

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

December 5, 2023

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Tuesday, December 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, Thomas Warner, Thor Hodges, Joan Western, Nicholas Brewer, and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Commissioner Rob Schuman, Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Deputy Auditor Tamela Tincher, Commissioners' Assistant Cami Hippenhammer, Human Resources Director Jennifer Shinabery, Communications Director Paula Worden, Health Director Scott Wagner, Sheriff Jason Spencer, Communications Director Janelle Schmitt, Todd Cook, Highway Director Ryan Getts, EMA Director Amy Biggs, Clerk Cindy Doolittle, Jacki Bishop and Brittney Schori from Purdue Extension.

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

EXTENSION OFFICE FUND APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Jacki Bishop and Brittney Schori were present to seek Council approval to appropriate funds that were received as a grant to cover conference expenses for Brittney. The check totals \$500 and they would like the funds to go back into the account 37001. Western made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Wheeler, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

EMA FUND APPROPRIATION REQUEST: Emergency Management Director Amy Biggs was present to seek approval to appropriate funds that were received to cover conference expenses. The check totals \$1,631.54 that covered registration and hotel expenses, this would go back into account 37001. Warner made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS: The Council reviewed three additional appropriation requests.

- E911: Communications Director Janelle Schmitt has allocated \$200,000 of her funds to be used in the purchase of new dispatch consoles for the new jail. The first invoice came in totaling \$167,818.25. Councilman Hodges made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Barrett, passing with a 7/0 vote.
- Highway: Highway Director Ryan Getts was present to seek an additional appropriation request for two tractors and two new mower decks totaling \$120,689.52. After discussion Council was comfortable with allowing for Ryan to move forward with the purchase however do not want payment given until the tractors have been delivered and inspected. Councilman Hodges made a motion to purchase and come back with the additional appropriation request at the time of payment, seconded by Brewer, and passed with a 7/0 vote.
- Coroner: Coroner Scott Smith was not present, but Chair Argerbright spoke on the \$10,000 for autopsies and \$6,089.14 for the radio purchase for the coroner's vehicle request. Barrett made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Warner, and passed with a 5/2 vote, with Argerbright and Brewer against.

IN THE MATTER GRANT POSITION: Community Corrections Director Paula Worden was present to seek approval to move forward with trying to recruit for a grant position that will start in 2024. This position will be for a Case Manager for the Veteran Treatment Court. The wages for 2024 will be \$49,649. This will be a grant funded position and if the grant ceases to cover the position in the future the position will go away unless it can be funded by another grant. Brewer made a motion to approve to position, Wheeler seconded, and passed with a 7/0 vote.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Health Director Scott Wagner was present to seek Council approval to move forward with filling a position that will start in 2024. The position of Health Educator will be re-classified and changed to a Community Health Nurse. The pay will be the same, just the job description and title will change. Hodges made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Western and passed with a 7/0 vote.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Schuman gave Council the Commissioner report.

- The jail will have a slight delay in construction as it became aware that a part of the roof had begun to rust. After a consultant reviewed the roof, it has been decided that it will be replaced at no charge to the County.
- Commissioners signed a contract to work with American Structure Point for safe streets for all, alongside the County Engineer Brad Allen.
- The GIS contract with Pictomertry has been signed and \$60,000 will come from various departments with the remainder coming from CEDIT to total \$135,000. The 3-inch pixel fly over will happen this spring.
- The newly improved County website is up and running and looks great.

Chair Argerbright wants Council to think on the idea of adding a line in their budget for legal counsel.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: Council reviewed the November 7, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Councilman Brewer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Western, and passed with a 6/0 vote, with Argerbright abstaining.

Councilman Hodges would like to see a discussion added for the January 2024 meeting regarding the possible purchase of tablets for the Council.


There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 8:37 a.m.


WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL:


Chair James Argerbright


Vice Chair Kim Wheeler


Nicholas Brewer

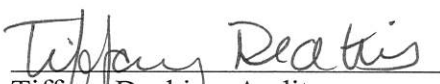

Joan Western


Thomas Warner


Thor Hodges


John Barrett

Attest:


Tiffany Deakins, Auditor