

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 23, 2023

The Whitley County Council met in special session at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2023 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Members in attendance were Chair James Argerbright, Vice Chair Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges, Thomas Warner, Joan Western, and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioner Banks, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Chief Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioners Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, September McConnell, Shawn Ellis and Jared Lancaster. Councilman Brewer was absent.

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

**OPIOID MATCHING GRANT:** September McConnell from the Community Foundation came to request some of the opioid monies that the County will be receiving over the next several years. September explained to the Council what the Community Foundations use for the funds would be. Mission 25 needs a new building or the funds to renovate the current building. She stated that the County has a 77% recidivism rate for the jail and that the County has a real need for mental health assistance, with adults and children. September let everyone know that the Whitko Career Academy sees over 400 students per day and in the evening, there are programs offered for community corrections work release individuals to get certified. The Community Foundation has already received 1 of 11 grants that were awarded for \$2.6 million and are looking to get more with the help from the County. Commissioner Banks stated that the Community Foundation pulled this all together in such a short time and the Commissioners think this is a great thing to support. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve \$20,000 of the Opioid funds go to the Community Foundation, seconded by Wheeler, and passed with a 6/0 vote. Hodges wanted to verify where the funds would be coming from for the request, Commissioner Banks stated that the funds would come from the Opioid Restricted Fund that has been established. Jared Lancaster from the public had several questions for the Council, September and Shawn regarding narcans and the future of Whitley County. Council answered as many questions as they could and encouraged Lancaster to speak to the Health Department and the Health Board.

**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:** There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 8:40 AM.

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

  
Chair James Argerbright

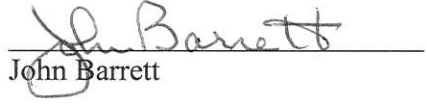
  
Vice Chair Kim Wheeler

  
Thor Hodges


  
Thomas Warner

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Nicholas Brewer

  
Joan Western

  
John Barrett

Attest:

  
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor