

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

January 4, 2023

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Thomas Warner, Thor Hodges, James Argerbright, Joan Western, Nicholas Brewer and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Commissioner Chad Banks, Commissioners Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, HR Director Jennifer Shinabery, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Chief Deputy Sheriff Todd Cook, Communications Director Janelle Schmitt, Jail Commander Sean Martin, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Assessor Kim Erdly, Highway Director Katy Fry, County Engineer Brad Allen, Planning Director Nathan Bilger, Carla Horn, Julie Jensen Kelley, Kim Patterson and Robert Schuman.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Council Western nominated Councilman Argerbright for Chair, passing with a 7/0 vote. Councilman Warner made a motion to keep Councilman Wheeler the Vice Chair passing with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2023 BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS: The Council reviewed the 2023 board appointments and assignments. Council voted to keep Michael Schrader on the Redevelopment Board. John Barrett will serve on the Community Corrections Advisory Board, and the JDAI Board. Kim Wheeler will serve on the Redevelopment Board. Thor Hodges will serve on the County Plan Commission, Solid Waste Board, and the Joint Advisory Board. Tom Warner will serve on the EMA Advisory Board, Personnel Committee and the LEPL Local Emergency Planning Commission. Nicholas Brewer will serve on the EMS Oversight Committee and the Joint Advisory Board. Joan Western will serve on the Senior Citizen Board, EDC Board, and the Personnel Committee. James Argerbright will serve on the Personnel Committee. Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve the appointments, seconded by Wheeler, passing with a 7/0 vote. Councilman Warner made a motion to have Councilman Brewer serve on the Region 3A Board, seconded by Wheeler and passing with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE JAIL DISCUSSION & COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Banks gave an update for the jail project & report from the Commissioner meeting. Banks let Council know that there have been no big changes since last weeks meeting and we're still hoping for a 5.1% or better interest rate for our bond. The amount of the \$25,000,000 bond that will be usable will be roughly \$23,200,000 after bond fees. Councilman Hodges asked that a member of the public be able to speak before Commissioner Banks gave his report from his meeting. Kim Patterson, wife of a business owner in the vicinity of the new jail had several questions for the Council and Commissioners as well as giving points for them to think about. She wanted to let Council and Commissioners know that there are many constituents that aren't happy with the lack of information on the new jail. Commissioner Banks wanted to let the public know that the County has done what they are supposed to do with postings and advertising every step of the way. Councilman Hodges stated that he feels there should be more meetings including night meetings and joint meetings with the city on this matter. Councilwoman Western stated that she agrees it is hard to get information out when people do not read the paper, and she is unsure what else to do.

- Commissioner Banks let Council know that they would like to have the drainage equipment that had already been approved be paid from the Cum Cap fund as Commissioners feel that is a better place to purchase the equipment. Council had some questions for the County Engineer and Commissioner Baysinger who serves on the Drainage Board.
- Commissioner Banks let Council know that Commissioners have asked payroll to not move forward with the new policy that was set forth with the new policy manual on January 1 for the calculation of overtime. Commissioners have decided to freeze that part until after some decisions have been made and discussion happen with those affected departments.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Circuit Court:

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| 1000.11700.000.0136 | Part-time | \$10,300 |
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Hodges made a motion, second by Barrett, and passed 7/0 vote.

Health:

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| 1159.59010.000.0214 | Misc Expense-Quest | \$500 |
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Hodges made a motion, second by Wheeler, passing with a 7/0 vote.

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|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 4176.11006.000.0201 | Engineer | \$8,285 |
| 4176.11001.000.0201 | Highway Director | \$1,971 |
| 4176.11110.000.0201 | Head Mechanic | \$1,117 |
| 4176.11410.000.0201 | Foreman | \$4,003 |
| 1000.11618.000.0108 | Deputy Prosecuting Atty | \$11,964 |

Hodges made a motion with a second by Warner, passed with a 7/0 vote

Redevelopment:

Redevelopment budget was missed and put in for 2023.

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|---------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 4500.11801.000.0608 | Board Member | \$4,200 |
| 4500.30002.000.0608 | Bonds & Insurance | \$1,000 |
| 4500.30009.000.0608 | Legal Services | \$100,000 |
| 4500.31001.000.0608 | Consulting/Engineering | \$100,000 |
| 4500.31003.000.0608 | Utilities | \$25,000 |
| 4500.32011.000.0608 | Legal Notices | \$500 |
| 4500.35600.000.0608 | Contracted Services | \$1,000,000 |
| 4500.37001.000.0608 | Training | \$350,000 |
| 4500.38000.000.0608 | Dues & Subscriptions | \$1,000 |
| 4500.40000.000.0608 | Capital Improvements | \$6,000,000 |
| 4500.42009.000.0608 | Tax Revenue Bonds | \$675,000 |
| 4500.59004.000.0608 | Refunds/Reimbursements | \$50,000 |

Motion by Wheeler, seconded by Warner passing with a 7/0 vote.

Community Corrections:

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| 8620.11700.000.0620 | Part-time | \$38,325 |
| 8620.30012.000.0620 | Other Services | \$40,000 |

Paula Worden let Council know that she will be seeking a meeting with Personnel Committee to get two new positions approved, one full time and one part time. These positions would be grant funded and the new hires would be made aware that if the grant ceased then the employment would as well. Western asked about the benefits and what pay group that they would be paid from, Paula stated that the benefits would come from user fees. Councilman Hodges made a motion, second by Western, and passed 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SALARY ORDINANCE: There were some salaries that needed updated on the salary ordinance that were made after the budgets were set in Gateway. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the amendments to the salary ordinance, Ordinance 2023-01, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ENCUMBRANCE REQUESTS: Several encumbrance requests for the 2022 budget were presented to Council.

Auditor:

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| 1000.20000.000.0102 | Supplies | \$193.77 |
| 1000.33003.000.0102 | Travel & Mileage | \$141.22 |

Warner made a motion, second by Wheeler, and passed 7/0 vote.

Clerk:

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| 1000.21000.000.0122 | Operating Supplies | \$7,095 |
| 1000.31000.000.0122 | Election Support | \$1,465 |

Hodges made a motion, second by Wheeler, and passed 7/0 vote.

Health Department:

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| 1159.35600.000.0214 | Contracted Services | \$2,460 |
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Hodges made a motion, second by Barrett, and passed 7/0 vote.

Highway Department:

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| 1176.35600.000.0176 | Contracted Services | \$22,240 |
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Wheeler made a motion, second by Western, and passed 7/0 vote.

EMA Director Amy Biggs was present to seek approval for several encumbrances as some of her invoices and completion on work will not be able to be done until budget year 2023.

Emergency Management:

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| 1000.20000.000.0146 | Supplies | \$500 |
| 1000.21000.000.0146 | Operating Supplies | \$5,513.21 |
| 1000.24000.000.0146 | Uniforms | \$1,500 |
| 1000.34700.000.0146 | Technology | \$10,000 |
| 1000.37000.000.0146 | Equip & Prog Main | \$4,230.79 |
| 1000.37001.000.0146 | Training | \$3,130 |
| 1000.37004.000.0146 | Equip Repairs & Main | \$2,097.42 |

1000.14000.000.0146

Capital Outlays

\$7,235

Hodges made a motion, second by Barrett, and passed 7/0 vote.

Councilman Wheeler stated that the Council needed to vote on allowing Commissioners to use Cum Cap for the Engineering office equipment purchase. Councilman Wheeler made a motion to approve the Commissioners use Cum Cap, seconded by Warner, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The Council reviewed the December 6, 2022, regular meeting minutes, Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote. Council had a second set of minutes from a meeting on December 27, 2022, Auditor Deakins stated that the Commissioners would not have to sign the minutes as only one Commissioner was present, so the minutes would just be for Council to sign off on. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the December 27 meeting minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: Dale Buuck from Whitley County EDC wanted to let Councilman Brewer know that he serves on Region 3A as well and would be more than happy to help Nick out. He has also been working closely with Commissioner Baysinger on broadband for the County and that they would be coming forward with a request at a later date. Commissioner Baysinger gave an update on Surf with handouts for the Council. Council let Baysinger know that they would like a recommendation from Commissioners on the internet plan for ARPA. Baysinger stated that she will do her best on short notice.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL


Chair James Argerbright


Vice Chair Kim Wheeler

Nicholas Brewer

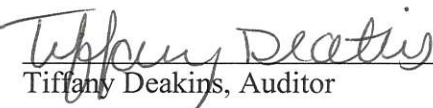

Thomas Warner


Thor Hodges


John Barrett


Joan Western

Attest:


Tiffany Deakins, Auditor