

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**JUNE 8, 2010**

The Whitley County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. In attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman John Barrett, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Thomas E. Western, William Overdeer and James E. Banks. Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Auditor Linda Gerig, County Attorney Dan Sigler, Dan Leonard, County Coordinator Amy Crickmore, Michael Schrader, Dave Koenig, Steve Reiff, Stan Reiff, Gene Heckman, Sheriff Mark Hodges, Highway Supervisor Michael Barton, Deputy Marc Gatton, Engineer Brandon Forrester, Frank Kessler, Dennis Warnick, James Brentice, Jerry Busche and Post and Mail reporter Chris Meyers. Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Vice Chairman John Barrett noted that the previous minutes should be corrected to read "ex-State Representative Robert Alderman". With that correction noted, Western moved, seconded by Bayman, to approve the minutes of May 5, 2010. The vote was 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST:** A tax abatement request was presented for PDQ Workholding. Alan Tio and Jerry Busche spoke on the launching of a new business venture in Whitley County. The primary business activity is production of specialized hydraulic fixtures. The request states that twenty-five new jobs will be created. Abatement is being sought for new CNC equipment estimated at a value of \$3,000,000. Estimated starting date is July 7, 2010 with completion of Phase 1 by February 28, 2011. The Redevelopment Commission met on the abatement and agreed to send a favorable recommendation to county council for the requested ten-year abatement. After further discussion, Resolution No. 2010-11, A Resolution Approving The Deduction Of Assessed Valuation For New Manufacturing Equipment Located Within An Economic Revitalization Area Within Whitley County, Indiana, was introduced. The Resolution, if approved, would grant a deduction from assessed valuation for ten years for new manufacturing equipment subject to the taxpayer filing in a timely and accurate manner the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form as prescribed. Overdeer moved, seconded by Banks, to approve Resolution No. 2010-11 approving ten-year tax abatement for PDQ Workholding. The motion carried 7/0.

The county council meeting was recessed to hold a public hearing on the creation of a new Economic Revitalization Area. As advertised per state statute, a Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Wheeler to discuss and take public comment on creating an Economic Revitalization Area located in Cleveland Township. There being no public comment, the Public Hearing was closed. Chairman Wheeler reconvened the meeting of county council members.

**IN THE MATTER OF NEW ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA:** A Confirmatory Resolution Designating Certain Real Estate Within Whitley County, Indiana As An Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) Pursuant To I.C. 6-1.1-12.1 ET SEQ, was introduced for consideration. The Resolution further states that a taxpayer approved for a deduction from assessed valuation for structures, manufacturing equipment, research and development equipment, Information Technology equipment and logistics equipment must submit annually, for the term of the deduction schedule(s), a completed Compliance with Statements of Benefits Form to the Whitley County Council and the form must be approved by the council in order for the taxpayer to receive the deduction from assessed valuation. Thomas Western moved, seconded by William Overdeer, to approve Resolution No. 2010-10. The motion carried 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST:** David Koenig of Region III-A and Stan Reiff of Steve Reiff, Inc., spoke on an abatement request for both real and personal property. Steve Reiff, Inc. currently employs 19 employees and is estimating a total of 45 employees will be in place by October 31, 2013. The estimated cost of real estate improvements is \$900,000 and new manufacturing equipment is estimated at \$400,000. The company's main function is painting and sandblasting. The estimated starting date is June 15, 2010 and completion date is stated as October 31, 2013. Resolution No. 2010-12 was introduced approving ten-year abatement deductions from assessed valuation subject to approval and the taxpayer filing in a timely and accurate manner the Compliance with Statement of Benefits form each year during the term of the abatement. James Bayman moved, seconded by Thomas Western, to approve Resolution No. 2010-12. The motion passed 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:** Alan Tio presented the annual report for EDC. The Corporation remains very active in economic development and Tio explained services, operations and initiatives going forward.

**IN THE MATTER OF VEHICLE REQUEST:** Sheriff Mark Hodges was present to request that money received from insurance reimbursements from two wrecked sheriff cars be used to purchase one new vehicle. The reimbursements totaled \$31,465.22 and Hodges has a quote for a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria at a price of \$23,678.97. He is requesting to use the balance of the reimbursements to equip the new vehicle. Some equipment was removed from a damaged vehicle and can be also be used. John Barrett moved to purchase a replacement vehicle using the insurance reimbursement money. The motion was seconded by Western and passed 5/2. Bayman and LaRue cast the No votes.

**IN THE MATTER OF IT EQUIPMENT:** A quote has been received for the replacement of switches for the Government Center server. The quote is \$3418 and needs appropriation from cum capital funds. Overdeer moved, seconded by Bayman to allow the expenditure. The motion carried 7/0.

**IN THE MATTER OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Dennis Warnick presented a request to rename the Whitley County Government Center to the Marshall-Gates Whitley County Government Center. The County Commissioners had heard the same request and agreed that along with Governor Gates' picture already displayed, a picture of Thomas R. Marshall could be displayed along side. This seemed to be an agreeable solution and Warnick will make arrangements to discuss the matter with the Historical Museum to provide the picture of Thomas R. Marshall.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Michael Schrader was present to report that the Energy Grant has been approved for the jail. A supervisor's training session was held in May with good response from those attending. The frames are in for the courthouse window replacement and the vendor is installing the glass. The window replacement should be starting in the coming weeks. David Mullins was appointed to the Peabody Public Board to fulfill the term of Robert Brittain.

**IN THE MATTER OF WHEEL TAX ORDINANCE:** Discussion was held on the current Wheel Tax Ordinance. Glen LaRue moved to keep the current ordinance in place for another year. James Bayman moved to amend LaRue's motion to add 20% of revenues be used to convert gravel roads to paved roads. Banks seconded the amendment which failed with only Bayman and Banks casting affirmative votes. Bill Overdeer seconded LaRue's original motion and that motion passed with a 5/2 vote. Bayman and Banks cast the No votes.

**IN THE MATTER OF EMS FUNDING:** State Representative Dan Leonard along with County Attorney Dan Sigler were present for discussion of possible funding scenarios for EMS funding. Sigler states the county cannot impose a tax or user fee. Leonard is willing to propose a bill to take to the legislature, but is unsure of outcome. Overdeer stated that the expense be funded by CEDIT funds in 2011 and give legislature a try. No decisions were made and discussion will continue on the matter.

**IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Supervisor Michael Barton was present to discuss the Summer Road Plan and related costs and funding sources. That department is using a rented milling machine for the month of June. Barton feels the milling that will be done during the month will be all the department can handle for this season, so the machine will not be rented for the second month as previously discussed.

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:** The following Salary Ordinance Amendments were presented for approval.

**SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

Be it ordained by the Whitley Council of Whitley, Indiana for the expenses of the County Government and it's institutions for the pay period ending December 31, 2010 that the following sums of money are hereby amended and ordered set apart out of several funds herein named, and for the purposes herein specified to the laws governing the same. The salary ordinance for this County office is as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Bi-Weekly</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Chief Probation	\$2171.00	\$56440.00	-7-	-0-	-0-
	Motion: Western		Second: Barrett		
Probation Officer	\$2070.50	\$53833.00	-7-	-0-	-0-
	Motion Western		Second: Barrett		

This ordinance adopted on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2010.

**Whitley County Council**

Kim Wheeler – signed

John Barrett – signed

James Bayman – signed

Glen LaRue – signed

Thomas E. Western – signed

William Overdeer – signed

James E. Banks – signed

Attest: Linda J. Gerig, Auditor

**IN THE MATTER OF 2011 BUDGET HEARINGS:** The county council set the date of July 13, 2010 to hear departmental budgets. The hearings will start at 8:00 a.m. and continue through the day.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Kim Wheeler, Chairman

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John Barrett, Vice Chairman

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James Bayman

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Glen LaRue

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Thomas E. Western

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William Overdeer

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James E. Banks

Attest:

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Linda J. Gerig, Auditor