

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

November 4, 2020

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Chad Banks, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, Timothy Kumfer, Thor Hodges, William Overdeer and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioner George Schrupf, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, County Assessor Kim Erdly, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, County Treasurer Laurell Schroeder, Sheriff Gatton, Jason Brooks and James Argerbright.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER: Taylor Baker from the Whitley County Humane Society was present to discuss a County Animal Control Officer position with the Council. Taylor informed the Council that this position would benefit the County and allow them to have jurisdiction. Her hope is that it would reduce the number of strays and take the workload off of the officers and deputies. She gave examples of the job duties and explained that it would be a full time position and the hours are still under consideration. The Council stated they would take it under consideration and asked that she come back with more information in the future.

IN THE MATTER OF THE TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST: EDC President Dale Buuck presented an abatement request for an opportunity for a local company to the Council. The company would like to expand and they need incentives for an increase in projects to make the color cards. The company's CFO, Jason Brooks, stated that they are Veteran friendly in their hiring process and they are looking at the wages to be between \$14 and \$15 per hour. There is an existing abatement on the building and Dale explained that they would most like be asking the Council to transfer the abatement from one company to another. The Council gave the consensus for Dale to move forward on the project and informed the Council that he would be back at their next meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SHERIFF TRANSFER REQUEST: Sheriff Gatton was presented to request an approval for a transfer. This transfer request was due to additional COVID supplies.

County General: Jail

1000.13300.000.0132 Confinement Officer 1000.20002.000.0132 Janitorial Supplies \$20,000.00

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Scott Wagner from the Health Department was presented to request an additional appropriation from the Council to purchase a new computer.

Tobacco Settlement:

1206.20000.000.0210 Office Supplies \$1,592.54

Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request, seconded by Kumfer and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2021 SALARY ORDINANCE APPROVAL: The Council reviewed the 2021 salary ordinance. The Council reviewed the maximum part time wage as well and they came to the consensus to leave it the same. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the salary ordinance for 2021 per Ordinance 2020-12, seconded by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Schrupf gave a report from the Commissioner meeting:

- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council that they are moving forward with the needs assessment study for the Correctional Facility. This needs assessment will give guidance on how the County needs to move forward with a Correctional Facility, Jail or both. Construction costs continue to increase so the Commissioner are taking that into consideration as well.
- Commissioner Schrupf also informed the Council that the Commissioners made some reappointments to the Health Board.
- The project with Mercury Wireless is set to be completed by the end of December.


IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Council reviewed the October 6, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

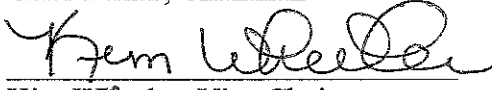
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Scott Wagner from the Health Department gave an update on COVID-19 to the Council. There is free testing available for Whitley County residents. The County is currently


under a level orange which results in restricting school functions and restrictions on visitations and gatherings. There was \$100,000 given to Allen County for a testing site for Whitley County. Scott stated that the expense would be too great for Whitley County to have its own testing site. So far, he stated that the County has had six deaths and 10% of the population has been tested. The virus in Whitley County has a 99.9% survival rate so far. Dale Buuck also gave an update on the Larwill Sewer Project.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Banks adjourned the meeting at 8:50 AM.

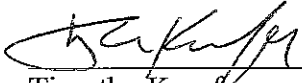
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL


Chad Banks, Chairman


Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman


Thor Hodges



Thomas Warner


Timothy Kumler


John Barrett


William Overdeer

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor