

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 3, 2025

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 3, 2025, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. The commissioners in attendance were Robert Schuman & Theresa Baysinger. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Recorder Rosemary Brown, County Highway Director Ryan Getts, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Engineer Brad Allen, Assessor Kim Erdly, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden and Brandon Almas.

Commissioner Baysinger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE: Josh Smith, the Veteran Services Officer, gave Commissioners an update. January and February were very busy, Josh was able to meet with 86 veterans and of those 55% were walk-ins. Josh let Commissioners and constituents know that the Columbia City High School boys' soccer team will be doing a military appreciation night on September 2, 2025. They will be trying to raise funds for the guardians of the honor flights.

REZONING REQUESTS: Planning Director Nathan Bilger was present for approval on a rezoning request.

- 25-W-REZ-1 is a request for a property to go from IPM to GC to allow for Christ Community of Churubusco to find a permanent location. The Plan Commission approved this with a unanimous favorable pass. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote.

GRANT FUND ORDINANCES: Health Director Scott Wagner was present with the ordinances that would establish funds to house local grants that were given for two women's health grants and suicide awareness. This is from the guidance of State Board of Accounts. With only two Commissioners present the second reading of the ordinances cannot be waived. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-04, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2025-06, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote. Scott let Commissioners know that the Bird Flu is all around Whitley County. He also stated that COVID, RSV and Influenza are bad right now.

FACILITIES REQUESTS: Commissioners had one facility request to review.

1. Matt Shipman is asking to use the grounds around the courthouse for First Fridays. The time would be from 5-9 pm every first Friday of the month between May-October. Commissioners have signed an ordinance stating that they will only approve requests

within 3-months of the date of use. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the May 2nd request, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote. The Commissioners' Assistant will reach out and ask that a new form be submitted monthly for the rest of the dates.


BAKERTILLY: Auditor Deakins stated that there are two requests for BakerTilly. The first is to allow them to complete a comprehensive financial plan to keep up to date. The second request is so that BakerTilly can assist with any budget-related questions, such as seeing if Whitley County qualifies for the 3-year-growth quotient and they always do a final look over the budget before it gets submitted to the state. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the budget assistance agreement, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote. Schuman made a motion to approve the comprehensive financial plan agreement, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The claim distributions from February 19, 2025, through March 3, 2025, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Schuman reviewed the claims and saw no issues. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 2/0 vote. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Baysinger and passed with a 2/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the February 18, 2025, regular meeting minutes and the February 24, 2025, special meeting minutes. Commissioner Schuman made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote. Schuman made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes, seconded by Baysinger, passing with a 2/0 vote.

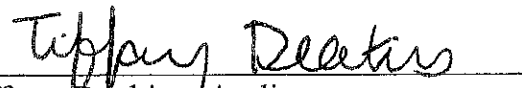
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Vice-Chair Baysinger adjourned the meeting at 1:20 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Chad Banks


Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger


Commissioner Robert Schuman

Attest: 
Tiffany Deakins Auditor