

WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL

September 4, 2024

The Whitley County Council met in regular session at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 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 Thomas Warner, Kim Wheeler, Thor Hodges, Nicholas Brewer, Joan Western, and John Barrett. Others in attendance were Auditor Tiffany Deakins, Commissioner Schuman, Recorder Rosemary Brown, Assessor Kim Erdly, Community Corrections Director Paula Worden, Treasurer Kay Gatton, Lisa Fensler, Mike Ashby, Mark Sturtevant, Carla Horn, Rebecca Mapes, Rachel Eyerman, Lisa Huntington, Jon Myers, Ryan Getts, Chad Owen, Carla Gebert, Barb Mancino, Mark Byler, Madalyn Sade-Bartl, Kyle & Austin Johnson, Robert Pankoe, Luke Conner, Kristin McClellan, Nila Duffitt, Phil Eyerman and Nathan Van Horn.

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025 WHITLEY COUNTY BUDGET & SOLID WASTE BUDGET: Chair James Argerbright opened the public hearing for the Solid Waste budget, there was no comments from the board or public, Councilman Argerbright closed the public hearing for the solid waste. Argerbright opened the public hearing for the 2025 Whitley County budget. There being no input from public the hearing was closed.

SAND STRATEGIS & TARANA: EDC Director Dale Buuck, Zach Sand and Mark Byler from Lakeland gave a broadband update to the Council. A presentation was given to the Council showing the areas that Lakeland would like to service Whitley County for internet, there would be 7 towers that would be used and allow for up to 7,000 residents be served. No formal request was made at this time, however there will be a request in the next couple of months from the County.

CHURUBUSCO LIBRARY BOND ISSUE: Madalyn Sade-Bartl Clerk Treasurer for Churubusco, Rachel Eyerman the Director of the Churubusco Library were present with BakerTilly, Ice Miller and various members of the community to seek an informal approval to move forward with the issuance of a bond for the library. The town acquired the old PNC building in 2020 with plans of making it a shared space for the library and the town of Churubusco, however the library cannot afford to make this move without the issuance of a bond of up to \$3 million dollars. Madalyn and Rachel gave Council a presentation on the request, several members of the public spoke either for or against the request. Council asked questions about the request and urged the town and library to make sure and get involvement from the community. Currently the library board has a meeting scheduled for September 9th at 6 pm at the Churubusco Library, Councilman Hodges suggested that the meeting location be changed to better accommodate the anticipated crowd this will bring.

PARKVIEW EMS PRESENTATION: Carla Gebert and Chad Owen from Parkview were present to give an overview and update of Parkview Whitley EMS. They had data that was collected from the 2023 year on items such as runs, patients and miles traveled within Whitley County.

ARPA APPROPRIATION RESOLUTIONS: Commissioner Schuman was present to seek approval for two appropriations to be paid from ARPA funds. The first covered was for \$830,000 towards insurance expenses that have been paid from county general. This would put \$830,000 back into the county general budget and use ARPA funds that must be allocated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026. Councilman Barrett made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-16, seconded by Hodges, passing with a 7/0 vote. The second request was for ARPA funds to be used to renovate the current Community Corrections building. Council had requested that a feasibility study be completed, that has been done and stated that the building has approximately 50 more years of use. Community Corrections Director Paula Worden and Maintenance Director Mark Sturtevant were there to answer any questions Council had along with Commissioner Schuman. Warner made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-17, seconded by Barrett, passing with a 5/2 vote with Argerbright and Wheeler voting against.

HEALTH ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER REQUEST: Health Director Scott Wagner was present with two requests, an additional appropriation and an out of series transfer request.

- The additional was for \$2,000 for the Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant in the supplies line item. Hodges made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Brewer, passing with a 7/0 vote.
- The transfer request is for \$1,000 from contracted services line item to supplies in the Immunization and Vaccines fund. The funds are already appropriated however need to be moved from one series to another. Hodges made a motion to approve, seconded by Wheeler, passing with a 7/0 vote.

PEABODY LIBRARY RE-APPOINTMENT: Mike Ashby from the Peabody Public Library was present to seek the re-appointment of their serving President Carmen Bross to another 4-year term. This had been

forgotten about and should have been presented earlier, however it was missed. A few council members were hesitant to approve the request as other community members were not able to apply with no notice. Councilman Barrett made a motion to re-appoint Carmen Bross, seconded by Hodges and passed with a 5/2 vote, with Brewer and Western voting against.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Nothing at this time.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioner Schuman let Council know that the new jail is coming along nicely and is still on track to be completed by the end of October 2024. He encouraged council to attend the meetings that are on Tuesday to see how it is progressing.


IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES: Council reviewed the August 13, 2024, additional meeting minutes. Councilman Warner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Barrett and passed with a 7/0 vote. Council will review two sets of minutes at their October 8th meeting.

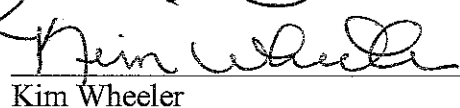
There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chair Argerbright adjourned the meeting at 10:39 AM.

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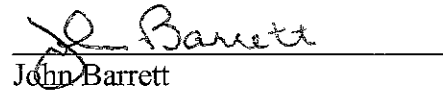

Chair James Argerbright


Vice Chair Thomas Warner


Nicholas Brewer


Kim Wheeler

Electronic Attendance / vote yes
Thor Hodges


John Barrett


Joan Western

Attest:


Tiffany Deakins, Auditor