

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

July 6, 2016

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Kim Wheeler, Vice Chairman Jim Bayman, Tom Western, Glen LaRue, Bill Overdeer and John Barrett. Absent was Council member Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Clerk Debbie Beers, Coroner Randy Dellinger, EDC President Jon Myers, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Assessor Rita Sauders, Highway Engineer/Director Brandon Forrester, Jeff Scher from Ag Plus, Brian More from Restoration Medical Polymers, Leslee Derbeck from STAR Insurance and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

Chairman Wheeler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the public meeting at this time in regards to the abatement and waiver of noncompliance for Briggs Crop Nutrients, LLC. With no questions or comments from the public, Chairman Wheeler closed the public hearing.

Chairman Wheeler called the regular Council meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR WAIVER OF NONCOMPLIANCE FOR BRIGGS CROP NUTRIENTS, LLC: Council member LaRue made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-07 which is the waiver of noncompliance, seconded by Western and passed with a 6/0 vote. In regard to the resolution for approving the deduction of assessed valuation for real property improvements, Council member Western made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-08. The motion was seconded by Overdeer and carried with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER THE FINAL BOND APPROVAL FOR RESTORATION MEDICAL POLYMERS: Jon Myers presented the final bond approval for the Restoration Medical Polymers bond. The Economic Development Commission has already gave their final approval for the bond. Council member Barrett made a motion to approve the bond agreement Ordinance 2016-06, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 6/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLERK 2017 BUDGET REQUEST: Whitley County Clerk Debbie Beers presented her 2017 budget to the Commissioners. Debbie explained a few of the changes she needed to make. Due to the increase in responsibilities from the State, she has increased travel and mileage because of the additional trainings that are needed. Fiscal year 2017 is an off election year. With it being an off election year, the Clerk's office does not need as large of an election budget. She is requesting to purchase ePollBooks and to upgrade the Infinity Voting machines. The ePollBooks are going to cost the County \$68,415.00 and the voting machines will cost \$99,588.00. Debbie stated that she understands if not both of the items could be purchased next year and if she has to make a choice she would choose the ePollBooks. The State will eventually mandate the purchase and upgrade of both items within the next three to four years. The Council thanked Debbie for her time and would review her budget further at a later date. At this time, Council member Barrett

IN THE MATTER OF THE ASSESSOR 2017 BUDGET REQUEST: Whitley County Assessor Rita Sauders presented her 2017 budget request to the Council. She stated there are no changes from last year except for the requested increase for salaries. The Council had no questions for Rita at this time. Council member Barrett was absent from the meeting from this point forward.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDC 2017 BUDGET REQUEST: EDC President Jon Myers presented the 2017 budget request to the Council. He stated that there is no increase requested for the 2017 budget year. The EDC is coming up on their 25th anniversary since it was established in 1992. The EDC is the point of contact for business and industry within Whitley County. Their mission statement is, "To lead a comprehensive economic program that retains and expands employment opportunities for local residents and attracts business investment to Whitley County". Jon informed the Council that they are working on streamlining their programs. Any new business

that comes into the County, Jon provides a return on investment sheet to show that it will be a positive or negative investment for the County. The different programs they are involved in are Leadership Whitley County, Community Development, Revolving Loan Fund program, Industry Immersion Program and Agribusiness. They have several different projects coming up in 2017 as well. With no changes in the budget from 2016, the Council did not have any questions for Jon and thanked him for his time.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSURANCE PROPOSAL: Whitley County Coroner Randy Dellinger presented a request to Council for medical insurance. The Commissioners and Council made changes to the medical plan which included taking different departments off the plan according to ACA requirements which happened to include the Coroner. Coroner Dellinger is stating that all elected officials are eligible for medical insurance and it reduces his compensation by over 50%. Leslee Derbeck from STAR Insurance looked at the hour requirements for each of the departments and stated that the Coroner does not meet the hour requirements for ACA. Dellinger stated again that he is an elected official and he is separate from regular employees. He also stated that he is on call 24 hours a day and if his medical insurance is not approved, he will request an increase to his salary to make up the difference. With making these changes on the insurance, the County is saving \$215,000. The Council requested that Dellinger present two different budgets to them, one with insurance and one without at the department head budget hearings. The Council tabled the matter at this time until their budget meetings. Coroner Dellinger also had a request to Council for a transfer. The transfer was from supplies to the telephone line item in the amount of \$550.00. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 5/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PEABODY PUBLIC LIBRARY APPOINTMENT: Mary Hartman, the Director of the Peabody Public Library, presented a library board appointment to the Council. The appointee is Anthony Gatton who has served on the board for the past two years and seven months, filling a vacancy when Dennis Warnick resigned in March of 2014. Anthony's term will expire on September 7, 2016 and Mary is asking he be appointed for an additional four years. Council member Western made a motion to approve the reappointment, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 5/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the June 22, 2016 special meeting and the regular meeting minutes from June 7, 2016 were reviewed. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Western and passed with a 6/0 vote.

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

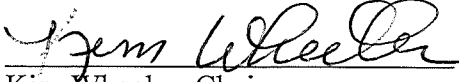
- Commissioner Amber stated there was a petition request to the Commissioners to rezone an area of 81 acres in Richland Township. They wanted to make 14.7 of the 81 acres into Park and Recreation for a hunting lodge. The other 66 acres approximately is for a high fenced hunting area. The Plan Commission passed the request 7/1 but the Commissioners decided to table the matter at this time to gather information on concerns they had.
- Ty Murphy presented a request to the Commissioners to establish a Vietnam Memorial at the Courthouse. The Commissioners gave Ty the approval to move forward with the project.
- Commissioner Amber stated in regard to the Highway Department, they are not asking for a new position. The request is to increase the Foreman's pay and it still ends up being a savings to the County. The requested salary would be \$56,049. Council member Wheeler asked to see both of the job descriptions for the Highway Director and the Highway Foreman. Commissioner Amber stated that the Commissioners made a favorable pass to Council to approve the Foreman's salary increase. Council member Western made a motion to approve the salary increase, seconded by Overdeer and passed with a 4/1 vote with Wheeler voting against. The next payroll will be with the new wage. In regard to the salary ordinance amendment for the Highway Foreman position, Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 4/1 vote with Wheeler voting against.

- County Coordinator Pam Smith presented the wage proposal for 2017 to the Council. Pam gave the Council statistics and presented two options to the Council. The first option as an increase for everyone of a flat rate of \$1,950 which is \$1.00 per hour based on 37.5 hours a week. The second option was a flat rate of \$1,853 which is \$0.95 per hour. This would develop uniformity rather than using a percentage increase. Pam stated that the County is behind on the overall Whitley County wage and this would help improve employee morale for Whitley County Government.

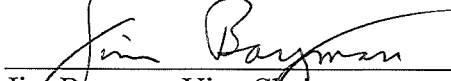
IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: EMA Director Amy Biggs gave an update to the Council. In regard to the train derailment in South Whitley, there is a tanker car still sitting there. It could take up to eight more weeks for the company to pick it up. Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a request to Council for the approval to pay Jessica Hockemeyer for longevity pay that she is entitled to. A few years back she was from full time to part time and back to full time without ever leaving Whitley County Government's employment. She should have earned longevity and she did not. Council member Bayman made a motion to pay Jessica the longevity pay that is due to her, seconded by Western and passed with a 5/0 vote.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

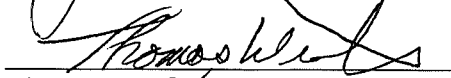
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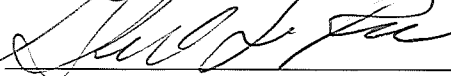
Kim Wheeler, Chairman




Jim Bayman, Vice Chairman




Thomas Western



Glen LaRue



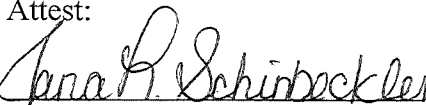
John Barrett



William Overdeer

Paula G. Reimers

Attest:



Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

