

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

May 4, 2021

The Whitley County Council met in session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 in the Commissioner’s Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair Thor Hodges, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Timothy Kumfer, Thomas Warner, James Argerbright, Joan Western and John Barrett. Other in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Commissioner’s Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Sheriff Gatton, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Spencer, Brian More from Micropulse, EDC President Dale Buuck, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Stan Brown from One America, Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs, Liane Rambo from Micropulse, GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold and Scott Wagner from the Health Department.

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR PROSECUTOR FORFEITURE: Prosecutor DJ Sigler was present to request an additional appropriation for his Prosecutor Forfeiture. This would be to further fund operations of the drug task force due to an increase in drug activity.

Prosecutor Forfeiture:

1234.21000.000.1234 Operating Supplies \$10,000.00

Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request, seconded by Argerbright and passed with a 7/0 vote.

RESTORATION MEDICAL POLYMERS ABATEMENT REQUEST: EDC President Dale Buuck presented an abatement request to Council for Micropulse. This is for a 10-year tax abatement on personal property that the company will be purchasing. Brian More from Micropulse spoke with Council and stated that the company continues to grow. Council member Kumfer made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-03 approving the Micropulse abatement, seconded by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote.

GPS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE REQUEST: Scott Wagner from the Health Department and GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold presented a request to the Council to purchase GPS equipment. This equipment would allow Scott to locate septic systems and upload the information to the Whitley County Beacon website. The Commissioners made a favorable pass to Council. Council member Kumfer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR IMMUNIZATION CLERK: Scott Wagner from the Health Department was present to request the approval of the additional appropriation and salary ordinance amendment for the part time to full time Immunization Clerk.

Health:

1159.11314.000.0214 Immunization Clerk \$16,903.00

Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment and additional appropriation request for the Immunization Clerk, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote. Scott then gave a COVID update to Council.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CHECK REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST: Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs was present to request Council approval for a re-appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,477.98. Whitley County Emergency Management is active in the District 3 Health Care Coalition, whose mission is to support healthcare organizations during emergency response and recovery. One of the projects that the Whitley County EMA was involved in was to purchase Stop The Bleed training kits. These kits are issued to each County Health Department in District 3 for the purpose of training and educating community partners on how to stop critical bleeding to save a life. The purchase of the kit is reimbursed by the District 3 Health Care Coalition at 100%, but Emergency Management had to make the initial investment in its purchase. Council member Warner made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Argerbright and passed with a 7/0 vote.

ADVANCED TIME TIMEKEEPING SYSTEM: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a request for the Advanced Time timekeeping system to the Council. This a new system that integrates with the County’s Low payroll and financial software. It would replace the Right Stuff Timekeeping software and would also be a cost savings to the County. The County has already paid through the end of the year for the Right Stuff software, so the Council decided to table this matter until the next meeting and check if the County is eligible for a refund.

SHERIFF PENSION: Sheriff Gatton was present with Stan Brown from One America to give the Council more information regarding the change he is requesting to the Sheriff Pension Plan. The two options that are being considered are 52 years of age with 25 years or more experience or 50 years of age with 20 or more years of

service. Stan Brown stated that the 50/20 plan is more costly due to more people being eligible, but more deputies would benefit from it. If the Council chose to adopt the 50/20 plan, there would be 7 individuals in the next ten years that would benefit from the plan. The County contribution for the 52/25 plan would be \$331,981 and the County contribution for the 50/20 plan would be \$373,023. Council tabled a decision on the Sheriff Pension Plan until their July Council meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Schrupf gave a report from the Commissioner Meeting:

- Commissioner Schrupf informed the Council that the Commissioners decided on the emergency closings policy and chose Option #2. Hourly/non-exempt employees may use PTO in the case of an emergency closing and additional pay, or time off will not be granted. Council member Wheeler made a motion to accept Option #2 for the emergency closings policy, seconded by Warner and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- The Highway Department received \$621,298.00 from the Community Crossings grant that is going to allow the department to move forward with paving certain roads in the County.
- Commissioner Schrupf stated that the Commissioners are moving forward with building a new jail and they are developing a jail committee. He is asking for a few Council members to be part of the committee. The Council members that were added to the committee were Chair Hodges, Vice Chair Wheeler and Council member Kumfer.
- Commissioner Schrupf gave a Mercury Wireless update and stated that they have been working on putting up towers throughout the County. The Commissioners have met with Warsaw Fiber as well to keep their options open.

MINUTES: The Council reviewed the April 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 5/0 vote with Hodges and Wheeler abstaining.

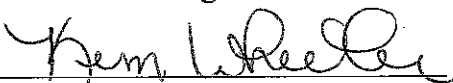
OTHER BUSINESS: Council member Kumfer gave an update on the Personnel Committee meeting. The Committee made a recommendation to Council to send the Planning and Permitting Technician job description to Waggoner Irwin Scheele. The reclassification will be paid out of the department's budget. There is also a part time Administrative Assistant position, for Planning and Building, that was already budgeted for, but he is requesting to hire for the position. Chair Hodges stated that if the position falls within the hourly rate the Council established, the position should be allowed.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Hodges adjourned the meeting at 9:20 AM.

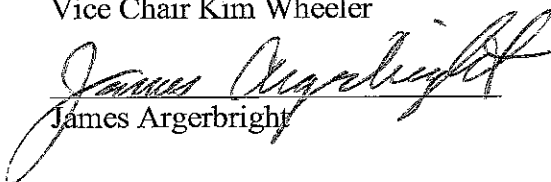
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Chair Thor Hodges

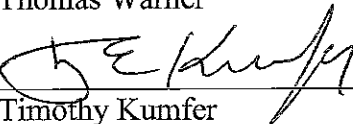


Vice Chair Kim Wheeler




James Argerbright

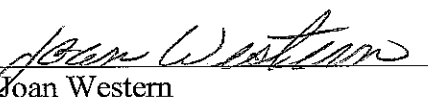
Thomas Warner



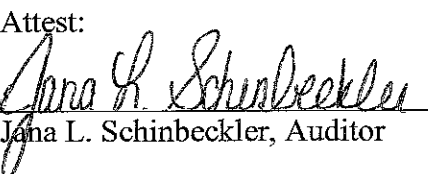
Timothy Kumfer



John Barrett



Joan Western

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor