

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

December 06, 2022

The Whitley County Council met in session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 6, 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, Thomas Warner, Joan Western, John Barrett, and James Argerbright. Others in attendance were Commissioner Chad Banks, Whitley County Assessor Kim Erdly, Nathan Bilger from Planning & Building, Mark Sturtevant and Kyle Pepler from the Maintenance Department, Highway Director Katy Fry, Engineer Brad Allen, Ed Beber from Probation, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Prosecutor DJ Sigler, Tony Helfrich from the Sheriff's Department, Ardonna Angel and Dale Buuck with Whitey County EDC, and Christopher Carmien with Micropulse.

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

DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SALARY DISCUSSION: Whitley County Prosecutor DJ Sigler was present to discuss the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney's salary. Sigler stated that the position had been analyzed by WIS and the wages ranged from \$72,000 to \$92,000 with the mid-range being \$80,200. The current salary is \$63,036. This position is an open position, and he has some people in mind for the position with experience. The position does require the employee to have a law degree and the case loads have doubled in the last 8 years and continue to rise. Sigler requested the Council raise the position's salary to \$75,000. Councilman Barret made a motion to approve the requested salary of \$75,000, seconded by Argerbright and carried with a 7/0 vote.

MICROPULSE TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST: Economic Development Corporation Director Dale Buuck and Christopher Carmien with Micropulse were present to request an abatement for Micropulse. Carmien stated they are considering a large expansion that would increase their production square footage from 170sqft to 250sqft. This would add 80-90 jobs in the next 2 years and 127 jobs from now to the next 5 years. This would be a 10 year phase abatement on personal and real property. Councilman Argerbright made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-15, seconded by Warner and carried with a 7/0 vote.

SOLID WASTER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: Commissioner Banks spoke on the Solid Waste Interlocal agreement stating it's the same as previous years except the increase in rent from \$500 to \$750 a month. This is the first time the County has increased their rent. Banks serves on the Solid Waste board and stated a lot of the recycling containers are breaking due to being at the end of their life cycle and the solid waste's cash balance will be decreasing by quite a bit after replacing them. The County did just remodel the bathrooms at the Solid Waste building which is another reason of the rent increase. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve the Solid Waster Interlocal Agreement, seconded by Hodges and carried with a 7/0 vote.

STATE FARM INSURANCE CHECK: Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant was present request that an insurance check for \$6,188.16 from State Farm for damage to a light pole in the Government Center Parking lot be put back into his line item to pay for the quote given from Richard Rider. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the appropriation of \$6,188.16 to go back into Mark's line item to pay Richard Rider, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.

MAINTENACE OUT OF SERIES TRANSFER: Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant was present to ask for an out of series transfer from 36004 Building Maintenance into 11700 Part Time in the amount of \$5,000 to cover the part time and overtime line item. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

MAINTENACE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant was present to request an additional appropriation of \$2,000 into the 11700 Part Time account to get them through the end of year due to some extra overtime spent at the jail. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

GRANT FUND CLEANUP: Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tinchler was present to request a transfer of \$6,095.66 from fund 1000 County General into 8616 State Homeland Security Grant fund. During the process of checking over expended accounts an error from 2018 was found. Money received via ACH in 2018 for the reimbursable 8616 grant was put into 1000 County General in error. The transfer will correct this error and zero the fund out. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.

ENGINEER OUT OF SERIES TRANSFER: Enginner Brad Allen was present to request a transfer of \$1,720.00 from 11120 Drainage Project Assistant to 37000 Equip & Program Maintenance. The transfer is for the installation of safety lights on the Drainage Supervisor's truck. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Warner and carried with a 7/0 vote.

ENGINEER EQUIPMENT PURCHASE REQUEST: Enginner Brad Allen was presented some equipment requests starting with a GPS Rover that would be used locate and record tile drains. The current rover they have is declining and needs wifi to work, but it isn't compatible with newer hot spots like the ones we have through Verizon. Brad received a quote from a vendor for 3 different levels of rovers from about \$28,000- \$42,000 that all include a 5 year warranty. The 1st level is made of cheaper material and would break easy if dropped. The 3rd level has features they could use but isn't necessarily needed. Brad recommended they go with the middle level. If we don't get a new rover we will have to do two contracts per tile replacement. The first contract would be for someone to locate the tile for the contractor to be able to give an accurate bid. Commissioner Chad Banks stated they gave this a favorable pass at their last meeting and he believes they would be in favor of using CEDIT funds. The Commissioners don't have enough in CEDIT for this year and there's not enough time to advertise for another additional. The next equipment request from Brad is a duck hunter tile locator and a laser system with a hot spot. Brad's total request for all equipment is approximately \$46,000. Brad stated he would contact the vendor to see if they will honor the price in 2023 and Banks stated they can vote on it in 2 weeks at their next meeting to pay it out of CEDIT. It can then be brought back to the Council in January.

