

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

October 6, 2015

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 in the Commissioner’s Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Tom Western, Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, Jim Bayman, Bill Overdeer, John Barrett, and Paula Reimers. Absent was Glen LaRue. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner Tom Rethlake, Bill Etzler from ERI, Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff’s department, Sheriff Gatton, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Billy Reffitt, Jessica Grossman from Region IIIA, EDC President Jon Myers, Michael Schrader, and Jason Spencer from the Sheriff’s department.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY TAX: Someone from the public had the question of what the funding can be used for if the Public Safety Tax is adopted. The State statute IC6-3.5-1.1-25 explains what the Public Safety Tax can be used for. The main purposes this tax can be used for are: a police and law enforcement system, a firefighting and prevention system, emergency ambulance services, a probation department, a confinement and supervision services under a community corrections program, etc. The main purpose of this tax is to provide funding to the safety services in Whitley County.

The public meeting was closed at this time and Chairman Western called the meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BUDGET ADOPTION FOR THE 2016 WHITLEY COUNTY BUDGET AND THE 2016 SOLID WASTE BUDGET: The Council reviewed the 2016 Whitley County Solid Waste budget. The total amount for the 2016 Solid Waste budget is \$740,995. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the Solid Waste budget for 2016 with Ordinance 2015-10, seconded by Overdeer, and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Whitley County Council did not make a decision on the 2016 Whitley County budget at this time. The Council called for a continuance of the Whitley County budget adoption date to be adopted on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 8:00 AM.

IN THE MATTER OF THE LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY TAX ORDINANCE: The Whitley County Tax Council, which consists of the City of Columbia City, the Town of Churubusco, the Town of Larwill, and the Town of South Whitley needed to vote in favor or against to adopt the Public Safety Tax. The City of Columbia City voted 3/1, the Town of Churubusco voted 2/1, the Town of Larwill voted 2/1 and the Town of South Whitley voted with all in favor. Chairman Western requested a discussion before the Council could vote on the ordinance. Council member Reimers expressed that she would like to see the amount of all the different rates for the tax. The different rates that can be adopted by the Council are 0.05%, 0.10%, 0.15%, 0.20%, and 0.25%. Council member Wheeler stated that he would also like to see the rate be adopted at a lower rate rather than the max rate. Council member Barrett stated that the County hired an outside source to receive their professional opinion on what direction the County needs to go with the budget. Umbaugh & Associates, the outside source that was hired, recommended that we adopt the max rate so this is what Barrett believes we should adopt. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-11 for the Public Safety Tax, a second by Overdeer, the vote was 3/3 with there not being a majority vote. Chairman Western made the statement that the motion was defeated. Council discussed the topic further and with Council member LaRue not being present, they would like to have a meeting to revote for the Public Safety Tax on October 27, 2015.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL IIIA SERVICES: Jessica Grossman gave the Council a presentation on what Region IIIA does. Region IIIA is a six County regional planning commission but there is a general ten Counties total. The Counties that they serve are Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Whitley, and Wabash but there is a metropolitan agency that serves the other four Counties in the area. Every five years they do a regional plan which encompasses the ten Counties that may qualify them for EDA grants. In grants, they have brought over \$10.7 million dollars to the Counties for specific projects. Their other services are community development, economic development, transportation and housing. They recently wrote the grant for the Columbia City Comprehensive Plan but there have not been any recent grants written for Whitley County by Regional IIIA.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

<i>Health Department:</i>		
1159.21000.000.0214	Operating Supplies	\$21,000
<i>Auditor’s Office</i>		
1216.11700.000.0102	Part Time	\$15,000

In regard to the additional appropriation request for Operating Supplies for the Health Department, Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Wheeler, and carried with a 6/0 vote.

The additional appropriation for Part Time for the Auditor’s Office had a motion to be approved by Reimers, seconded by Bayman, and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS:

<i>Sheriff's Department:</i>				
1000.22100.000.0105	Gas	1000.36001.000.0105	Garage	\$12,000
1000.11301.000.0105	Detective Sgt	1000.12010.000.0105	Sheriff Dty (1)	\$2,000
1000.11609.000.0105	Sheriff Dty (8)	1000.11605.000.0105	Overtime	\$12,000
1000.12040.000.0105	Sheriff Dty (3)	1000.11605.000.0105	Overtime	\$11,700
1000.12700.000.0105	Drug Task Force	1000.11605.000.0105	Overtime	\$16,300
1000.12700.000.0105	Drug Task Force	1000.12010.000.0105	Sheriff Dty (1)	\$1,400
1000.12700.000.0105	Drug Task Force	1000.12011.000.0105	Comm Chief	\$250
1000.11700.000.0105	Part Time	1000.12011.000.0105	Comm Chief	\$1,550
1000.11606.000.0105	Specialties Comp	1000.12011.000.0105	Comm Chief	\$1,000
1000.12106.000.0105	Dispatcher (4)	1000.12011.000.0105	Comm Chief	\$500
1000.25000.000.0132	Medical	1000.31003.000.0132	Utilities	\$10,000
1000.25000.000.0132	Medical	1000.39008.000.0132	Meals (Jail)	\$20,000
1000.25000.000.0132	Medical	1000.37004.000.0132	Equip Maint	\$10,000
1000.11211.000.0132	Jailer (1)	1000.12501.000.0132	Jailer (5)	\$360
1000.11211.000.0132	Jailer (1)	1000.11105.000.0132	Matron	\$130
<i>Veteran Service Officer:</i>				
1000.11700.000.0127	Part Time	1000.20000.000.0127	Supplies	\$500
<i>Superior Court</i>				
1000.27000.000.0137	Lawbooks/Supplies	1000.20000.000.0137	Supplies	\$1,000
<i>Emergency Management</i>				
1000.21000.000.0146	Operating Supplies	1000.20000.000.0146	Supplies	\$100
<i>Health Department:</i>				
1159.17300.000.0214	Group Insurance	1159.11404.000.0214	Office Admin	\$1,500
1206.11411.000.0210	Nurse	1206.20000.000.0210	Supplies	\$1,000

In regard to the transfer for the Sheriff’s department from Gas to Garage for \$12,000, Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Bayman, and passed with a 6/0 vote. The transfer from Detective Sgt to Sheriff Dty (1) had a motion to be approved by Reimers, seconded by Overdeer, and passed with all in favor. The transfers for Sheriff Dty (8) and Sheriff Dty (3) to overtime had a motion to be approved by Wheeler, seconded by Reimers, and passed with a 6/0 vote. The transfer from the Drug Task Force to overtime and Sheriff Dty (1) for \$16,300 and \$1,400 had a motion to be approved by Overdeer, seconded by Barrett, and passed with all in favor. The transfers from Drug Task Force, Part Time, Specialties Comp, and Dispatcher transferring to Comm Chief had a motion to be approved by Wheeler, seconded by Overdeer, and passed with a 6/0 vote. The three transfers from Medical to Utilities, Meals (Jail), and Equip Maint had a motion to be approved by Bayman, seconded by Reimers, and passed with all in favor. The transfers from Jailer (1) to Jailer (5) and Matron had a motion to be approved by Overdeer, seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 6/0 vote. In regard to the transfer for the Veteran Service Officer Overdeer made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Bayman, and passed with a 6/0 vote. The transfer for Superior Court had a motion to be approved by Barrett, seconded by Wheeler, and passed with all in favor. The transfers for the Health Department had a motion to be approved by Overdeer, seconded by Wheeler, and carried with all in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF THE LONGEVITY DATE & 2016 MEETING CALENDAR: The Council did not make a decision on the longevity date for 2015 at this time. In regard to the 2016 meeting calendar, Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the meeting calendar, seconded by Bayman, and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the September 9, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Barrett, and passed with all in favor.

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

- Commissioner Rethlake reported that the tour for the Whitley County roads from the Highway Department starts at 8:30 AM on October 7, 2015.
- There will be sexual harassment training for elected officials, department heads, and employees on October 15, 2015. The training will be given by the County Attorney Dan Sigler. This will be the same day as the tax sale as well at 10:00 AM.
- On October 13, 2015 the Commissioners are planning to have an executive session to interview candidates for the Planning Director position.
- The Commissioners approved their 2016 meeting schedule at their meeting on October 5, 2015 and they approved the 2016 holiday schedule with fourteen holidays.

- Commissioner Rethlake reported on the Wheeler property on Diamond Avenue is going to be tested for soil contamination by the County.
- There has been a policy change for Whitley County employees. Effective November 1, 2015, employee health insurance coverage will automatically terminate at midnight on the day that the employee ceases to be a full-time employee. Also, regular full-time employees who retire from Whitley County may be eligible for medical insurance coverage, at their own cost, until they become Medicare eligible or no longer require medical insurance coverage.
- Cathy Gardner has assumed the responsibilities of the Planning Director while we did not have someone to fill the position. The Commissioners are requesting a one-time pay incentive for this employee due to assuming the duties and roles of the Planning Director on March 27, 2015 through July 27, 2015. The Assistant Planner position was also refactored by the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee decided that the position was a PAT 345 and it should be paid 39,274 instead of \$34,830. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the one-time pay incentive (\$1,367.36) and the refactored job description/pay (\$34,830 to \$39,274), seconded by Barrett, and passed with a 6/0 vote.

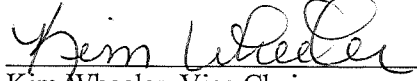
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

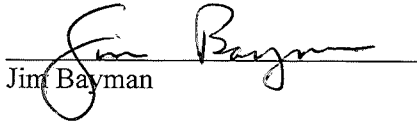
WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL



Thomas Western, Chairman

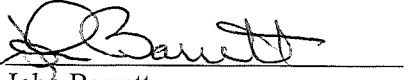


Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman



Jim Bayman

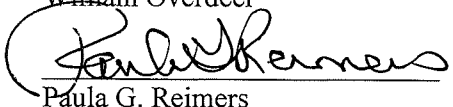
Glen LaRue



John Barrett

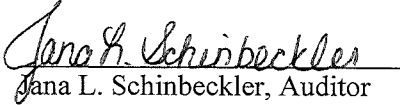


William Overdeer



Paula G. Reimers

Attest:



Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

