

# WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

May 2, 2017

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman William Overdeer, James Bayman, Glen LaRue, Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges and Chad Banks. Others in attendance were Auditor Jana Schinbeckler, Commissioner George Schrumpf, County Coordinator Pam Smith, Jody Hollenbaugh and Janelle Schmitt from the Sheriff's Department, Maintenance Supervisor Mark Sturtevant, Linda Thomson from the Post and Mail, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Liane Minier, Scott Wagner from the Health Department and Mary Hartman from the Peabody Public Library.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JAIL CHILLER DISCUSSION:** Sheriff Gatton and Mark Sturtevant requested to replace the chiller for the jail. They would like to have Martin Riley, Architects and Engineers evaluate and determine the best option for replacing the current chiller for the chilled water system. The cost of the study is \$13,770.00 and they are requesting the study to be paid out of the Cumulative Capital fund. The current chiller is an 80 ton Trane chiller in the lower level with a roof mounted condensing unit and it is now 30 years old but the life expectancy is 20 to 25 years. Once they have determined the type of equipment is needed and the best spot to place it, the replacement cost of the project will be anywhere from \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00. The Commissioners gave a favorable pass to Council to pay for the study from Martin Riley, Architects and Engineers. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the \$13,770.00 out of Cumulative Capital Development to pay for the study, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PROJECT SPORT ABATEMENT REQUEST:** Project Sport is for the company ASW, LLC that manufactures American Landmaster utility task vehicles ("UTVs"). Their executive, engineering and support staff is located in Fort Wayne and their production staff is located in Louisiana. The company would like to consolidate the Fort Wayne facility with its out-of-state operations into a single location in Whitley County, hiring 50 new employees by the end of 2017. The company plans to grow to 95 employees by the end of 2019. ASW, LLC is in negotiations with the owner to renovate and lease the remaining space in the former Essex building. The company is requesting a tax abatement on the equipment and personal property phased over a ten year period. The Redevelopment Commission gave a favorable recommendation for the tax abatement. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by LaRue and passed with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE BROADBAND PROJECT ABATEMENT RECONSIDERATION:** EDC President Jon Myers had a second abatement request for the company CMN-RUS, Inc. (Metronet). On February 7, 2017, the Council considered and adopted a resolution to grant a ten year abatement for Metronet for \$2,000,000.00 of fiber optic equipment that was primarily to be placed in the Union Township TIF District. The Council passed the resolution at that time, subject to a stipulation that Columbia City contribute to the project and similarly grant a ten year, 100% tax abatement on the portion of the project that was to be built within the City. After much discussion, the City decided not to move forward with the project at this time. This is why this request is a reconsideration because it would only be the TIF District receiving the fiber optic internet from Metronet. The Redevelopment Commission considered their proposal and their consensus of was that the provision of reliable, high-speed internet service to the businesses in the TIF District has become just as important as other utilities. The Commission adopted a resolution recommitting the funds to the "County only" proposal and recommended that the County Council amend its previous resolution to remove the requirement that the City of Columbia City must also participate in the project. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the abatement request for Metronet for the TIF District, seconded by Bayman and carried with a 3/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department presented the 2016 Annual Report for the Health Department. The report includes the Boards and Committees for the department, a financial analysis, WIC, weights and measures, accreditation, etc. The Council did not have any questions at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT OVERVIEW:** Paula Worden and Liane Minier from Community Corrections presented their 5 year financial analysis to the Council. The first page focuses on the home detention program for the last five years and provides information on intakes and exits. The second page focuses on the home detention program as well but it includes the level of offense and fees paid by participants. The third page provides an overview of the various components for which fees and funding have been received

for the same five years and the trends. The last page proves a breakdown of housing costs comparing the Indiana Department of Corrections, the Whitley County Jail, Whitley County Work Release program and the Whitley County Home Detention program to better show the cost savings between the levels of service. The Council thanked Paula and Liane for the report.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:** Commissioner Schrupf presented three salary ordinance amendments to the Council. The first salary ordinance request was for the Human Resource Director. There have been new additional duties added to the position and it was refactored by the Personnel Committee. The salary for the Human Resource Director is currently \$49,329.00 and it would be increased to \$58,262.00. Council member Overdeer made a motion to approve the request effective the next pay period, seconded by Barrett for discussion. The Council members compared this salary to other Counties with a Human Resource Director and stated that many other Counties do not have a Human Resource Director. Commissioner Schrupf stated that many of the Counties that pay their Human Resource Director less is due to them having an assistant, which Pam does not have at this time. Council member Hodges stated that is her role has changed to the Human Resource Director then she should no longer have the responsibilities as the County Coordinator as well. After a lengthy discussion, the motion failed with a 2/5 vote with Wheeler, LaRue, Bayman, Hodges and Banks voting against. The second salary ordinance amendment request was for the Office Administrator/IT Support position at the Sheriff's Department. The salary is currently \$41,412.00 and with this request it would increase to \$49,329.00. This is due to adding some job responsibilities from eliminating a position. There was no motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment request for the Office Administrator/IT Support position from the Council. The third salary ordinance amendment request was for the Communications Director at the Sheriff's Department. The salary currently is \$49,245.00 and it would increase to \$58,262.00. This is due to adding some job responsibilities from eliminating a position as well. There was no motion to approve the salary ordinance amendment request from the Council.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS:** Auditor Jana Schinbeckler presented a request to the Council for a transition period through the end of the fiscal year in the Auditor's Office for the Chief Deputy position. She would like the salary of the present Chief Deputy to remain the same although her title will change to Payroll Deputy. The new Chief Deputy will earn the Chief Deputy's salary. During this training period, the Payroll Deputy will have additional duties which is why the pay needs to remain the same. The new Chief Deputy will be attending the State called meetings and the Commissioner and Council meetings to understand what is expected. The additional amount needed to cover the difference during this transition period would be \$249.88 per pay period or \$3,498.32 through the end of the fiscal year. Council member Bayman made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the April 4, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Council member LaRue made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 7/0 vote.

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

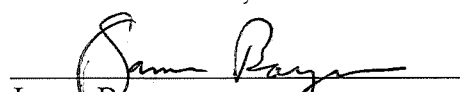
- Commissioner Schrupf stated that the Commissioners reviewed and approved the Whitley County Council on Aging's quarterly invoice voucher. They are required to go over the voucher and approve it in their meetings per the State Board of Accounts. Council member Thor Hodges stated that they have also done some restructuring at the Council on Aging and received an audit report from a CPA company David Culp & Co LLP.
- Randall Cokl was present at the meeting to discuss the emergency medical service within the County. The Commissioners also amended the zoning ordinance per Planning Director Nathan Bilger's request.
- Highway Engineer Brandon Forrester presented the 2017 chip and seal program to the Commissioners. The map he gave the Commissioners shows an 80 mile plan, a 90 mile plan and a 100 mile plan.
- Commissioner Schrupf stated that the County's current comprehensive plan is five years old so the Commissioners gave Planning Director Nathan Bilger permission to move forward with a new comprehensive plan.
- The Commissioners spoke about switching the health insurance to an HSA account. It would be a savings of \$83,724.00 for the County and it would be with a single deductible of \$1,500.00.


There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.

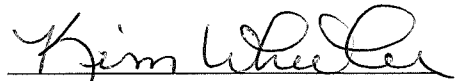
**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**


  
John Barrett, Chairman

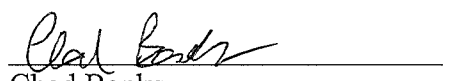
  
William Overdeer, Vice Chairman

  
James Bayman


  
Glen LaRue

  
Kim Wheeler

  
Thor Hodges

  
Chad Banks

Attest:

  
Jana L. Schinbeckler, Auditor

