

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

June 7, 2022

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, June 7, 2022, in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair Timothy Kumfer, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges, James Argerbright, Joan Western and John Barrett, Council Member Thomas Warner was absent. Others in attendance were Commissioner Banks, Commissioner Baysinger, Commissioner Schrumpf, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Assessor Kim Erdly, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Mista Lauber and Jacqueline Tiahueti from the Bowen Center, Steve Carender from Surf Broadband, Nick Brewer, and Tim Summers from the Maintenance Department.

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

**BOWEN CENTER UPDATE:** Mista Lauber from the Bowen Center was present to give the Council an update. There are some changes that are taking place due to employees retiring and re-structuring. Mista let the Council know what the funds are used for that come from the County, they help cover the costs of treatments, appointments and allow for free care to be given. The Bowen Center purchased the Superior Auto property and the house beside it to build their Primary Care and Mental Health Center.

**CF-1 APPROVALS FOR ABATEMENTS:** EDC President Dale Buuck stated that he and Auditor Tiffany Deakins reviewed the CF-1 forms along with the Assessor Kim Erdly, and they are all in compliance except for Gator Cases as they have not filled out all necessary forms with the Assessor's office. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the CF-1 forms pending the Chair's review and allow the Chair to sign, seconded by Wheeler, and passed with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Banks updated the Council on the process of the County landfill and where they were at with selling that. IDEM has verified that the new owner would take over responsibility of maintaining the Landfill after the sale. Commissioner Banks informed Council that the Commissioners had selected a Construction Manager with the recommendations from the selection committee, they have chosen to hire Weigand Construction. The next item that Banks brought for review was the need to hire an Engineer for the County. The need has presented its self for this and WIS has recommended a salary range of \$87,000 to \$110,000 for this position. The County will need to see if they can still receive the \$40,000 subsidy for salary as well. Councilman Argerbright agreed that the County does need an Engineer as well as the supervisor. Council asked Commissioner Banks if he thought that the Engineer position had to be full-time or if it could be part-time, and if they could possibly share an Engineer with a neighboring County. Commissioner Banks stated that he would reach out and see what other Counties are doing. Commissioner Banks let Council know that they have set a ARPA plan and will be bringing that to the Council to approve. The plan includes retrofitting the current jail for work release facility, infrastructure for the Highway Department and Regional Sewer District, broadband from Surf. Commissioner Baysinger gave an update on the Surf broadband to Council as well.

**MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the May 4, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Council member Western made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 6/0 vote.

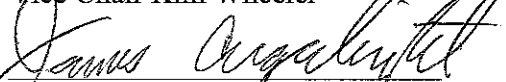
**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:** Councilman Kumfer stated that he was proud to see the Teen Court Summer Program that is taking place this summer.

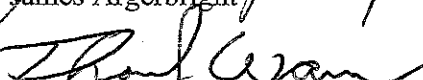
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Kumfer adjourned the meeting at 8:53 AM.

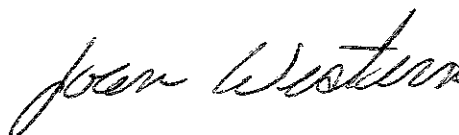
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Chair Timothy Kumfer

  
Vice Chair Kim Wheeler

  
James Argerbright

  
Thomas Warner

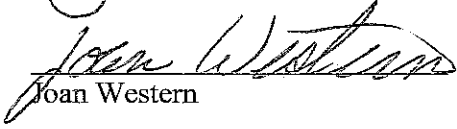




Thor Hodges



John Barrett



Joan Western

Attest:



Tiffany Deaking, Auditor