

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

October 8, 2019

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, October 8, 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, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, EDC President Jon Myers, Kevin Ousley from Red Star Manufacturing, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Mark Bankson, County Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Spencer, Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff’s Department, Sheriff Gatton, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, Jail Matron Carla Horn, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Theresa Green, Riley Hollenbaugh from the EDC and Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE AGENDA: Chairman Thor Hodges asked the Council if they would like to deviate from the agenda. Council Barrett made a motion to change/deviate from the agenda, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE RED STAR ABATEMENT REQUEST: EDC President Jon Myers was present to request an abatement for Red Star Manufacturing, Inc. the request is regarding a proposal to expand its operations in Larwill. The expansion plans are for new investment in real estate and equipment of \$1,650,000 and the addition of 18 new employees over the next three years. The average wages will be \$27.00 per hour. The real estate abatement resolution is Resolution 2019-13 and the personal property abatement resolution is Resolution 2019-14. The abatement request is for ten years for each of them. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-13 and Resolution 2019-14, seconded by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER INTRODUCTION OF NEW WIC COORDINATOR & HEALTH TAX LEVY: Scott stated that the new WIC Coordinator, Sara Tinkel’s schedule changed and she was not able to be present at the Council meeting but he hopes to bring her to the November Council meeting. Scott also informed the Council that after speaking with Jana, the tax levy for the Health Department has been brought back up and he has no concerns at this time that they will be able to support their budget.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND ADJUSTMENT: Sheriff Gatton was present to request an additional appropriation and an adjustment for a grant. The additional appropriation request was for the Continuing Education fund.

Additional Appropriation:

2501.37001.000.0000 Training \$5,000

Councilman Overdeer made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote. The Sheriff then requested for \$1,950.00 to be appropriated back into the Sheriff’s uniform line item. This is due to a grant that paid for bulletproof vests and the County has received the funds back and the Sheriff would like to appropriate it back to the uniform line item. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Warner and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE TRUCK PURCHASE & OUT OF SERIES TRANSFER REQUEST: Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs is requesting the purchase of a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado and the funds were already approved for the 2019 budget. The cost of the vehicle has changed and Amy is also requesting a transfer within her budget to cover the cost of the truck.

County General:

1000.21000.000.0146 Operating Supplies 1000.41001.000.0146 Equipment \$2,830.00

Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve the transfer request for the purchase of the truck, seconded by Banks and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION FOR THE 2020 WHITLEY COUNTY BUDGET AND SOLID WASTE BUDGET: Sheriff Gatton was present to give the Council a state statute that says that Jail Matron is to make the same as a Deputy. The recommendation that WIS gave gives increases to Deputy’s but not the Jail Matron. Chairman Hodges stated that if the Council agrees, they will have the statute sent to Attorney Shipman to review and make a determination on what needs done. If Attorney Shipman states that it is accurate and correct, the Council will do a salary ordinance amendment. The Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Recorder and Treasurer were present to request to be compared internally for their salaries rather than externally. They requested equal pay for equal work and responsibilities as other department heads within the County. The discussion ceased due to lack of a motion. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the 2020 County budget with the external midpoint for salaries per Ordinance 2019-12, seconded by Banks and carried with a 7/0 vote. Councilman Banks then made a motion to approve the 2020 Solid Waste budget per Ordinance 2019-13, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.