

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 19, 2023 in the Commissioner's meeting room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Council members present: Bowman, Matt Mize, Nick Kopkey, Sam Hann, Matt Dillon, Philip Dale and Gary Ridenour. Bowman opened with a word of prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by County Auditor Marcie Shepherd.

Chairman Bowman requested that those present silence their cell phones and stated that all public comments regarding agenda and non-agenda items are permitted and encouraged.

First order of business was review and approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting. Dale made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0.

Appointment of Lisa Gilman to the Redevelopment Commission. Dillon made the motion to approve Gilman. Hann seconded; motion passed by a 6-0 vote, with Kopkey abstaining.

Jennifer Castro and Katie Hudson volunteers with Furry Fix presented an outline on what the organization does to assist citizens with feral cats within the county. Furry Fix is a 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization that assist the Wabash community and surrounding areas with the cost and accessibility of low cost spay/neuter surgeries for cats. Their purpose is to help humanely reduce the feline population, and thereby reduce nuisance and public health concerns within the community and alleviate capacity constraints at shelters and rescues. Castro requested for Furry Fix to receive an allocation in the 2024 budget for \$39,000.00. Bowman thanked them for the presentation and the information. The request will be considered during budget reviews.

Shepherd requested appointments of Gary Burnau (to finish the term of Bill Parker) and Dave Hawkins to the Laketon Area Regional Sewer District. Dillon made the motion to approve the appointments. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Shepherd requested the Council to approve an offer from the City of Wabash to purchase a small parcel of land owned by the County on East St. The city is wanting to put an overpass on East St. and needs this parcel of land to accomplish the goal. The City is offering \$600.00 for the piece, with Council approval the Commissioners will be able to proceed with signing of the documents. Mize made the motion for the Commissioners to move forward. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote with Dillon abstaining.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS **ORDINANCE #2023-05**

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

SEC. 1 Be it ordained by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana, that for the expense of said county government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2023 the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

	FIREARM FUND #1156			
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Uniforms & Equipment				
1156.24400.00000.0000	\$2,671.00	\$2,671.00	7	0
Tasers				
1156.24601.00000.0000	\$9,135.00	\$9,135.00	7	0

Explanation: Sheriff Baker explained the uniform and equipment will be used to pay for two bullet proof vest. The tasers is to purchase 5 new tasers. Dillon made the motion to approve the request. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

GENERAL FUND # 1000

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Court Officer				
1000.11215.00000.0033	\$2,317.00	\$2,224.00	7	0
Receptionist				
1000.11421.00000.0033	\$19,954.00	Pulled by Sheriff Baker		
Jail Officers				
1000.11504.00000.0033	\$149,636.00	Pulled by Sheriff Baker		
Kitchen Supervisor				
1000.11208.00000.0033	\$21,397.00	Pulled by Sheriff Baker		
Jail Overtime				
1000.12000.00000.0033	\$60,000.00	Tabled by Council (Re-present in July)		
PT Cook				
1000.12105.00000.0033	\$15,575.00	Pulled by Sheriff Baker		

Explanation: Sheriff Baker explained he had just finished meeting with the PAC, the PAC suggested on the Court Officer that this amount be a stipend and not to be connected to one person. If the Council agrees with the recommendation from the PAC the stipend would begin at the next pay cycle. Hann made the motion to approve the court officer stipend. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. Baker pulled the request for the Receptionist, Jail Officers, Kitchen Supervisor, and PT Time Cook, due to the PAC's unfavorable recommendation stating the request is too soon to be asked for. Jail overtime for training jail officers when the jail is completed. Mize made the motion to table the request and it be brought before them next month coming out of ARPA. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Matt Dillon had to leave the meeting

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) # 8961

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Building Repairs				
Highway Roof				
8961.30600.00000.0000	\$140,616.00	\$140,616.00	6	0
Dome/Tower Paint/Repair				
8961.30600.00000.0000	\$446,960.00	\$446,960.00	6	0
Memorial Hall Windows				
8961.30600.00000.0000	\$149,120.00	\$149,120.00	6	0
Lower Plaza Memorial Hall				
8961.30600.00000.0000	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	6	0

Explanation: Auditor Shepherd explained the Highway roof was approved last month by Council, after the meeting Commissioner Haupert stated the roof is on a county building and should be paid for by the county not the highway.

The dome/tower project had 250,000 already in the 2023 budget but the remainder was cut by Council during budget hearings. The amount requested is to fulfill the contract. Shepherd did note that a change order has been approved by the Commissioners and another additional appropriation will be coming for (est.) \$150,000.00 due to more issues being found after power washing.

Memorial Hall windows have been having issue with leaking for several years. Only one company would quote the project.

Lower Plaza since the windows are being replaced, once this project is completed would be a good time to fix the concrete issues at the lower plaza of Memorial Hall.

Hann made the motion to approve all the request out of ARPA. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

County Infrastructure

8961.40081.00000.0000	\$16,860.00	\$16,860.00	6	0
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County Infrastructure- the highway will be redoing a bridge and a drain tile is located around the bridge. Replacing the tile at the same time of construction will be favorable. This is for the Dorothea Spinney Drain # 641. Dale made the motion to approve the request out of ARPA. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Bowman asked if there was any more information of the Health Department funding. Shepherd stated she was unaware of anything from the State, but she had talked with Keith Walters, President of the Health Board, and he stated the nurses were not in favor of the new funding and would prefer to remain with the legacy funds. Shepherd suggested the Council liaison and the Health Department get together and discuss the matter. The Council has until September 1, 2023, to make a decision. Bowman stated he would like for Keith Walters, Lori Foust, and Dr. Roe to be present at the next meeting to discuss the options pros and cons.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is July 17, 2023.

Items for Review:

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for May 2023

Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for May 2023



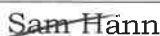

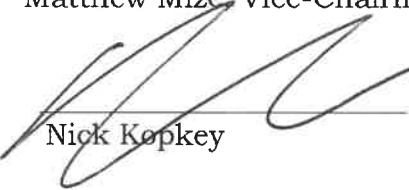


Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation Update – May 2023

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

Kandy Barker, Jeff Ravenscroft, Louella Krom, Jim Dixon, Cheryl Ross, Anne Eddingfield, Scott Frazier, Christina Dolton, Angela Rapp, Nicky Burnsworth, Ron & Debbie Hipkind, David Monroe, Toni Metzger, Heather Fange, Renee B. Romi Plath, Tyler Guenin, Dave Nelson, and Connie Rich. *Via Zoom:* Cathy Cruz and Android

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

 _____ Kyle Bowman, Chairman	 _____ Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman	 _____ Sam Hann
 _____ Matt Dillon	 _____ Nick Kopkey	 _____ Philip Dale
 _____ Gary Ridenour		

Attest: 

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor