

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

April 4, 2023

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair James Argerbright, Vice-Chair Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, Thor Hodges, Joan Western, Nicholas Brewer, and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Commissioner Theresa Baysinger, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Health Director Scott Wagner, Dale Buuck from the EDC, Ruth Stanley from the South Whitley Library, Highway Director Katy Fry, Chris Todd, and Kim Patterson.

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

EASTERSEAL-PASSAGES UPDATE: No one was present to give an update to the Council.

JDAI TRANSFER REQUESTS: Lindsey Grossnickle was present to ask the Council to approve transfers for her JDAI grant. The funds were originally appropriated and set aside for therapy costs for Miami Village, however those costs were able to be covered with other means. Lindsey would like to transfer the funds so that she can do summer camps for the boys and girls at Miami Village. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT-GOVERNORS COMMISSION: Health Director Scott Wagner was present to give information to the Council that was received regarding the possibility of legislation changing local health departments and the possible changing of roles at a local level. In the next few months Commissioners, Council and the Health Board will need to decide if they would like to accept the funds from the State. The council asked how many new employees he felt this type of request would need to be hired, Scott stated that 3-4 additional would be his guess at this time.

SOUTH WHITLEY LIBRARY BOARD RE-APPOINTMENT: Ruth Stanley from the South Whitley Library was present to seek re-appointment of Alice Nicodemus to the South Whitley Library Board of Trustees. She stated that Alice has done a great job and this would be her 3rd term if re-appointed. Councilman Warner made a motion to re-appoint Alice Nicodemus to the South Whitley Library Board of Trustees, with a second by Western, passing with a 7/0 vote.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK OVERTIME DISCUSSION: Commissioner Baysinger let Council know that Commissioners had decided to revert to the old policy manual verbiage for the way that overtime is calculated. Which would mean that PTO, bereavement, and holidays would all be used in the calculation of overtime. The Council wanted to be able to ask HR Director Jennifer Shinabery questions on the matter, she was absent from the meeting. Councilman Hodges made a motion to table the discussion until the May Council meeting, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Councilman Warner spoke for the personnel committee and stated that they feel as though decisions are being made too quickly and that they would like to slow down and take their time with decisions in the future. The committee would like to be more informed from the department heads about requests.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Baysinger gave the Commissioner report.

- Dirt has started to be moved at the location of the new jail.
- Commissioners are looking into a new website for the County, that would be more user-friendly and secure as well as cheaper than the current.
- Commissioners are entertaining the idea of hiring a consultant for public relations to keep the social media sites up to date as well as possibly doing bi-monthly mailers to send out.
- Baysinger told Council that the Internet Task Force has met and will be bringing a request to Council, and Dale will speak on behalf of that at the end of the meeting.
- The ARP plan is on the radar of the Commissioners and will be updated soon.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Council reviewed the March 7, 2023, regular meeting minutes, Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Brewer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Dale Buuck from the EDC was present to give Council a heads up about a request that will be coming from the Internet Task Force which consists of various members of the community, as well as himself and Commissioner Baysinger that has been formed to bring high-speed internet to Whitley County. The Task Force is wanting to use a consultant to find grant opportunities for service providers

to bring internet into Whitley County. Chris Todd from REMC was present to introduce himself as a member of the Internet Task Force as well as educate the Council on REMC'S want to assist with bringing internet to the County. Kim Patterson, a member of the public, spoke to Council with her and other constituents' disapproval of the location of the new jail and reasons why.

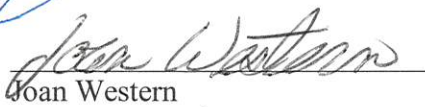
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 8:32 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL


Chair James Argerbright


Vice Chair Kim Wheeler


Nicholas Brewer

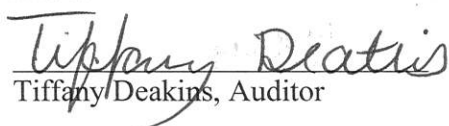

Joan Western


Thomas Warner


Thor Hodges


John Barrett

Attest:


Tiffany Deakins, Auditor