LONGEVITY PAY DATE: Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher was present to request the pay date for longevity be changed to December 29, 2022. After hearing the concerns during the last meeting Auditor Tiffany Deakins worked with payroll on contacting the vendors for payroll and PERF to come up with a solution. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the date change, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.

MUSEUM OUT OF SERIES TRANSFER: No one was present to discuss the transfer from supplies. Councilman Kumer stated it was a request to transfer from 11115 Museum Director to 20000 Supplies. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.

PLANNING & BUILDING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Planning & Building submitted a request for an additional appropriation of \$1000 into their 59004 refunds/reimbursements account. Because they never know how much they will need in this line item they don't budget for it and instead do an additional at the end of the year to cover the costs. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the additional, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

HEALTH ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Health Director Scott Wagner submitted an additional appropriation request for \$500 into Clinic Misc Expense-Quest. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the additional, seconded by Western and carried with a 7/0 vote.

PROBATION ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Chief Probation Officer Ed Beber was present to request a \$20,000 additional into 30012 Other Services due to some unforeseen expenses such as vehicle repairs. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the additional, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

COMMISSIONERS ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Commissioner Banks stated that an additional is needed due to the Community Foundation being unable to make any additional payments towards EMS contract with Parkview like they have done in the past, but are still maintaining the principal. Moving forward the County will probably have to cover all payments. An additional in the amount of \$49,500 is needed in the 32503 EMS contract account. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the additional, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 7/0 vote.

CEDIT ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Commissioner Banks stated that when the Commissioners requested the budget for 2022 something happened causing the total amount was not included and the 75% was not appropriated. The Commissioners have to spend 75% of CEDIT in order to keep the same rate. The Commissioners are requesting an additional of \$262,000 to bring the appropriation up to the 75% and out of the negative. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the additional, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Community Corrections Director Paula Worden was present to request an additional of \$50,000 into 20004 Commissary Supplies due to some extra expenses preparing for their audit such as new mattresses, bunks, heating/cooling units, etc. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the additional, seconded by Warner and carried with a 7/0 vote.

HIGHWAY OUT OF SERIES TRANSFER: Highway Director Katy Fry was present to request a transfer of \$44,000 from 27200 Calcium Chloride to 35600 Contracted Services. The transfer is needed due to a small structure study that was approved previously. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

BZA BOARD APPOINTMENT: Planning & Building Director Nathan Bilger was present to bring forth two board appointments. Sarah Lopez is stepping down at the end of her term. Kelly Shiess is her alternative and would like to take Sarah's spot. It's up to Council if they would like to appoint another alternate for the position

if they approve Kelly Shiess. None of the other positions have alternates. Councilman Argerbright motioned to approve Kelly Shiess as the board appointment, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 7/0 vote.

PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL: HR Director Jennifer Shinabery was present to discuss the updated policy manual for review. The Commissioners made an amendment in their meeting to the meal reimbursement changing it from \$25 per meal to \$75 per day. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the policy manual as presented, seconded by Argerbright and carried with a 7/0 vote.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Banks announced that there will be a retirement party for George Schrupf on December 9 from 2-4pm. Bids are starting to come into Weigand for the jail, so we are close to an accurate cost to build the jail. There has been discussion about possibly renewing the government center bond, but that's not something they are doing as of right now. If the Commissioners feel that's necessary, the Council and Auditor will be a part of making that decision.

MINUTES: The Council reviewed the November 9, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 5/0 vote with Kumfer and Argerbright abstaining.

The Council reviewed the November 21, 2022, special meeting minutes. Council member Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 6/0 vote with Kumfer abstaining.

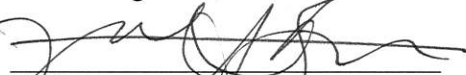
OTHER BUSINESS: Councilman Wheeler stated the Sheriff contract will be voted on in the next Commissioner meeting. Members of the Council took turns appreciating Councilman Kumfer for all the work he's done during his term and that he will be missed.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Kumfer adjourned the meeting at 9:32 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



Kim Wheeler


Thor Hodges

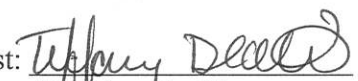

Nicholas Brewer


Thomas Warner


James Argerbright


Joan Western


John Barrett

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor