

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, January 4, 2016 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. County Auditor Linda Conrad called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. since a new Council chairman had yet to be elected. Seven Council members were present: Randy Curless, Claude Markstahler, Mike Ridenour, Bill Ruppel, Matt Dillon, Jeff Dawes and Kyle Bowman. Markstahler opened with a word of prayer and Ridenour led in the pledge of allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

The first order of business was the election of the 2016 Council Chairman. Dawes nominated Mike Ridenour for Council Chairman. Ruppel seconded the nomination. Markstahler nominated Ruppel for chairman. Ridenour seconded the nomination. Ridenour moved that the nominations be closed. Ruppel seconded the motion. The motion to close the nominations passed by a 7-0 vote. The motion to elect Mike Ridenour as 2016 Council Chairman passed by a 7-0 vote.

Dillon nominated Bill Ruppel as Council's Vice-Chairman for 2016. Curless seconded the nomination. Dawes made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Dillon and it passed by a vote of 7-0. The motion to elect Bill Ruppel as 2016 Council Vice-Chairman passed by a vote of 7-0.

The next order of business was to review the minutes of the December 7, 2015. Curless made a motion to approve the minutes. Ruppel seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 7-0.

Council reviewed the proposed 2016 schedule of meetings. Dillon made a motion to approve the 2016 meeting schedule as presented. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote. The County Auditor was directed to post the meeting schedule.

The next order of business was the 2016 Council member appointments to various boards:

E911 Advisory Board – Matt Dillon
Community Corrections Board – Kyle Bowman
Solid Waste District Board – Matt Dillon
GIS Board – Jeff Dawes
Emergency Management & LEPC Board – Bill Ruppel
Planning Commission – Randy Curless
Job Classification and Salary Committee – Randy Curless & Bill Ruppel
Health Department Board – Mike Ridenour & Claude Markstahler

Region 3A – Claude Markstahler requested to be appointed; current appointee, Matt Dillon stated that he will check into getting the proper paperwork to make the change.

Local Alcoholic Beverage Board – The ABC Board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13 at which time appointee paperwork will be requested for submission to Council. Council’s appointee, Gary Wood will remain until Council’s January 25th meeting.

County Tax Abatement Board – Curless & Dawes

Council contacts were designated for the purpose of assisting elected officials and department supervisors throughout 2016 and to assist with 2017 budget requests later in the year:

Matt Dillon: County Clerk Elaine Martin, Circuit Court Judge McCallen, Superior Court Judge Goff, CASA Program Director Dee Street, Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks, and Solid Waste Director Jen Rankin.

Bill Ruppel: County Auditor Linda Conrad, County Treasurer Sharon Shaw, and the County Commissioners.

Randy Curless: Sheriff Bob Land, and Planning Director Mike Howard.

Kyle Bowman: County Surveyor Cheri Slee, County Coroner Carol Whitesel, Purdue Extension Director Teresa Witkoske, and Community Corrections Director Jeff Hobson.

Mike Ridenour: County Health Department Health Officer Dr. Roe, Chief Probation Officer Sarah Lochner, and County Prosecutor Bill Hartley.

Jeff Dawes: County Assessor Kelly Schenkel, County Recorder Lori Draper, and Weights & Measures Director Todd Titus.

Claude Markstahler: Highway Superintendent John Martin, Veteran Service Officer Sam Daugherty, and Soil & Water Director Susi Stephan.

Council Member Matt Dillon introduced discussion concerning the possible amending by the State General Assembly of IC 15-17-5-11 and IC 16-42-5-31 concerning poultry from exempted slaughter operations. A synopsis of the bill specifies that an operation that slaughters poultry and is exempt from ante mortem and postmortem inspection must comply with certain public health requirements, must sell directly to the last purchaser and may not sell or serve poultry to a food establishment. It provides that a food establishment may not sell or serve poultry that has been slaughtered or processed by an operation that is exempt from the two above inspections. Dillon stated that he is not in favor of this bill because it would negatively impact some Wabash County businesses. Ridenour suggested getting the

opinions of the County Commissioners and then possibly approving a joint resolution signed by both the Council and the Commissioners stating that Wabash County is not in favor of this bill.

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ridenour.

The following individuals also attended the January 4th Council meeting:

**If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

Chief Deputy Auditor Marcie Shepherd, Sheriff Bob Land, Attorney Mark Frantz, County Recorder Lori Draper, and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter, Mackenzie Klemann and 105.9 “The Bash” reporter, Tim Arnett.