

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

October 3, 2017

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman William Overdeer, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges and Chad Banks. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Tad Varga from the Columbia City Council, Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant, Linda Thomson from the Post & Mail, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Tyler Roebuck from IN Whitley County, Sheriff Marcus Gatton, Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, EDC President Jon Myers, Rod Perry and Jeff Slater from Advanced Material Development/Fort Wayne Metals, Mark Green from the Columbia City Parks Department, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Jorell Tucker from the Whitley County Solid Waste District, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library and Planning Director Nathan Bilger.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION FOR THE 2018 WHITLEY COUNTY BUDGET AND SOLID WASTE BUDGET: The Council reviewed the final budget numbers for the 2018 Whitley County budget and Solid Waste budget. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the 2018 Whitley County budget per Ordinance 2017-11, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the 2018 Solid Waste budget per Ordinance 2017-12, seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADVANCED MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT / FORT WAYNE METALS ABATEMENT REQUEST: EDC President Jon Myers made a presentation to the Council on behalf of Advanced Material Development which is a subsidiary of Fort Wayne Metals. They are located in the Gateway Industrial Park. They are requesting an abatement for their property taxes regarding a proposal to add \$12,000,000 in new equipment and fifteen new jobs to their current location. The project will expand capacity for the production of stainless steel, nickel, cobalt, nitinol and titanium alloys, as well as composite materials in various wire forms for use in the medical device industry. The Redevelopment Commission did give the abatement request a favorable pass to Council. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the abatement request for 10 years up to the \$12,000,000 per Resolution 2017-11, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant had an additional appropriation request to Council. The request was for an additional \$20,000.00 in the Building Maintenance line item (1000.36004.000.0131). Mark stated that he has used his entire building maintenance budget and he has costs coming in yet this year. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by LaRue and carried with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 911 DIRECTOR PAY: Sheriff Marcus Gatton made a presentation to the Council in regard to the E911 Director pay. The presentation compared Whitley County's E911 Director wages to other Counties that have the same population. Some examples, Putnam County pays \$10,169.00 more than the Whitley County wage and they also have an E911 supervisor with the two jobs. Lagrange County paid \$34,660.00 more for the same job duties in 2016. The amount of the wage increase Sheriff Gatton is requesting is \$10,017.00. With this increase, there is an additional amount that will be paid for Medicare, FICA and PERF. The additional amount for Medicare, FICA and PERF to the County with the wage increase is \$1,121.90 for an overall increase of \$11,905.19. This is still less than hiring another individual to be the E911 Director. The Commissioners gave a favorable pass to Council for the additional amount of the wage and benefits of \$11,905.19. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the wage of \$58,262.00, seconded by Barrett and denied with a 3/4 vote with Wheeler, Bayman, Hodges and Banks voting against.

IN THE MATTER OF THE MULTI HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: EMA Director Amy Biggs presented the multi hazard mitigation project plan to the Council. This is a Federal requirement and it has to be adopted by the State as well and then it is passed out to local entities. In order to receive funding for any type of disaster or non-disaster emergency that the County may experience, this is FEMA's contract that the County has done our due diligence. A Committee is formed for the mitigation plan and the Committee is comprised of individuals throughout different disciplines and other communities within the County. This group comes together to identify the hazards that we have in our community and how to plan for these hazards. This plan does have to be overseen and conducted by a third party agency. Amy put out a request for quotes to two different companies that are used primarily throughout the State. The first company is called the Polis Center out of Indianapolis and they have done the previous hazard mitigation plans for the County. The second company is called Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC and they are also in Indianapolis. Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC did receive a favorable pass from the EMA Advisory Board and so did the Commissioners. The total for the project is a little over \$22,000.00 and it is broken down between the State grant and the local cost share. Amy stated that there will be no out of pocket cost to the County.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY FUNDING UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Council that the County was awarded \$670,000.00 from the Community Crossings grant. The project that the Highway submitted to INDOT for their consideration was for chip sealing for 200 miles of road. Brandon stated that berming is crucial to the chip seal process and that is what the Highway Department is working on now. Brandon is meeting with INDOT on October 17th to find out what the next step in the process is for the Community Crossings grant. This is a reimbursement grant for matching funds. Another grant the Highway applied for and received is a grant that allows for new railroad signs and the railroad pavement markings within the County to be redone. The award for the grant is \$11,795.00 and the grant agreement has been signed and sent back to the State. Brandon stated that he had planned to do some subdivision paving this year; one subdivision was Stable Acres and the other was Hickory Lanes. In order to complete the paving in these subdivisions, Brandon needs an additional appropriation of about \$20,000.00 for the contractor to complete the project. The paperwork was not submitted in time to be advertised but Brandon is asking the Council for a favorable consensus for their next meeting for official approval. The Council gave a favorable consensus for approve the \$20,000.00 additional appropriation request at their next meeting. Brandon stated that his budget will also be short in FICA, Medicare, PERF and Group Insurance but he should be able to do transfers within his budget for some of those. Brandon also informed the Council that he will be presenting an ordinance to the Commissioners to adopt a right-of-way permit fee of \$50.00 and if they violate the ordinance or the rules for right-of-way permits, they will have to pay a \$500.00 fine.

IN THE MATTER OF THE AQUATIC FACILITY: Tad Varga gave an update to the Council on the progress the City has made for the aquatic facility since their last visit. He stated that this quality of life project will not only benefit the City residents but County residents as well. They are adding a pavilion to the facility, which was in the initial plan but due to the bids that came back they were not able to still fund the pavilion. The original cost of the pavilion was \$190,000.00 and the City came before the Commissioners requesting this amount of funding for the pavilion. In the beginning, the City had raised \$12,000.00 of the \$190,000.00 necessary to build the pavilion but since then they have raised \$140,000.00. Now the City is short \$50,000.00 for this aquatic facility project and they are asking the County to help in any way possible. The fee structure for City residents using the facility with an annual pass is \$200.00 and the fee structure for County residents would be \$300.00 for a family. Tad stated that the City is willing to have the fee structure be the same for City and County residents if the County is willing to help with the funding for the pavilion. Council member Hodges stated that he views this as a quality of life project and an opportunity to benefit the entire County. Hodges made a motion to a \$10,000.00 donation to come out of CEDIT funds for this year with the understanding that the County rates would be the same as the City rates. Council member Overdeer stated that the CEDIT plan change must come from the Commissioners. Commissioner Schrumpf stated that the Commissioners turned it down previously because the City was asking for \$200,000.00 not \$10,000.00. The motion made by Council member Hodges died for lack of a second. Council member Banks made a motion for a favorable pass to Commissioners to use CEDIT funds of \$10,000.00 for helping fund the aquatic facility to the City, seconded by Hodges with discussion. Tad stated that each year the City receives the \$10,000.00 from the County, the County rates will be the same as the City rates. He indicated that the City would need \$50,000.00 from the County over five years. The motion did not pass with a 3/4 vote with Wheeler, Bayman, LaRue and Barrett voting against.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: In the matter of the Countywide Sewer District, Attorney Matt Shipman stated that the Commissioner are in support of developing a countywide Sewer District but in order to have all the information they need to get the process started, they need a resolution of support from the Council. All of the information will be submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. This sewer district would allow the County to have sewer where it is needed throughout the County. The District would be made up of seven members from different areas within the County. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-12 in support of the Countywide Sewer District, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 5/2 vote with LaRue and Banks voting against. In regard to Jody Hollenbaugh and Janelle Schmitt's salaries, the 3% increases that were approved at the last Council meeting need to be rescinded because they did not accept the job duties and responsibilities for the 3% increase. Council member Bayman made a motion to rescind the 3% increases for Jody and Janelle, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 5/1 vote with Barrett voting against and Overdeer abstaining. The Council reviewed the 4/2 holiday schedule for 2018. Council member Banks made a motion to approve the 4/2 schedule, seconded by Banks and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the September 6, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Council member Banks made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 6/0 vote with Overdeer abstaining.

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

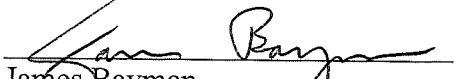
- Commissioner Schrumpf informed the Council that the tax sale will be October 16, 2017 at 10:00 AM.
- The Commissioners are currently doing background work for the AG zoning changes that are happening for the CAFOs and CFOs. They are trying to meet with as many individuals as they can to digest the information that has been given to them in regard to the matter.
- The Commissioners are also looking into alternatives for the Jail due to the jail population. The Jail Task Force has been meeting to come up with different ideas to decrease the Jail population. The Task Force is working with the State as well to get ideas for alternatives.
- In regard to factoring jobs, Michael Frizell is willing to meet online with the Council to discuss what his company offers and how the process works.
- The County Health Fair will be on Thursday, October 26, 2017.

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


WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL


John Barrett, Chairman

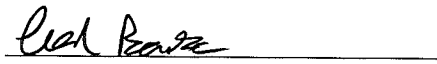

William Overdeer, Vice Chairman


James Bayman



Glen LaRue


Kim Wheeler


Thor Hodges


Chad Banks

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

