to \$22.48 per hour but would like to adopt a policy or have criteria set in place for department heads to follow for part time employees, seconded by Kumfer and carried with a 7/0 vote. The next discussion was regarding cost of living increases or raises for all employees for 2020. Councilman Barrett made a motion for each employee to receive a \$1,000 increase, seconded by Overdeer and failed with a 2/5 vote with Hodges, Banks, Wheeler, Warner and Kumfer voting against.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Hodges adjourned the meeting at 10:15 AM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**


  
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Thor Hodges, Chairman

  
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Chad Banks, Vice Chairman

  
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Kim Wheeler


  
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Thomas Warner

  
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Timothy Kumfer

  
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John Barrett

  
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William Overdeer

Attest:

  
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Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor