

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 6, 2021

The Whitley County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 6, 2021, at 1:00 PM in Meeting Rooms A/B located on the lower level of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Chair George Schrumpf, Vice Chair Theresa Green and Commissioner Chad Banks. Others in attendance were Coordinator/Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Commissioner's Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Chief Deputy Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Steve Henschen from Jones Petrie Rafinski, Tom Western, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Scott Wagner from the Health Department, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Kennedy Saggars from the Whitley County EDC, Chief Building Inspector Craig Wagner, Council member Thor Hodges, Council member James Argerbright, Cory Dietz from Elevatus Architecture, Christopher Sosebee from Weigand Construction and Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester.

Chair Schrumpf opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

UNSAFE BUILDING HEARING FOR 709 N STATE ROAD 5: Chief Building Inspector Craig Wagner was present to discuss a demolition order per the court. Craig stated that the residence has been unsuitable to live in since 2018 and he has sent numerous letters to the owner of the property, Ralph Fitch, with no response. Craig is asking for the Commissioners to approve the demolition order. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the demolition order awaiting approval from Attorney Shipman, Schrumpf seconded, and motion passed with a 2/1 vote with Banks voting against. Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that he hopes to be able to close on the Armstrong property either July 7th or July 8th.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Chair George Schrumpf recognized employees with more than 20 years of service. Thor Hodges has 25 years of service and Paula Worden has 31 years of service.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Shipman informed the Commissioners that Steve Henschen from Jones Petrie Rafinski was present to request support from the Commissioners from the funds the County will be receiving for the American Rescue Plan Act. This support would be for the Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District. If the Regional Water and Sewer district has the County's support, they score higher for grants that they apply for. Commissioner Green made a motion to provide a letter of support, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners did not provide any financial commitment at this time.

GATEWAY PARK CONSTRUCTION AND ACCESS AGREEMENT: Attorney Shipman reviewed the Gateway Park Construction and Access Agreement. There were some drainage issues in Gateway Park and the Redevelopment Commission will be paying to have those issues fixed. Once the work is complete, the Redevelopment Commission will turn the drain maintenance over to the County. Commissioner Banks stated that he believes the agreement should be more defined. Commissioner Banks then made a motion to table the agreement until the next meeting, seconded by Green and tabled with a 3/0 vote. Attorney Shipman later informed the Commissioners that there is no maintenance requirement in the agreement for the County and no responsibility for the drain on our end. Commissioner Banks made a motion then to approve the Gateway Access Agreement and allow the Chair to sign, seconded by Green and passed with a 3/0 vote.

PLAT APPROVAL: Planning Director Nathan Bilger presented two plats for the Commissioner's approval. Both plat requests were approved by the Plan Commission. The first request was for a replat of two lots in Magic Hills Estates. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the replat, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote. The second request was for Cherry Lane on Bird Road plat. Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the plat request, seconded by Green and carried with a 3/0 vote.

SOFTWARE BUDGET DISCUSSION: Auditor Schinbeckler informed the Commissioners that she made a request to Council for the LOW financial, payroll and tax software to be funded from Cumulative Capital Development instead of County General. The Council stated they would like her to ask the Commissioners if it could be funded from CEDIT. All the Commissioners agreed that they would like to see the budget for the software stay in the County General budget.

ADVANCED TIME/LOW CONTRACT: Auditor Schinbeckler presented the Advanced Time/LOW Contract to the Commissioners for approval. Attorney Shipman looked over the contract and has given his approval. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote.

BID APPROVAL AND HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented an interlocal agreement to the Commissioners for approval. The interlocal agreement was for the Indiana Department of Transportation repairing the bridge approach slabs on State Road 114. The interlocal agreement is for the Commissioners to approve the requested unofficial detour by INDOT. The unofficial detour will be from State Road 114 to north on Wabash County Road N 500 East to east on Wabash County

Road E 1300 N to east on Whitley County Road 1000 S to South on Whitley County Road 950 W returning to State Road 114. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement, seconded by Banks and passed with a 3/0 vote. Brandon informed the Commissioners that he will be bringing a revised no parking ordinance for the Commissioner's approval at their next meeting.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS: The Commissioners reviewed all payroll and accounts payable claims. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the payroll claims, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The claim distributions from June 21, 2021, through July 6, 2021, were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims, seconded by Banks and carried with a 3/0 vote. The Commissioners reviewed the June 21, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Banks and passed with a 2/0 vote with Banks abstaining.

OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Banks informed the public that this meeting is being held in the basement due to the mixer in the Commissioner meeting room no longer working. Commissioner Banks made a motion to purchase a new mixing board for the Commissioner meeting room and gave a favorable pass to Council, seconded by Green, and passed with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Green stated that the Commissioners hope to decide on a new jail soon. She is also looking into fiber options for the American Rescue Plan Act funds the County is receiving.

There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Schrumpf adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair George Schrumpf
Vice Chair Theresa Green

Commissioner Chad Banks

Attest: Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor