

**WHITLEY COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL JOINT MEETING**

May 13, 2025

The Whitley County Commissioners and Council met in joint regular session Tuesday, May 15, 2025, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Chad Banks, Vice Chair Theresa Baysinger and Commissioner Robert Schuman. Council members in attendance were Chairman Thor Hodges, Vice Chairman Nicholas Brewer, Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, Timothy Longenbaugh, Joan Western and John Barrett. Others in attendance were County Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Tamela Tincher, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Sheriff Spencer, Chief Deputy Todd Cook, Deputy Maddox, Helfrich & Schmitt, Chief Probation Officer Edward Beber & Assistant Chief Probation Officer Jennifer Christie, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Assessor Kim Erdly, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, Coroner Scott Smith, Kyle Peppler, Tim Summers, Jeremy Grant, Leslie Blakley & Mista Lauber from The Bowen Center, Judges Garza & Rentschler, Todd Geiger from Purdue Extension, Brittney Schori, John Woodmansee, Amy Bechtold & Karli Hendry from the courts and Thomas Western.

Chair Banks called the Commissioner meeting to order.

Chair Hodges called the Council meeting to order.


Chairman Hodges opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

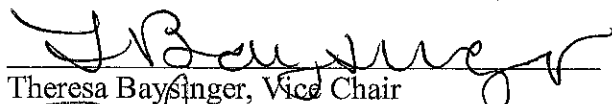
IN THE MATTER OF THE PURCHASE OF THE OLD BOWEN CENTER: Commissioners and Council met in a joint meeting to discuss the purchase of the old Bowen Center on Market Street in Columbia City. This stems from a need to find a better location for the Probation Department and Coroner staff. To listen to the entire meeting and hear comments from Commissioners and Council please visit the YouTube website listed below. <https://www.youtube.com/@whitleycountygovernment>

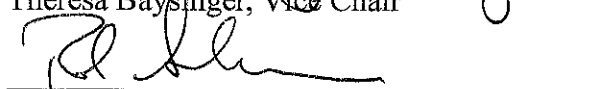
PUBLIC COMMENT: Chief Probation Officer Ed Beber was present to thank everyone for coming together regarding this decision and just wanted to reiterate that the current location is not a good location. Jennifer Patrick from the Prosecutor's Office wanted to make sure that Commissioners and Council received the letter that Prosecutor DJ Sigler provided on this matter. This is a public safety issue, and they're concerned. Thomas Western feels that after hearing the discussion today he feels that the Farm Bureau building should be rented for a few years rather than purchase a building.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Hodges and Chair Banks adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chad Banks, Chairman


Theresa Baysinger, Vice Chair



Robert Schuman, Commissioner


WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



Thor Hodges, Chairman



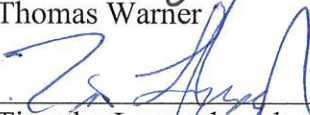
Nicholas Brewer, Vice Chairman



Kim Wheeler



Thomas Warner



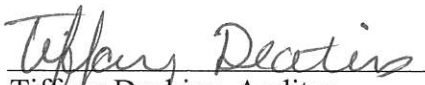
Timothy Longenbaugh



Joan Western



John Barrett

Attest: 

Tiffany Deakins, Auditor