

MINUTES
WHITLEY COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
 April 23, 2024
WHITLEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
1st FLOOR-COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	STAFF	
Theresa Baysinger	X		Tiffany Deakins	Brad Allen
Frank Kessler	X		Nathan Bilger	Tamela Tincher
Jon Myers	X		Brent Bockelman	Dale Buuck
Michael Schrader	X		Cami Hippenhammer	
Kim Wheeler	X		LEGAL COUNSEL	
Jill Western	X		Andy Boxberger	
GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE			GUESTS ON-LINE/PHONE	
Abbey Anthony				
Rachelle Patrick				
Chip Hill				
Senthil				
Balasubramanian				

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Wheeler read roll call. All members present and absent are listed above.

100 SOUTH SEWER PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Hill gave a brief update on the sewer project. He stated that the work was 95 percent complete. He discussed a warranty issue that was being approved at the city meeting that evening. Discussion was made regarding the deeds of dedication for the Right-of-Ways being completed soon. It was stated that the estimated time frame for the generator was August.

ULTRA MARITIME GRANT

Mr. Buuck gave an update regarding a future expansion of Ultra Maritime. He explained that they were the second largest employer in the county and a top defense contractor in the state. The expansion would include hiring an additional 150 to 200 employees over the next three years. In addition to a possible tax abatement request to the County Council, he discussed a training grant from the RDC to assist in the cost of new employee training. Mr. Balasubramanian addressed the Commission and explained details of the expansion and investment in Whitley County. He discussed the training that would be implemented for new and existing employees. Rachelle Patrick explained that she would be responsible for overseeing the training, as the coordinator, to promote professional growth and reinvest in the current employees. Discussion was made regarding the cross training of employees. Further discussion was made about a possible visit and tour of the facility. Mr. Kessler asked if they knew the percentage of employees that lived in Whitley County. Ms. Patrick stated that she did not have that statistic but would research and report back to the commission. Mr. Buuck stated that he

provided a proposed agreement to provide funding assistance for the training discussed. Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baysinger. Mr. Myers added that Ultra Maritime has been a great company for Whitley County and that this expansion would have further benefits of drawing new residents, having possible job opportunities for local engineering graduates, along with support of our military here in Indiana. Discussion was made about having the company representatives present at the County Council meeting. With a motion and second on the floor, Mr. Wheeler asked for a vote. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

NIEDERMEYER PROPERTY

Mr. Buuck discussed an agreement that had been drafted pertaining to the Niedermeyer property. He explained that the agreement would offer exclusivity to the RDC for sixty days to allow for time to have soil testing done on the property. Mr. Buuck stated that if the agreement is approved, he will proceed with the soil testing. Mr. Myers suggested that an addition be added to state that no listing with a real estate agent will occur during this time. Ms. Western asked for clarification regarding a previous discussion about developers being involved. Mr. Myers summarized the previous discussion and explained the options. Further discussion was made regarding possible uses of the property. A motion was made by Mr. Schrader to enter into the exclusivity agreement with the property owner. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kessler. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Discussion was made regarding broadband service and Fire Department radios. Ms. Baysinger stated that once an amount is determined for the TIF area. She would like to see TIF funds set aside to assist in the funding of this service. She also stated her support for the fire radios. She did question why some Township Trustees were budgeting for the radio upgrade while others were not. Stating that this issue has been known for some time.

Mr. Buuck stated that he would be working to set up a business visit with Ultra Maritime.

CLAIMS

Claims were presented for review. The claims consisted of:

Carson LLP	\$672.00	<i>Legal Services</i>
Whitley County EDC	\$10,000.00	<i>Services through March 31</i>
API Construction	\$190,321.70	<i>Pay Application #5</i>

Ms. Baysinger made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Mr. Schrader seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Previous minutes of April 9, 2024 were reviewed. Ms. Western stated a correction needed to be made regarding an unfinished sentence to include “is a concern” at the end. Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Ms. Baysinger Seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 8:24 A.M.

**WHITLEY COUNTY
REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

ATTEST:

Kim Wheeler, President

Michael Schrader, Secretary