

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

December 3, 2019

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 3, 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 George Schrupf, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, Carla Horn from the Sheriff's Department, EDC President Jon Myers, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, Sheriff Gatton, Janelle Schmitt and Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Judge Fahl, Scott Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Jail Commander Sean Martin, Jason Meyer from Passages, Barbara Hohenstein, County Assessor Kim Erdly, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, Commissioner's Assistant Jennifer Shinabery, Austin Hamilton, GIs Coordinator Dan Weigold, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Jamie Hatton from the Assessor's Office, Tim Summers from the Maintenance Department, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Prosecutor DJ Sigler and Planning Director Nathan Bilger.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROSECUTOR TRANSFER REQUEST: Prosecutor DJ Sigler was present to request a transfer to cover the PTO payout for a previous full time employee.

County General:

1000.33001.000.0147	Legal Serv/Witness Fees	1000.11409.000.0147	Receptionist	\$1,000
1000.37004.000.0147	Equip Repair & Maint	1000.11409.000.0147	Receptionist	\$1,500

Councilman Overdeer made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT TRANSFER REQUEST: Judge Fahl was present to request a transfer to cover the increase in public defender expenses for the year.

County General:

1000.12703.000.0137	Pauper Atty & Appeals	1000.30011.000.0137	Public Defender Services	\$6,400
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Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PASSAGES UPDATE: Jason Meyer was present to give the annual report for Passages. He started out with giving artwork to the Commissioners, Attorney Shipman, County Auditor Jana Schinbeckler and Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Shinabery that was made by Passages artists. Jason presented a few dates for the upcoming 2020 year to put on the calendar for Passages events. He talked about the 5K that they did this year and how they had a great turn out and are going to be making the 2020 a 10K at the request of some of the attendees. Jason is also the CEO of the Whitley Neighborhood Crossing so he wanted to let the Commissioners know that they have received two grants from Federal Home Loan Bank to be able to update the Clugston as well as build nine new homes in Whitley County where the old hospital was located. Three of the nine new homes will be Passages homes and the other six will be low to moderate income housing. They are still trying to get additional funds to be able to complete these projects and hope to start this process by spring of 2021 if not sooner.

IN THE MATTER OF THE MATRON PAY & SHERIFF CONTRACT: Sheriff Gatton was present to request the matron pay be the same as the deputy's per state statute. The matron's 2019 salary is \$53,183 and the current deputy pay is \$54,514. With the cost of living increase of \$1,200, the deputy pay for 2020 will be \$55,714 so that is what Sheriff Gatton is requesting the matron's pay be for 2020. Councilman Barrett made a motion that the matron be compensated the same as the deputy's for 2020, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote. In the matter of the Sheriff's contract, per Waggoner Irwin Scheele's report, the average increase over all employees for 2020 was 6.29%. Sheriff Gatton is requesting that the Council honor his contract and is asking to receive the 6.29% and the cost of living increase of \$1,200 for his salary for 2020. Councilman Kumfer made a motion for the Sheriff to receive the 6.29% increase along with the \$1,200 cost of living increase, Overdeer seconded with discussion. The Council requested that the Sheriff's contract be more defined going forward. The motion passed with a 6/1 vote with Wheeler voting against.

IN THE MATTER OF THE TREASURER'S PAY: Treasurer Laurell Schroeder was present to request a 10% increase for 2020 from the Council. Her current salary for 2019 is \$49,415 and her salary with a 10% increase for 2020 would be \$54,356. She is asking for her salary to be comparable to other department heads. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to give the Clerk, Auditor, Recorder, Assessor and Treasurer a \$2,000 increase as well as the \$1,200 cost of living increase and for the Chief Deputy's to be at 85% of their salary, seconded by Overdeer

and the motion did not pass with a 3/4 vote. Councilman Hodges, Banks, Wheeler and Barrett voted against the motion.

IN THE MATTER OF THE E911 TRANSFER REQUEST: Janelle Schmitt was present to request a transfer to cover the overtime in dispatch for the year.

County General:

1222.37004.000.1222	Equip Repair & Maint	1222.11605.000.1222	Overtime	\$5,000
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Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Banks and passed a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONERS ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS: The Commissioners presented three additional appropriation requests to the Council.

County General:

1000.32005.000.0130	Liability & Property Insurance	\$150,000
1000.36004.000.0130	Building Maintenance	\$200,000

CEDIT:

1112.30012.000.0433	Other Services	\$65,000
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Commissioner Schrupf explained that the liability and property insurance ended up being more this year than the Commissioners budgeted and anticipated. The Building Maintenance additional appropriation request was due to the annex being remodeled and new carpet being put in but the County will be reimbursed for this expense because the Indiana Department of Child Services is renting it from the County and paying a monthly fee. The CEDIT additional appropriation request was due to expenses for BCS Management for the Regional Sewer District in 2019 that were not budgeted for but had to be paid. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve all three additional appropriation requests, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2019 SALARY ORDINANCE: The Council reviewed the 2020 salary ordinance. The salary ordinance included all employees to the external midpoint and the approved \$1,200 cost of living increase. Auditor Schinbeckler also added \$3,000 for Council Secretary pay that other county auditors receive. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the 2020 salary ordinance with the secretary pay for the auditor, seconded by Kumfer and did not pass with a 2/5 vote. Councilman Overdeer then made a motion to approve the 2020 salary ordinance per Ordinance 2019-16 with the exception of the \$3,000 for the auditor, seconded by Banks and passed with a 7/0 vote.

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

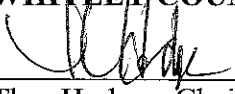
- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council that there are still issues with the Jail and overcrowding but with the new programs that have become available, it has started to help with the overcrowding.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Council reviewed the November 5, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Banks and passed with a 7/0 vote.

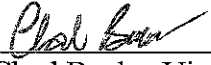
IN OTHER BUSINESS: HR Director Ed Robbins informed the Council that he received the GIS Coordinator's job classification back from WIS after they refactored the position. The position went from a PAT II to a PAT III so the salary changed. The current pay for the GIS Coordinator is \$50,731 and the PAT II salary is \$57,574 and the PAT III salary is \$47,064. Council member Barrett made a motion to keep the current pay of \$50,731 with the \$1,200 cost of living increase for a salary of \$51,931 for 2019, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 7/0 vote. Ed informed the Council that the new weights and measures position needs factored by WIS as well. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to have the new position factored by WIS, seconded by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote. EDC President Jon Myers was present to request the Council to hold a special meeting to consider the approval of a project for a company. The Council decided that the special meeting will be held on December 23, 2019 at 8:05 AM.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Hodges adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.

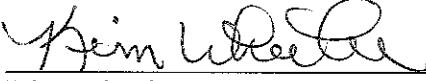
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



Thor Hodges, Chairman



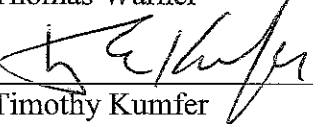
Chad Banks, Vice Chairman



Kim Wheeler



Thomas Warner



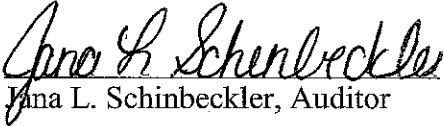
Timothy Kumfer



John Barrett

William Overdeer

Attest:



Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

