

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

May 5, 2015

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Western, Jim Bayman, Bill Overdeer, John Barrett, and Paula Reimers. Absent were Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler and Glen LaRue. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner Tom Rethlake, Highway Director Michael Barton, Alan Tio, Mark Parker, Whitley County Clerk Debbie Beers, Frank Kessler, Tara Kuhmichel, Erica Miller, Pete Talati, Lori Shipman, John Stafford, Tim Bloom, Beth Bloom, County Engineer Brandon Forrester, Brett Roberts, Liane Minier, Mayor Ryan Daniel, Don Amber, David Wilkinson, Jim Farber, Tom Leedy, and Mary Hartman.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLICE RETIREMENT PLAN: Sheriff Gatton brought back the Police Retirement Plan to the Council to be signed. The Council approved it at the April 7, 2015 meeting with the approval of the Sheriff Merit Board. The Merit Board did approve and sign the plan at their last meeting. Chairman Western moved forward with signing the plan.

IN THE MATTER OF THE LIFT FOR FILE MANAGEMENT: County Clerk Debbie Beers informed the Council of the need for a lift for file management. The County had their first workman's comp claim in file management due to lifting over 300 boxes. The lift is \$15,000 to purchase and the Court is giving \$5,000 towards it and Probation is also giving \$5,000. After discussion, Council member Reimers made a motion to allow the remaining \$5,000 to come out of the inheritance tax fund, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 5/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: County Engineer Brandon Forrester presented an interlocal agreement with Allen County to Council. This interlocal agreement would be for Bridge #76 and because of the structural rating; a weight limit had to be posted. The bridge is in poor condition and both counties would like to get it repaired as soon as possible. Allen County has verbally agreed to pay 70% of the project which is estimated at \$400,000. The project would take roughly two to three months to complete and NIPSCO is also involved because they need to put in a new line to protect their infrastructure. Brandon informed Council that the project will be started as soon as NIPSCO gets approved for their work.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL CITIES PROJECT: Alan Tio, along with John Stafford, gave Council a presentation on the regional cities initiative. The regional cities initiative is a public-private partnership led by Governor Pence with support from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. The goal of this initiative is to change and transform Indiana's approach to economic development by creating ways to attract and retain talent in communities. There are about 50 to 60 projects that will be chosen that this initiative will help fund. The best way to ensure that our region receives the funds to help with these projects is to develop a portfolio of bold and transformational projects, regional collaboration, and forming a full 11-County Regional Development Authority. The first step for Whitley County to join this initiative would be to approve and sign an ordinance for membership. The next step would be to form an RDA to compete for the funding for projects that the County needs completed. The Council requested that Auditor Jana Schinbeckler place the Regional Cities Initiative ordinance on the next agenda for Whitley County to become a member. Council member Bayman also wanted to thank Alan Tio for his work that he has accomplished at the Whitley County Economic Development Corporation and wishes him well in his new endeavors.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the April 7, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 5/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

1000.12702.000.0136 Pauper Attorney \$15,000

A motion by Bayman to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 5/0 vote. This is for personal services because they are going to have a shortfall in the account due to the number of cases that they are projecting for this year.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Rethlake gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

- Commissioner Rethlake stated that the Commissioners reviewed a contract from UMBAUGH to go through the books in the Auditor's office and to check the budget to ensure it was done correctly. The cost will be approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 and the Commissioners made a

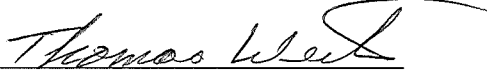
favorable pass to Council. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Reimers and passed with a 5/0 vote.

- Commissioner Rethlake informed Council that the Commissioners made a consensus that they would like to get away from comp time and go to overtime. The employees would need to use all of their comp time by the end of the year. After a discussion over comp time, Council was in support to get rid of comp time and convert to overtime
- The Commissioners would like to contribute \$50,000 to the Museum for their projects from CEDIT. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 5/0 vote.
- Commissioner Rethlake discussed the health insurance claim that the County needs to pay as soon as possible. The Commissioners had a motion at their meeting to create a memorandum of understanding with the drainage board or reassessment to use the money for the insurance claim. In regard to repayment, the County has until the end of the year to pay it back and if it is declared an emergency there will be a six month extension. Council member Overdeer made a motion to request the loan from Reassessment first and if this is not allowed, go to the bank for a loan for \$625,000.00. The motion was seconded by Bayman and carried with a 5/0 vote. After discussion, Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the payment of the insurance claim, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 5/0 vote.

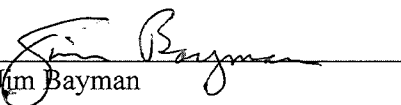
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Highway Director Michael Barton presented a transfer request to Council. The transfer was to move \$15,000 from Bituminous to Contracted Services in order to rent a grinder to recycle roads. Council member Overdeer made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Reimers and passed with a 5/0 vote. There was discussion for the CEDIT program in regard to the project for the YMCA. This program at the YMCA is an economic development issue and it is to help bring families to Whitley County that need child care. There were members of the YMCA board who spoke on behalf of the YMCA for the \$25,000 request for CEDIT funds. This will be a one-time expenditure for the County and it is strictly for the capital campaign. After discussion, Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the \$25,000 to the YMCA, seconded by Barrett and carried with a 4/1 vote with Bayman voting against. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented an ordinance to amend 3.5.1 Three Year Wage Scale Policy in the Whitley County, Indiana Personnel Policies Handbook. After review, Council member Bayman made a motion to approve this ordinance, Ordinance 2015-07, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 5/0 vote. Auditor Schinbeckler also requested the Council advise her on where to pay out the class action lawsuit against the County for \$60,000. After discussion, the Council requested that Schinbeckler transfer the \$60,000 from Consultant/Engineering in CAGIT to Legal Services and have the paperwork ready for them to approve at the next meeting. The South Whitley Public Library sent a letter to Council requesting that they appoint Alice Nicodemus to the library board following the retirement of Bob Koontz. Council member Bayman made a motion to appoint Alice Nicodemus to the South Whitley Public Library Board, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 5/0 vote.


There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.


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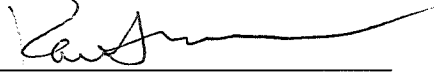

Thomas Western, Chairman

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

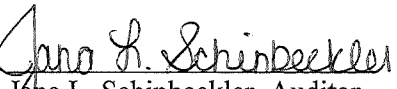

Jim Bayman

Glen LaRue

John Barrett


William Overdeer


Paula G. Reimers

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor