

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

January 5, 2021

The Whitley County Council met in special session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges, Timothy Kumfer, Thomas Warner, James Argerbright, Joan Western 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 Kay Gatton, Michelle Jones, Dan Monaco from Emergency Management and Matt Brinkman from Region 3A.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Councilman Barrett nominated Thor Hodges as the Chairman and Councilman Thomas Warner nominated Timothy Kumfer. Councilman Hodges became Chairman with a 4/3 vote. Councilman Timothy Kumfer nominated Kim Wheeler as the Vice Chairman and Thor Hodges nominated Timothy Kumfer. Councilman Wheeler became Vice Chairman with a 4/3 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REGION 3A: Executive Director of Region 3A Matt Brinkman informed the Council that Region 3A services six different counties. Whitley County is no longer paying dues to Region 3A, but they help with planning and grant funding for the counties. This next year, Matt is asking if a Commissioner and Council member would like to be on the board just to see what the meetings consist of. The annual cost to be a member of Region 3A is around \$12,500. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to table the Region 3A dues, seconded by Barrett and tabled with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ABATEMENT TRANSFER FOR CHROMASOURCE: EDC President Dale Buuck was present to request the approval from Council for an abatement transfer for Chromasource. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01, seconded by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: There were four salary ordinance amendments and additional appropriations presented to Council for approval. These are all positions that were presented were approved by the Personnel Committee to be sent to Waggoner Irwin and Scheele and refactored. The new salaries for these positions include the 1.3% increase that each County employee was given for 2021.

Clerk:

1000.11326.000.0101 Traffic Deputy	\$39,433	to	\$41,233
1000.11400.000.0101 Voter Reg/Election Sup	\$41,233	to	\$42,870

Auditor:

1000.11514.000.0102 Payroll Deputy II/File Mgmt	\$39,433	to	\$41,233
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Superior Court:

1000.11220.000.0137 Office Admin/Civil Court Reporter	\$42,870	to	\$48,892
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Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the four salary ordinance amendments for the refactorization of these positions, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the additional appropriations for the increase in these salaries, seconded by Kumfer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE JDAI TRANSFER:

JDAI:

8111.30000.000.8211 Professional Services	8111.40000.000.8211 Equipment	\$1,990.75
8111.20000.000.8211 Supplies	8111.40000.000.8211 Equipment	\$1,888.21
8111.33003.000.8111 Travel & Mileage	8111.40000.000.8211 Equipment	\$1,201.42
8111.38000.000.8211 Dues & Subscriptions	8111.40000.000.8211 Equipment	\$900.00
8111.20006.000.8111 Meals	8111.40000.000.8211 Equipment	\$864.62
8111.17100.000.8111 FICA & Medicare	8111.40000.000.8211 Equipment	\$376.23
8111.20000.000.8111 Supplies	8111.40000.000.8111 Equipment	\$129.22

The Council reviewed the JDAI transfer requests. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the transfers, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ENCUMBRANCE REQUESTS: Several encumbrance requests for the 2020 budget were presented to Council.

Engineer:

1000.11703.000.0106 Attorney	\$1,420.00
1135.39600.000.0256 Bridge Replacement	\$292,724.81

Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the encumbrance request for the Attorney, seconded by Argerbright and passed with a 7/0 vote. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the request for the Bridge Replacement encumbrance, seconded by Argerbright and carried with a 7/0 vote.

Prosecutor:

1000.11610.000.0108 Victims Advocate	\$1,000.00
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Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the Prosecutor's encumbrance request, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

Commissioners:

1000.59009.000.0130 COVID-19 Expenses	\$8,955.99
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Emergency Management is working on quotes for COVID related expenses, but they do not have any completed currently. With no invoices at this time, Councilman Kumfer made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Argerbright and the request was denied with a 7/0 vote.

Circuit Court:

1000.11700.000.0136 Part Time	\$1,470.82
1000.30011.000.0136 Public Defender	\$3,187.57
1000.12706.000.0136 CHINS Pauper Attorney	\$1,935.58

The Council reviewed the Circuit Court encumbrance requests. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the Circuit Court encumbrance requests, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.

Emergency Management:

1000.20000.000.0146 Supplies	\$1,643.76
1000.21000.000.0146 Operating Supplies	\$4,655.23
1000.37000.000.0146 Equip & Prog Maint	\$5,848.86
1000.37004.000.0146 Equip Repair & Maint	\$4,566.78

Emergency Management is working on quotes for COVID related expenses, but they do not have any completed currently. With no invoices at this time, Councilman Kumfer made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Argerbright and the request was denied with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Council that the State is requiring him to cut his budget by \$608,242 but he will be doing an additional appropriation for the same amount at their next meeting because the funds are available. Brandon also discussed with the Council how he would like to re-establish the Cumulative Bridge fund rate. The rate was re-established in 2015 but has since been lowered and once it is collected at a lower rate, it cannot be changed or increased unless a new rate is adopted by ordinance. The current rate is 0.0386 and Brandon would like the rate to be 0.525. This new rate would be effective in 2022 and the deadline to have this new rate passed is August of this year.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2021 BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS: The Council reviewed the 2021 Board Appointments and Assignments. The changes were: James Argerbright will replace Chad Banks on the Joint Advisory Board, Joan Western will replace Timothy Kumfer on the Senior Citizen Center, Timothy Kumfer will replace Bill Overdeer on the EDC Board and the Personnel Committee will consist of Thomas Warner, Timothy Kumfer and Joan Western.

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

- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council that he will be the Chairman for 2021 and Commissioner Green will be the Vice Chair.
- The Commissioners recognized employees with over 20 years with the County at their meeting.
- The Commissioners established their 2021 board appointments and assignments.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Council reviewed the December 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 5/0 vote with Argerbright and Western abstaining. Council then reviewed the December 15, 2020 special meeting minutes.

Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 5/0 vote with Argerbright and Western abstaining.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: The Council discussed how it may be beneficial to have a podium for the public the speak at meetings for them to be heard on the recordings.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Hodges adjourned the meeting at 9:25 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



Chair Thor Hodges



Vice Chair Kim Wheeler



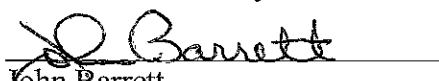
James Argerbright



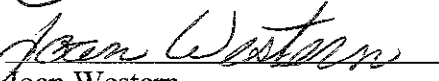
Thomas Warner



Timothy Kumfer



John Barrett



Joan Western

Attest:

Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

