

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, April 15, 2024 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, Matthew Mize, Philip Dale, Gary Ridenour, Matt Dillon and Nick Kopkey. Sam Hann was absent. 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 a review and approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2024 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Cynthia Johnson, Julie Gardner and Tenille Zartman from the Learn More Center gave an update on the new Adult Learning Center project. LMC has applied for a Don Wood grant to cover the cost of the equipment of \$750,000, awards should be known on May 15, 2024. LMC has/will be applying for the Ready 2.0 grant and other grants. Johnson reported they are waiting on financial commitments to finalize the lease on the building. Dave Terflinger asked if they had tried to purchase the building. Johnson stated the building is not for sale, they have searched for two years to find a building with space for the program. Bowman said the ARPA committee has meet and the funds available for Community projects allow for a \$50,000 pledge to the project from the County. Mize made a motion to pledge \$50,000 to the Adult Learning Center project. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 4-2 vote. (Dillon, Ridenour voted against).

Dave Mrowzinski, Vice President of TD LaFontaine Biogas, LLC along with Tenille Zartman of Grow Wabash County requested a ten-year tax abatement. Mrowzinski said they are requesting a personal property tax abatement in order to install a concrete specialized anaerobic digester/natural gas scrubber. The estimated cost of the project is \$7,000,000 and would create one new job with a salary of \$75,000 plus benefits. Zartman reported that Grow Wabash County recommends approval of the tax abatement with an abatement score of 50. After some decision, Dillon made a motion to approve the tax abatement. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Tax Abatement compliance forms (CF-1) for the 2025 tax abatements. Tenille Zartman and David Flora reported that MPS Midwest Poultry Service are in compliance for the tax abatements they are receiving. Donna Huneryager for Lens Source Optical Laboratory reported they are in compliance. Zartman reported Custom Cartons are in compliance. Dillon made a motion to approve the five tax abatements. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Jason Bowland, Converse Fire Department Chief and Michael Ruse, Waltz Township trustee made a request for funding. Bowland said he would like to supply the Somerset Firehouse with 8 – 800 VHF portable radios for \$4,468.18 per radio. Bowland stated the radios would be kept in Somerset to be used for callouts. Fundraisers have not been successful to defray the cost. Ruse explained that Waltz Township has a contract for service with the Converse Fire Department, but can only fund the services not equipment. Mize asked if they have looked into partnering with another department to lower the cost of the equipment. Bowland said they had in the past but not currently. Auditor Shepherd asked if they had contacted EMA about grant opportunities. Bowland said they had not contacted EMA. Bowman asked that they contact EMA about partnering with them for grants and to get a quote for the total of the request and submit it to the Auditors office to do an additional appropriation.

Commissioner Barry Eppley presented Resolution 2024-85-04 authorizing a loan to finance reconstruction of the J.H. Elliot drain #543. The cost of the loan (up to \$80,000) will be assessed to the owners of the land, to be repaid in installments up to a five (5) year period. Dillon made a motion to approve the Resolution 2024-85-04. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
#2024-85-02**

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, 2024, the following sums of money are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

GENERAL FUND – CORONER 1000

INCREASE GENERAL FUND		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
Transports	1000.30127.000.0007	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	6	0

SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts.

DECREASE GENERAL FUND		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
Autopsy Supplies	1000.22410.000.0007	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.	6	0

Ken Brown, Wabash County Coroner reported that autopsies are now done in Fort Wayne, therefor he needs more funds in the transport line. Brown explained that he does not have to deal with the biohazard by having them done in Fort Wayne. Kopkey made a motion to approve the transfer. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote

ARPA FUND #8961

INCREASE ARPA		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
Contractual Services	8961.30650.000.0000	\$ 572,514.95	\$572,514.95	6	0

SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts.

DECREASE ARPA		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
Jail Complex	8961.40430.000.0000	\$ 572,514.95	\$572,514.95	6	0

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor reported she had mistaking paid from the wrong account numbers and this would correct the error. Dale made a motion to approve the transfer. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote

Bowman reported he met with the new Wabash City Fire Chief about the new ambulance contract and he did provide some numbers regarding the charges. The Chief did say that they do cover 70% of the County. Bowman provided the report for review.

Bowman requested a discussion of the Opioid funds be discussed during the May meeting.

Mize asked Tyler Guenin when they are moving into the new jail. Guenin reported that the administration and Sheriff's deputies are operating out of the new jail. The inmates will be moved soon, but for obvious reasons he would not say when.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is May 20, 2024 @ 6:00pm.


Items for Review: Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for March 2024
Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for December 2023 – January &
February 2024
Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation March 2024

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

Shelly Bauccho, Jeff D. Dawes, LuAnn Layman, Chelsea Parson, Nicky
Burnsworth, Cheryl Ross, Louella Krom, Jim Dixon, Dan Krouse, Tyler Niccum, Jade
Hall, and Dave Nelson.


WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL



Kyle Bowman, Chairman



Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman




Sam Hann




Matt Dillon



Niek Kopkey



Philip Dale



Gary Ridenour

Attest: 

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor