

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

May 8, 2024

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 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 Thomas Warner, Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges, Nicholas Brewer, Joan Western, and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioners Schuman and Banks, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Chief Deputy Todd Cook, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Dale Buuck, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Tim Summers and Cindy Baker.

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

### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER REQUESTS:

- Judge Rentschler was present with an additional appropriation request for the Pauper Attorney account. The Courts are obligated to pay for transcripts when requested, this will be the first time in at least 7 years that he has come to ask for additional funding. He will make sure to look at this for 2025 budgeting purposes. Hodges made a motion to approve the \$6,000 additional, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- Superior Court had a request for \$4,700 to be added to the account Criminal Court Reporter. This is needed because the previous employee in that position has retired and PTO was paid out of that account, so this account will be short at the end of the year. Warner made a motion to approve the \$4,700 additional, seconded by Western and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- Lindsey Grossnickle was present with two transfer requests for JDAI.

1. 8111.30000.000.8111 Contracted Services to 8111.2000.000.8211 Supplies \$2,000.00

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Wheeler, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

2. 8111.30000.000.8211 Contracted Services to 8111.2000.000.8211 Supplies \$515.00

Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Wheeler, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**ABATEMENT REQUEST:** EDC President Dale Buuck presented an abatement request to Council for approval. The request is for a 5-year tax abatement on personal property that the company will be updating. The request is for Ultra Maritime, LLC. Vice President of Operations Senthil Balasubramanian update the Council on plans to add approximately 100 new employees and plan to invest 18 million dollars over the next two years. He is very excited for the future of Ultra Maritime and the direction that it is going. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09, with a second by Western, carrying with a 7/0 vote.

**TROY SCHOOL UPDATE:** Cindy Baker Executive Director was present to give the Council an update on the Troy School. She wanted to thank the Council and the County for the continued financial support. She gave an update on the 2024 school year, there were 50 students that started the year at Troy and currently there are 45. Of those 45 students 12 will be graduating this year, a few students are even going to continue onto college after graduation. 7 students attend the Whitko Career Academy, and they have 5 students that will be attending for 2024/2025 school year.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Councilman Warner stated that the personnel committee had some four items that were tabled at the last council meeting.

- Payroll Deputy II changing to Payroll Deputy. Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- Exemption Deputy changing to Exemption Deputy/File Management Clerk. Barrett made a motion to approve, seconded by Hodges, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- There are two job descriptions that need to be changed around to better accommodate the Clerks Office. This has no financial changes, just the job descriptions. Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Brewer, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

### IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

- Commissioner Banks let Council know that Commissioners will be presenting an ARPA Resolution to allow for \$82,913.43 of funds be used to purchase an antenna for the new jail from ERS. The new jail is still on track for being completed in late October.
- Banks let the Council know that ProPEL US 30 was present to give an update on the US 30 study.
- Commissioners also signed the notice to bidders for the Community Crossings Grant.
- Commissioners voted to allow Highway Director Ryan Getts move forward with have Optum do a manned cleaning of the fuel tanks as they have no record of them every being cleaned. That cost is \$13,025.
- Banks wanted to say that he appreciated the update that was given from Cindy Baker for the Troy School, and just wanted to remind the Council that the County gives \$40,000 of CEDIT funds annually to them.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the April 2, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

Western wanted to make sure to give a pat on the back to Head of Security Adam Johnson, she went on the Historical tour, and he presented the tour of the Courthouse and Western stated that he did a great job.

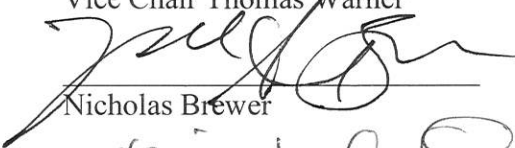
Hodges wanted to thank everyone that showed up to vote for the election and say thank you for supporting him.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 8:58 AM.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
Chair James Argerbright

  
Vice Chair Thomas Warner

  
Nicholas Brewer


  
Kim Wheeler

  
Thor Hodges

  
John Barrett

  
Joan Western

Attest:

  
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor