

## WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

July 5, 2023

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, July 5, 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, Joan Western and Nicholas Brewer. Others in attendance were Commissioners Chad Banks, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Assessor Kim Erdly, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Health Director Scott Wagner, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Dale Buuck from the EDC, Amy Biggs EMA Director, Julie Jensen-Kelley and Paula Worden from Community Corrections, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Todd Geiger from 4-H, and Robert Davis and John Rogers from The Rogers.

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

**BAKERTILLY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REPORT:** Paige Sansone from BakerTilly gave the Council an overview of the comprehensive financial report that they had completed for the county. This plan shows the financial breakdown from 2020-2026. Council thanked Paige and let her know that they will reach out with any questions that may arise.

**ROGER'S LEASE RESOLUTION:** Dale Buuck with EDC was present to give an update on 26 acres purchased by Rogers Property Management on 100 S just north of Paige's Crossing. RDC has been working with them as they develop the property. They plan to build a shell building on the property. RDC is working with prospective companies who are willing to put up the building as well as helping with hearing costs and do a lease like they have done in the past. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-12, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 5/0 vote. Council thanked the Rogers Co for investing in Whitley County and that they appreciated them for

**DRUG FREE INDIANA:** Julie Jensen-Kelley was present to ask for the Council's approval for the Comprehensive Plan for Drug Free Indiana. This will allow for Drug Free Indiana to distribute funds to assist local organizations. These funds come from fees collected when drug related arrests are made. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the request with a second by Brewer, carrying with a 5/0 vote.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION:** Scott Wagner from the Health Department was present to let Council know about new legislation that was passed and the Health Board. The Health Board will now have an appointment from the Council. He would like to have the Council make an appointment at their August meeting if possible.

**CLERK REPORT OF COLLECTIONS CORRECTION:** Clerk Cindy Doolittle was present to discuss her monthly report of collections and an error that had been taking place since 2020 when the Clerks Office had to switch software programs. There was a fund number for the courts on her report that was wrong and was receipted into County General instead. The total dollar amount that was receipted in the wrong fund was \$11,771.67. Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 5/0 vote.

**CORONER & EXTENSION ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** Council had given the go ahead for two additional appropriations to be advertised at their June meeting. Todd Geiger from 4H was present to seek final approval for the additional \$5,000 for travel/mileage expenses. Hodges made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and carried with a 5/0 vote. The additional request for the Coroner was in the amount of \$6,385, with the Prosecutors office paying \$2,500 of the expenses. Hodges made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Brewer and passed with a 5/0 vote.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Jennifer Shinabery was present to explain requests that the personnel committee had wanted to take to Council for approval.

- Assessor Kim Erdly is seeking approval for a 6 month overlap for training for her chief deputy as she will be leaving in summer of 2024. The committee is requesting a 6-month training period for the new employee that would be for budget year 2024. Salary & benefits will come from the reassessment fund. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the request and the salary be set at \$46,583, seconded by Western and carried with a 5/0 vote.
- Sheriff Jason Spencer is seeking approval to add another part-time security officer to the rotation so that the Government Center can have a security presence. This will take effect for the 2024 budget. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Brewer and carried with a 5/0 vote.
- Scott Wagner is wanting to increase the number of work hours for the lactation consultant in the Health Department from 12 hours a week to 20. He will pay for this from a grant and when the grant runs out he will come back to Council at that time. This position will also be able to receive part-time PTO hours

as well as be eligible for life insurance, as well as dental and vision. Councilman Brewer made a motion to allow for the hours to increase to 20, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 5/0 vote.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Commissioner Banks gave the Commissioner's report.

- Commissioners had a bid opening for the Community Crossings Grant.
- Also wanted to remind Council that there was a bi-weekly jail meeting today at 2:00 pm.
- Steel is being set for the new jail and moving forward.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES:** The Council reviewed the June 6, 2023, regular meeting minutes, Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wheeler and passed with a 5/0 vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** EMA Director Amy Biggs was present to seek Council approval to allow for two checks to be put back into her 0146 fund to allow for payment from an accident involving their trailer and reimbursement from a spill accident. The first check was for \$22,503.39, Hodges made a motion to allow for the check to be receipted in and put into the 0146, seconded by Western and carried with a 5/0 vote. The Second check was for \$2,360, Hodges made a motion to allow for the check to be receipted in and be placed in the 0146 for EMA, seconded by Wheeler and carried with a 5/0 vote.

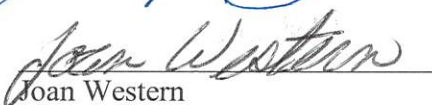
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 9:28 AM.

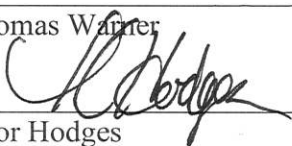
**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
Chair James Argerbright

  
Vice Chair Kim Wheeler

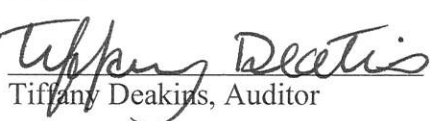
  
Nicholas Brewer

  
Joan Western

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Thomas Warner  
  
Thor Hodges

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John Barrett

Attest:

  
Tiffany Deakins, Auditor