

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

December 3, 2024

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 3, 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, Nicholas Brewer, Thor Hodges, Joan Western, John Barrett. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioners Banks and Schuman, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Jennifer Shinabery, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Assessor Kim Erdly, Highway Director Ryan Getts, Dale Buuck and Abbey Anthony from the EDC, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Sheriff's Department employees Jason Spencer, Todd Cook, Billy Maddox and Jody Hollenbaugh, Brittany Schori from the Extension Office and Tim Longenbaugh.

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

BROADBAND UPDATE: Dale Buuck from the EDC was present to give Council an update on broadband within the county and let them know that the Redevelopment Commission has decided to take the feasibility study costs for Lakeland. This would directly affect the TIF area and is an acceptable expense.

TRANSFERS AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS: Sheriff Spencer and Jody Hollenbaugh presented the Council with several transfers and additional appropriation requests for the end of year. Ryan Getts from the Highway Department, Brittany Schori from Purdue Extension, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Probation and Commissioners all had requests go before Council as well.

- \$9,000 additional appropriation for 1170.11603.000.0179 (overtime) Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$86,000 additional appropriation for 1170.42004.000.0179 (sheriff vehicles) Barrett made a motion to approve, seconded by Hodges, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$12,000 additional appropriation for 1170.11605.000.0179 (overtime) Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Warner, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$15,000 additional appropriation for 1000.22100.000.0105 (gas) Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$15,000 additional appropriation for 1000.20002.000.0132 (janitorial supplies) Barrett made a motion to approve, seconded by Warner, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$500 additional appropriation for 4176.21000.000.0201 (operating supplies) Warner made a motion to approve, seconded by Wheeler, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$1,000 additional appropriation for 4176.20000.000.0201 (supplies) Warner made a motion to approve, seconded by Wheeler, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$15,000 additional appropriation for 2100.30012.000.0248 (other services) Brewer made a motion to approve, seconded by Warner, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$947,500 additional appropriation for 1233.42009.000.1233 (tax revenue bonds) Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Brewer, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- \$1,200 transfer from 1000.20001.000.0122 to 1000.35000.000.0101
Warner made a motion to approve, seconded by Brewer, passing with a 7/0 vote.
- \$800 transfer from 1000.41000.000.0123 to 1000.11903.000.0123
- \$700 transfer from 1000.33003.000.0123 to 1000.11903.000.0123
- \$500 transfer from 1000.35005.000.0123 to 1000.11903.000.0123
Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Barrett, passing with a 7/0 vote.
- \$3,000 transfer from 9313.17300.000.0235 to 9313.20000.000.0235
Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Wheeler, passing with a 7/0 vote.
- \$20,000 transfer from 1170.25000.000.0179 to 1170.11607.000.0179
Barrett made a motion to approve, seconded by Brewer, passing with a 7/0 vote.
- \$2,000 transfer from 1170.25000.000.0179 to 1170.11605.000.0179
Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Barrett, passing with a 7/0 vote.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT VEHICLE REQUESTS: Highway Director Ryan Getts provided the Council with several quotes for vehicle purchases for 2025. After discussion the Council would like Ryan to move forward with the bid process. Councilman Hodges made a motion to allow for Ryan to start the bid process, seconded by Wheeler, passing with a 7/0 vote.

RESOLUTION FOR REAL ESTATE PURCHASE: Commissioner Banks let the Council know that the Commissioners would like to move forward with getting an inspection and appraisals of the old Bowen Center so that they can move forward with the purchase of the building. Commissioners would come back before the Council with all the information and formal request to purchase the building. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-20, seconded by Warner, passing with a 7/0 vote.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Council would like to move this to the January 7th meeting and do all board appointments at the same time. Barrett made a motion to table, seconded by Wheeler, passing with a 7/0 vote.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Paula Worden received a favorable pass to the Council from the personnel committee to be able to add a position to the addiction recovery court being paid by a grant. The committee stated that if the grant went away the position would no longer be funded. Brewer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Wheeler, passing with a 7/0 vote.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Banks gave a report to Council.

- The jail is still not ready for use, there are a few issues with some system installs. The jail will probably be ready for the move after the first of the year.
- Commissioners signed an agreement with the City of Columbia City to give the old jail building to the City for use. This will be a donation of the building, but allowing for the building to come back to the County if the City would want to sell in the future. The City would be responsible for all maintenance and upkeep of the building once it is deeded over to them.
- Commissioners have approved plats and rezonings and Banks stated that the Planning and Building Department has been very busy.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: Council reviewed the regular meeting minutes of November 6, 2024. Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve the minutes with changing the 3/0 vote to 6/0, seconded by Barrett, passing with a 6/0 vote, Argerbright abstaining.

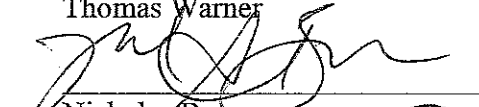
OTHER BUSINESS: Council members thanked Chair James Argerbright for his service to Whitley County and all his hard work and guidance over the years. The Council wished the public a Merry Christmas. Argerbright stated that he will still be around as he has been asked to serve on boards. Health Director Scott Wagner gave the Council an update on health issues within the State. Pneumonia and walking pneumonia are going around, however the flu and COVID numbers are low. Those numbers will be in the rise through February as people spend more time inside because of the cold.

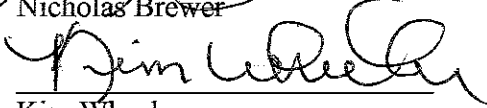
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 9:14 AM.


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Abstain
Timothy Longenbaugh

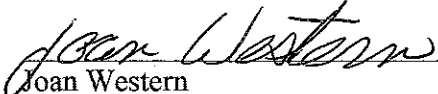

Thomas Warner


Nicholas Brewer


Kim Wheeler


Thor Hodges


John Barrett


Joan Western

Attest:


Tiffany Deakins, Auditor