

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

March 3, 2015

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Vice Chairman Kim Wheeler, Glen LaRue, Jim Bayman, and Paula Reimers. Chairman Tom Western and Council members Bill Overdeer and John Barrett were absent. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner Tom Rethlake, Alan Tio from EDC, Mark Parker from the Post and Mail, Highway Director Michael Barton, Janette Bachelder, Cindy Riemersma, Lee Ann Watkins, and Don Wood from 80/20, Inc., and Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's department.

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

IN THE MATTER OF TAX ABATEMENTS: The first abatement request that was presented to the County Council was for 80/20, Inc. The abatement is for personal property such as various manufacturing equipment needed for increased sales volume. The estimated cost of this proposed project is \$2,453,700. After discussion, Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the abatement for 80/20, Inc., the motion was seconded by LaRue, and passed with a 4/0 vote. The second abatement request that was presented to the Council was for Red Star Manufacturing Inc. The abatement was for personal property such as a surface grinder, horizontal injection molding machine, and a granulator. The estimated cost of this proposed project is \$130,000. After discussion, Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the tax abatement, seconded by Bayman, and passed with a 4/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AND X-RAY MACHINE: Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's department informed the Council that the X-Ray machine at the Courthouse is no longer working. They either need to fix the current one for \$7,300 or they need to purchase a new one for \$17,442. There will not need any additional training if they purchase a new machine. After discussion, the X-Ray machine was tabled until the next Council meeting but the Council did state that they would rather they purchase a new machine. Spencer also stated that the Sheriff's department is looking into selling four vehicles and purchasing three. They would like to get two Dodge trucks and a Dodge Charger. The reason they would like to purchase trucks is because they hold their value longer for resale and they are four wheel drives. There is money appropriated in Cumulative Capital Development for the purchase of Sheriff Vehicles. After much discussion, Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the request for the purchase of two Dodge trucks and a Dodge Charger. The motion died for a lack of a second motion. The Council requested that Spencer further his research on the Dodge trucks before the Council gives their approval.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PART TIME POSITION: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler requested the permission to replace a part time person in her office. She stated that the position is needed in the office for daily work. After discussion, Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the part time position request, seconded by LaRue, and passed with a 4/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Director Michael Barton gave a report to the Council on the highway department. He stated that the new highway trucks are working out very well and there have been few repairs this year. He would like to purchase a Gradall to replace the one that they have now. Michael informed the Council that a new one that they would need would cost in between \$254,000 and \$273,000 depending on what they decide to go with. He is hoping that they can open bids around June or July for this Gradall purchase. Michael stated that he would like to keep the old Gradall as a backup just in case they may need two at one time or if the new one needs repairs or updates. He would like this purchase to be a lease and make two or three payments to pay off the equipment. The Council stated that they would rather not engage in a lease purchase. He also informed the Council that he believes this will be another milling year. They are planning to work on several different roads this year for repair and maintenance.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS & REDUCTIONS: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented an additional appropriation to the Council. This additional appropriation is for helping the County General Budget. The additional appropriation was for \$160,500 and to offset this, there was a reduction of appropriation to the Reassessment budget for 2015. This was a reduction of \$160,500, the same amount as the County General additional appropriation. After discussion, Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the additional and reduction of appropriations, seconded by LaRue, and passed with a 4/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the February 3, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Reimers, and passed with a 4/0 vote.

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

- Commissioner Rethlake informed the Council that the Commissioners have looked into new electronic devices in the Commissioner Room. The two quotes that Rethlake has received were for \$22,000 and for \$56,000.
- The courts need to build a cage for their Title IV-D documents in the basement of the Government Center. The State told them that it is required and if they do not build a cage for the documents so they are protected, they could lose their incentive money.
- Commissioner Rethlake said he attended the Legislative meeting and the biggest topic was public schools vs. charter schools. There was discussion of other laws that are being looked at.
- The Commissioners are also looking into adding printing budgets to each department rather than having it as a CAGIT line item. They would like to do this potentially for the 2016 budget that way the departments are more responsible for the amount of documents they print.
- Commissioner Rethlake stated that they Commissioners are in the process of reviewing the 2015 CREDIT Plan. There was a request from County Engineer Brandon Forrester for \$225,000 of the CREDIT Plan to be put towards bridges. Rethlake said that they are considering any requests that are given to them for the plan and hope to have it finalized for 2016 during budget time. He informed the Council that he will bring it to them if there are any changes to the plan at any time to have their approval.

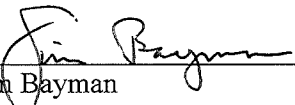
IN OTHER BUSINESS: Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented the Police Retirement Plan to the Council. They requested that Sheriff Gatton be present at the next meeting to explain and discuss the changes that were made before they sign the plan. The Council tabled this matter until the next meeting.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Thomas Western, Chairman

Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman



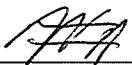
Jim Bayman



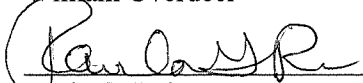
Glen LaRue

Absent

John Barrett

 *Absent*

William Overdeer



Paula G. Reimers

Attest:



Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor