

# WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

July 7, 2021

The Whitley County Council met in session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, July 7, 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 and Joan Western. Absent was Council member John Barrett. Others in attendance were Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, Sheriff Gatton, County Assessor Kim Erdly, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Spencer, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs, and Regional 3 Coordinator Janet Haney.

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

**POLICE PENSION:** Sheriff Gatton presented his request for the pension plan to be a 50/20 plan. The plan change would be cost to the County of \$9,075.00 and the officers increasing their contribution from 3% to 4%. There would be no sunset date on the plan, and he is requesting to be paid out of the Public Safety fund. If the Council would like a sunset date, he would ask that the date be December 31, 2026. Council member Kumfer made a motion to approve the 50/20 plan with no sunset and the funds to come out of the Public Safety fund and the motion died for lack of a second. Council Wheeler made a motion to deny all pension proposals for the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Argerbright with discussion. Many of the Council members expressed that their thoughts are that the Sheriff's Department already has a great pension plan. Argerbright stated he also would like to see it stay the same because he does not want to lose the leadership and experience that the department has. After discussion, the motion passed with a 5/1 vote with Kumfer voting against.

**GATOR CASES AND COUPLED PRODUCTS ABATEMENTS:** County Assessor Kim Erdly informed the Council that there were a few businesses that are not in compliance for their Personal Property abatements. The first is Gator Cases; they failed to file a Business Tangible Personal Property return with the Assessor's Office. The second is ASW, LLC and they failed to file the CF-1 PP for Resolution 2017-05 with the Council by the statutory deadline. The last was Coupled Products and they failed to file the CF-1 PP for Resolution 2010-11 with the Council by the deadline as well. Council member Kumfer made a motion to deny these three abatements, seconded by Warner and carried with a 6/0 vote.

**FIELD CREW OFFICER ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION & SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:** Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter was present to request a correction for the salary of her Field Crew Officer. The Field Crew Officer in Probation was missed when Waggoner Irwin Scheele refactored all positions in 2019. The request is for the County to backpay the employee for 2020 and retroactively pay him from January to June with the correct salary. In 2020, the salary was \$43,272 and it should have been \$45,035. In 2021 the salary was \$43,835 and it should be \$45,621. Amy is requesting the approval of a salary ordinance amendment and an additional appropriation for this error.

**County General:**

1000.11318.000.0143	Field Crew Officer	\$3,162.00
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Council member Kumfer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 6/0 vote.

**2022 BUDGET CHANGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant was present to discuss his budget with Council. Mark stated that the Museum building needs some roof work, and he can complete the work in stages. The Museum put the repairs in their budget, but Council would like to see the funds for these projects come from Cumulative Capital Development. Council member Warner made a motion to approve the Museum building projects out of Cumulative Capital Development, seconded by Argerbright, and passed with a 6/0 vote. Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs was present to explain in more detail, her request for \$40,000 for capital outlay in her budget. She would like to purchase a new vehicle because the 2008 Ford Explorer is nearing the end of life without considerable mechanical investment. She has received three quotes to purchase this new vehicle and she would like it to be able to pull the trailers Emergency Management has. After discussion on what was needed for the vehicle, the Council came to the consensus to advertise the budget for \$60,000 instead of \$40,000 for Emergency Management's Capital Outlay account. Auditor Schinbeckler informed the Council that she made the request to Commissioners for the LOW financial, payroll and tax software to be funded from CEDIT. The Commissioners stated that they would like to see it paid from County General. Council member Kumfer made a motion for the software to be paid out of County General, seconded by Warner, and carried with a 6/0 vote.

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

- Commissioner Green informed the Council that the Commissioners must replace the mixer board for the sound system in the Commissioner meeting room to record meetings. The replacement mixer is going to be \$6,695.00.
- Commissioner Green gave an update on the Council on the Jail.

- She also gave an update on the ARPA funds and what the funds can be used for. She stated she has a quote for fiber throughout the County and will be contacting REMC for a quote as well. The Commissioner's hope is to first replace lost revenue.

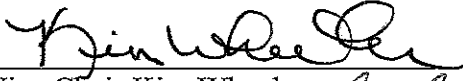
**MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the June 8, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Council member Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 5/0 vote with Warner abstaining.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**


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

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
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Chair Thor Hodges


  
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Vice Chair Kim Wheeler


  
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James Argerbright

  
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Thomas Warner

  
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Timothy Kumfer

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John Barrett

  
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Joan Western

Attest:  
  
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Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor