

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

October 4, 2016

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, October 4, 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, John Barrett and Paula Reimers. Also in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Sheriff Marc Gatton and Jason Spencer from the Sheriff's Department, Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester, Joseph D' Italia from Whitley RC Investments, EDC President Jon Myers, Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter, Aaron McClure from AJ Machine, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library and Planning Director Nathan Bilger.

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

IN THE MATTER OF WHITLEY RC INVESTMENTS LLC AND LLM ENTERPRISES LLC: EDC President Jon Myers presented two different projects that two different companies are requesting abatements for. The first project is for Whitley RC Investments with Joe D' Italia, who has worked with the Redevelopment Commission for many years. They now have someone interested in using the Spec Building and they have been very diligent with helping this company come into the building. This would be a ten year abatement for Whitley RC Investments and the Redevelopment Commission has approved it. The company moving into the building is Autoliv. Council member Western made a motion to approve the ten year abatement request per Resolution 2016-11, seconded by Bayman and passed with a 7/0 vote. In regard to the LLM Enterprises abatement, the request is from Aaron McClure from AJ Machine for a project they have worked on for about a year now. The Redevelopment Commission approved this abatement request as well. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the ten year abatement request per Resolution 2016-12, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENT FOR THE "DEATH BENEFITS BEFORE RETIREMENT: Sheriff Gatton presented an amendment to the "Death Benefits before Retirement" to the Council. The changes have been made in bold on the policy. The policy now states that if a deputy is not currently married and dies, and is vested or non-vested in the pension plan, no beneficiary can be named. The change is that, even if they are not married, they may have one beneficiary for their pension. The Sheriff Merit Board has already approved the change. Council member Western made a motion to approve the change, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF AN ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST: Chief Probation Officer Amy Motter presented an additional funding request to the Council. The additional funding request is for the CAGIT fund in account Institutional Care. The amount appropriated has already been surpassed and Amy stated that the appropriation needs an additional \$30,000 for the rest of the year. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Reimers and passed with a 7/0 vote. The paperwork for this additional funding request will be presented at the next meeting in November.

IN THE MATTER OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY: GIS Coordinator Dan Weigold informed the Council that he would like to purchase the State's aerials that will be flown in 2017. Then he would like to have the company the County works with fly again in 2020 when the new school is built. There are several departments that use the aerial photography and it is important to keep it as updated as possible for public safety. Dan stated that he has spoken with the Commissioners about how the GIS has evolved and that the County potentially needs to have a funding mechanism to have it updated every three years or so. Dan has made phone calls to South Whitley and Churubusco asking if their Council would be willing to contribute to the purchase of the State's aerials flown in 2017. The Commissioners recommended an interlocal agreement with the towns and the City, if they are interested, to contribute each year to the GIS. In regard to the contract with the State to purchase the aerials in 2017, Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: The minutes from the September 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the minutes with one change. The minutes should read Humane Society not the Human Society. The motion was seconded by Reimers and passed with a 7/0 vote. The minutes from the September 14, 2016 special meeting were reviewed. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the minutes with one change. The minutes should state Chairman Wheeler instead of Chairman Western. Barrett seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 5/0 vote with Bayman and LaRue abstaining.

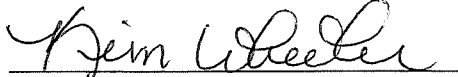
COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Schrupf gave a report from the Commissioners meeting:


- Commissioner Schrupf reported to the Council that they had a new credit card request from the JDAI program and the Commissioners approved the request.
- In regard to the GIS, the Commissioners did give their approval for Dan Weigold to move forward with an interlocal agreement with the Towns and City.
- The holiday schedule for the 4/2 employees has been presented to the Commissioners and has been approved for 2017.
- In regard to the new PTO policy beginning in 2017, the Commissioners and the Personnel Committee gave a favorable pass to Council to be approved. The new policy combines vacation, sick and personal time. Commissioner Schrupf explained the policy to the Council. There is a PTO bank and the employee is now allowed to have over 600 hours. The Commissioners and Personnel Committee decided to make this policy change due to a few reasons including employee retention. Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the PTO policy, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 6/1 vote with LaRue voting against.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS: In regard to the 2017 budget, Sheriff Gatton expressed to the Council that he needs a Deputy more than he needs a Jailer. The Council had previously approved a Jailer position and a Transport Deputy. After discussion, Council member Reimers made a motion to approve the Transport Deputy, the Jailer and the Deputy but to take the Jailer part time appropriation out of the budget. The motion was seconded by Western and passed with a 6/1 vote with Bayman voting against. The Council reviewed the 2017 Solid Waste budget. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the Solid Waste budget per Resolution 2016-09. The motion was seconded by Overdeer and the motion passed with a 6/0 vote with LaRue abstaining. In regard to the 2017 County Budget, Council member Western made a motion to approve the budget per Resolution 2016-10 with the changes that were specified, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 6/1 vote with Bayman voting against. County Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester informed the Council that he would like to purchase a used chip spreader which is 16 years old and has 1,700 hours on it. The asking price for the chip spreader is \$83,900 and Brandon would like to move forward with going to North Carolina to inspect the chip spreader to purchase it. It would be much cheaper than purchasing a brand new one at around \$250,000. Brandon would like to increase the appropriation amount for equipment for 2016 and decrease the line item amount for 2017. The Council discussed what they would like to do and they took a straw vote and were all in favor of Brandon flying to inspect the chip spreader.


There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL


Kim Wheeler, Chairman


Jim Bayman, Vice Chairman


Thomas Western



Glen LaRue


John Barrett


William Overdeer


Paula G. Reimers

Attest:


Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

