

# WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

October 6, 2020

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Chad Banks, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, Timothy Kumfer, Thor Hodges, William Overdeer and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioner George Schrumpf, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Forrester, County Assessor Kim Erdly, County Recorder Rosemary Brown, County Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Jeff Geiger from Whitley County 4-H, Sheriff Gatton, Chief Deputy Treasurer Kay Gatton, Judge Fahl, Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Tim Summers from the Maintenance Department and James Argerbright.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2021 BUDGET DISCUSSION:** Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler informed the Council that the Personnel Committee's recommendation for the Elected Officials and Chief Deputies was to bring the Elected Officials up to 85% of the Chief Deputies current pay and leave any cost of living increases up to the Council. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve the 85% adjustment for the Elected Officials, seconded by Kumfer with discussion. Councilman Kumfer requested that Councilman Wheeler amend his motion to the 85% adjustment as well as the 1.3% cost of living increase. Councilman Wheeler amended his motion, Councilman Kumfer seconded the motion and motion passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2021 BUDGET ADOPTION FOR WHITLEY COUNTY AND WHITLEY COUNTY SOLID WASTE:** The Council reviewed the final budget amounts for the 2021 Whitley County budget and 2021 Solid Waste budget. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the Solid Waste budget per Ordinance 2020-10, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the Whitley County budget per Ordinance 2020-11, seconded by Hodges and carried with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PROSECUTOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** The Prosecutor additional appropriation request was for funds that are needed to pay the drug test fees through the end of the year. This appropriation would come from the Prosecutor's Pre-trial Diversion fund.

***Pre-trial Diversion:***

2505.39503.000.0505	Blood Test Fees	\$25,000
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Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request, seconded by Kumfer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT TRANSFER REQUEST:** Judge Fahl attended the meeting to present a transfer request. The transfer request was to cover costs for the Petit Jury.

***County General:***

1000.39004.000.0137	Conference/Meeting	1000.12602.000.0137	Petit Jury	\$1,500.00
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Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Warner and carried with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CLERK TRANSFER REQUESTS:** Clerk Cindy Doolittle presented four transfer requests to the Council. The transfers were needed for the election budget due to increasing the poll workers pay and election supplies.

***County General: Clerk***

1000.20000.000.0101	Clerk Supplies	1000.20001.000.0122	Election Supplies	\$2,000.00
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***County General: Election***

1000.12200.000.0122	Primary Absentee Board	1000.20001.000.0122	Election Supplies	\$1,000.00
1000.39003.000.0122	Election Conference	1000.20001.000.0122	Supplies	\$3,000.00
1000.33003.000.0122	Clerk Conference	1000.12300.000.0122	General Ab Bd	\$3,600.00

Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the Clerk's transfer requests, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 4-H UPDATE ON FINANCIALS:** Whitley County 4-H President Jeff Geiger was present to request assistance from the Council due to funding issues because of COVID. Councilman Overdeer stated that the Council should change the levy amount for 2021 for 4-H. Commissioner Amber stated that would not be possible because the budget process would start over and there is not time. Councilman

Overdeer made a motion to change the tax rate and levy for 4-H and motion died for lack of a second. Councilman Wheeler then made a motion for \$40,000 to come from CEDIT funds, with a favorable pass to the Commissioners, to help with the improvements that the 4-H would like to complete on their buildings for 2020, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Amber gave a report from the Commissioner meeting:

- Commissioner Amber reported to the Council that they have saved \$462,767.12 from being paid from County General and instead has been able to be paid by the trust fund for medical insurance. At this time, there is still a balance of approximately \$505,000.
- Commissioner Amber also reported that Judge Fahl has become Indiana's first National Guard appointed Military Judge.
- The Commissioners reviewed and signed the OCRA grant survey for the Regional Water and Sewer district.
- Commissioner Amber stated that October is Domestic Violence awareness month and the County is doing a fundraiser with employees and employees can wear jeans on Fridays if they donate \$1.
- The Commissioners have started doing employee recognition at the first meeting of each month.
- The Commissioners are still working on the Mercury Wireless contract to provide internet to the entire County. This will be funded through CARES Act funds. They are using existing towers the putting equipment on the towers for LTE.


**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the September 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Kumfer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 6/0 vote with Banks abstaining.

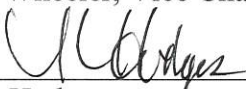
**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:** Councilman Hodges stated that he would like to appoint David Calhoun to the Alcoholic Beverage Board. Chairman Banks asked if there were any other nominations to the board. After hearing no other nominations, Councilman Hodges made a motion to appoint David Calhoun to the Alcoholic Beverage Board, seconded by Kumfer and passed with a 7/0 vote.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Banks adjourned the meeting at 8:45 AM.

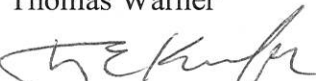
#### WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

  
Chad Banks, Chairman

  
Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman

  
Thor Hodges


  
Thomas Warner

  
Timothy Kumfer

  
John Barrett

  
William Overdeer

Attest:

  
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor