

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, May 15, 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 Dillon, Nick Kopkey, Sam Hann, Philip Dale, Matthew Mize 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 a review and approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0-1 Ridenour.

Terry Burnworth, owners' rep for the Jail project gave an update on the progress of the new jail. In the general overview Burnworth said the project is 90% complete based on billing and he estimates the job to be complete in August, with a September move-in date. Matt Mize questioned Burnworth about the status of fixing the roof and how the issue will be completed and when it will be done. Burnworth said he sent out a letter to RQAW and is addressing the issue this week.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, presented:

1. A request to raise part-time pay for Jail and Kitchen staff. Baker reported he is having a hard time finding personnel at the current \$13.60 rate and would like to raise it to \$18.72. Kopkey made a motion to approve moving the pay rate up to \$18.72 per hour. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.
2. A staffing analysis for the new jail has been received and he will be needing 7-8 new jail officers: 1 full-time kitchen staff, 1 part-time kitchen staff, and a receptionist. Mize asked if the new staff can be phased in depending on the numbers in the jail. Baker said he will be back at the next council meeting with an additional appropriation request.
3. Baker said he will be back next council meeting with requests to increase pay for the Court Officer and request overtime pay for jail training.
4. Baker reported he will be giving the Drug Task Force \$10,000. Council is in agreement with this.

Brian Swihart, Chief Probation Officer, presented a request to pay a \$2,000 stipend to his grant administrator. This stipend will be paid from his 2023 IOCS Family Recovery Grant. Swihart said when the grant ends, the stipend will also end. Mize made a motion to approve the stipend funded by the 2023 grant. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Appointment to the Redevelopment Commission: Auditor Shepherd reported the need to reappoint Roger Cromer and Mark Guenin to the Commission. Dale made a motion to approve the appointments. The motion died from lack of a second. Dillon made a motion to appoint Roger Cromer to the Commission. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0-2 (Kopkey, Ridenour) vote.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE #2023-85-03

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:

	LOCAL HEALTH TRUST # 1206			
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Capital Purchases				
1206.40055.000.0000	\$68,377.00	\$36,678.05	4	3

Commissioner Haupert, on behalf of the Health Department, reported the need for a second vehicle. Haupert reported the Commissioners approved the purchase of the Jeep Compass at

the meeting earlier in the day. Mize made a motion to approve the purchase of the Jeep Compass. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 4-3 (Dale, Hann, Kopkey) vote.

MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY # 1176

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Personal				
1176.11123.00000.0039	\$45,000	\$45,000	7	0

Cole Wyatt, Wabash County Highway Superintendent, presented to fund the stipends approved at the last meeting. Dale made a motion to approve the appropriation. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Other Services and Charges

1176.30600.00000.0038	\$140,616	\$140,616	7	0
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Cole Wyatt, Wabash County Highway Superintendent, reported the need for roof repairs. Kopkey made a motion to approve the appropriation. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

AUDITOR INELIGIBLE DEDUCTIONS # 1216

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Other Services and Charges				
1216.30171.00000.0000	\$8,421	\$8,421	7	0

Auditor Shepherd reported the program TrueRoll will help catch homestead fraud. This is a one-year contract; we will see if it pays to renew. Hann made a motion to approve the appropriation. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Auditor Shepherd presented the Stop Arm Violation Enforcement (SAVE) grant for approval. The SAVE grant is a reimbursable grant that runs from April 1 to August 31, 2023. The grant does not have benefits, so they would need to come from the Commissioners budget. Hann made a motion to approve the grant. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0-1(Ridenour) vote.

Shepherd notified the council that the Bowen Center was not awarded the grant for which Opioid Fund matching funds had been approved in their February 2023 meeting.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is June 19, 2023.

Items for Review:

- Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for April 2023
- Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for April 2023
- Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation April – March 2023

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

**If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*
Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Steve Downs, Jeff Dawes, Barry Eppley, Tyler Guenin, Nicky Burnsworth, Cheryl Ross, and Dave Nelson. Via Zoom: Samsung-SM-G99042 and Cathy's.

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