

# WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

September 7, 2016

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman Jim Bayman, Tom Western, Glen LaRue, Bill Overdeer, John Barrett and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Sheriff Marc Gatton and Jody Hollenbaugh from the Sheriff's Department, Dr. Lisa Hatcher from the Health Department, Indiana House of Representatives member David Ober, Natalie Spain from Visit Whitley County, Ann Fahl and Sharon Geiger from the Downtown Business Alliance, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library, Judge Heuer and Lindsey Grossnickle.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR WHITLEY COUNTY 2017 BUDGET:** There were not any questions or comments at this time from the public or the Council.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JDAI BUDGET:** Judge Heuer request a budget approval from the Council for their JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) grant funding. Whitley County is one of 30 counties participating in this program that is sponsored by the Indiana Supreme Court. Judge Heuer received a grant of approximately \$44,000 to \$45,000 and there have been some advanced payments but the remainder of the amount is coming in by the end of September. An agreement has been signed with the State and a coordinator is required to be assigned for the grant. The coordinators are Lindsey Grossnickle and Jennifer Christie. The wages will be paid at an hourly rate based on the current hourly rate of the job they are performing now. This will be in addition to their position now but it will be separate and be kept on a separate time sheet. Judge Heuer is requesting the budget for the JDAI grant to be approved from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the JDAI budget, seconded by Reimers and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF REFACTORED A POSITION AND AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** Dr. Lisa Hatcher presented a request to Council for an additional appropriation for vaccines and supplies for the immunization clinic. The clinic does charge for vaccines and it is difficult to estimate the amount of vaccines needed. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote. In regard to refactoring a position, the Personnel Committee refactored Scott Wagner's position in the Health Department. The new salary for the position with the increase for next year's wages is \$65,714. The Council stated they would like Dr. Hatcher to add the new wage to her budget.

1159.25003.000.0214	Clinic Vaccines	\$10,000
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**IN THE MATTER OF AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** Sheriff Gatton presented a request to the Commissioners for two additional appropriations for overtime and holiday pay. The reason behind the need for the additional appropriation is because some of the appropriation was taken away and placed in LOIT to ease processing payroll. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request for overtime, seconded by Reimers and carried with a 7/0 vote. In regard to the additional appropriation request for holiday pay, Council member Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

1000.11605.000.0105	Overtime	\$26,000
1000.11608.000.0105	Holiday Pay	\$6,000

**IN THE MATTER OF THE VISIT WHITLEY COUNTY PROJECT:** Natalie Spain made a presentation to the Council for the Visit Whitley County project. The Visitor's Center would be a "one stop shop" for information on Whitley County and help market the Community's assets. Natalie stated that tourism is a growing industry and it could help provide incentives for economic growth. The mission statement for Visit Whitley County is, "As the crossroads of America and

Indiana it is Visit Whitley County's mission to provide quality information to visitors and locals in the region. To encourage locals and tourists to engage in a positive and enjoyable experience in Whitley County". The main components of the project would be to implement the innkeeper's tax, have a nonprofit status, create a Board of Directors and establish a location within the Whitley County Historical Museum. Natalie went over a five year plan/goals with the Council. Natalie also presented a five year financial plan to the Council that has a 5% increase overall each year in the budget. There are limitations on how the funds can be spent as well. The innkeeper's tax is 5% of the visitor's accommodations. Noble County would have a higher revenue than Whitley County due to more hotels. Natalie stated that there is a good relationship with the Chamber of Commerce. Natalie has made this presentation to the City Council and she stated that they were supportive. The Council thanked Natalie and Mr. Ober for their time and stated they would like to have time to research it before making any decisions.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2016 LONGEVITY PAY DATE:** Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented the longevity pay date for 2016 to the Council. The requested date is for November 14, 2016. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve November 14, 2016 as the longevity pay date, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS:**

***Circuit Court:***

1000.30005.000.0136	Pauper Transcript	1000.12706.000.0136 CHINS	\$3,000
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Council member Barrett made a motion to approve both transfer requests for Circuit Court, seconded by Western and passed with a 6/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the August 2, 2016 were reviewed. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 6/0 vote with Reimers abstaining.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Commissioner Schrumpf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:

- Commissioner Schrumpf presented the 2016/2017 CEDIT Plan to the Council. He stated that they eliminated website maintenance and Troy Center projects. The Human Society appropriation was changed from \$25,000 to \$15,000. The Council stated they would like to see their financial statements. The rest of the projects were the Museum project, BCS Management project and the Time Management project. The other projects stayed the same. The Commissioners made a favorable pass to Council to be approved. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the CEDIT Plan as presented, second by Overdeer and passed with a 4/3 vote with LaRue, Bayman and Wheeler voting against.
- In regard to Emergency Management, the Commissioners approved a contract for Brookfield Associates for a hazardous materials response plan. EMA Director Amy Biggs also presented a transfer request to the Commissioners, which they gave a favorable pass to Council. The transfer was for additional training required for Amy's position. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- Commissioner Schrumpf stated that there has been a request to purchase a new four wheeler for the drainage department. The Commissioners made a favorable pass to Council to purchase the four wheeler. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the purchase of the four wheeler out of Cumulative Capital Development, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- Commissioners Schrumpf announced to the Council that they gave a Proclamation to Jessica Hockemeyer for being inducted into the Indiana Voter Registration Association Hall of Fame.
- Commissioner Schrumpf also reported that the combined dispatch committee has made the decision that a combined dispatch is not feasible at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented the 2017 meeting calendar to the Council. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the 2017 meeting calendar, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote. The Council reviewed the payroll schedule for 2017. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the payroll schedule,

seconded by Bayman and carried with a 7/0 vote. The Council reviewed the non-binding reviews which consists of the Council looking over the maximum levies and circuit breaker credits for taxing units. After discussion, Council member Bayman made a motion to recommend no changes, seconded by Reimers and passed with a 7/0 vote. In regard to raises, Council member Bayman made a motion to approve an \$1,800 raise for County employees, seconded by Paula and passed with a 4/3 vote with LaRue, Overdeer and Barrett voting against.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.


**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
Kim Wheeler, Chairman


  
Jim Bayman, Vice Chairman

  
Thomas Western

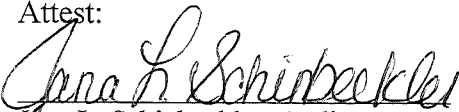
  
Glen LaRue

  
John Barrett

  
William Overdeer

  
Paula G. Reimers

Attest:

  
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor