

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, July 17, 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, Philip Dale, and Gary Ridenour. Via Zoom: Sam Hann. Nick Kopkey arrived after the roll was called; Matthew Mize 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 of the June 19, 2023 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Eric Rish, Wabash County Recorder, along with Greg Sullivan from FIDLAR gave a presentation on digitizing the records in the Recorder’s office. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$380,000. The plan is to digitize the records going back to 1835. The project can be broken into different phases and the work will be done onsite. Rish requested to pay from the ARPA fund. Council will take this under advisement.

**ORDINANCE 2023-85-03 AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING PROPERTY TAX CREDIT ALLOCATION CATEGORIES**

Auditor Shepherd explained that during the abstract process the State notified Wabash County that we would be required to change the LIT Property Tax Relief Credit (PTRC) allocations, as they have removed Qualified Residential Property from the LIT options. During the April Council meeting, Darren Bates, Data Pit Stop, reviewed options for modifying the allocations. Shepherd presented the requested option the Council chose in April; of the 40% allocation – 60% into 1% Homestead, 10% into 2% Residential property, 20% into 3% Nonresidential and 10% into Residential. This calculation is as close to the current distribution as Bates could get. Dillon made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-85-03. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a second reading. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. Dillon made a motion to approve the Ordinance 2023-85-03 on second reading. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2023-85-06**

**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:**

	<b>COUNTY HEALTH #1159</b>			
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>Deputy Register/Office Manager</b>				
1159.11302.000.0000	\$3,050.00	\$3,050.00	6	0

Dillon, on behalf of the Health Department, reported the need to appropriate funds to pay off vacation time for Kathryn Carter-Lower who is retiring in August. After some discussion, Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

	<b>OPIOID FUND #1238</b>			
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>Professional Services</b>				
1238.30000.00000.0000	\$50,000	\$50,000	6	0

Bowman explained that the Council had approved the funds to be dispersed to the Drug Prevention Steering Committee during the March meeting and the appropriation needed to be

made. Dale made a motion to approve the appropriation. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
#2023-85-01**

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 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:

INCREASE		Amount	Amount	AYE	NAY
GENERAL FUND		Requested	Approved		
<u>County Election Board:</u>					
Computer Equipment	1000-40440-000-0018	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	6	0
Poll Pads	1000-40420-000-0018	\$3,860.00	\$3,860.00	6	0
<u>ADULT PROBATION USER FEES:</u>					
PERF	2100-17200-000-0000	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00	6	0
FICA/SS/Medicare	2100-17100-000-0000	\$ 222.00	\$ 222.00	6	0
Recovery Court PO	2100-11808-000-0000	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00	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		Amount	Amount	AYE	NAY
GENERAL FUND		Requested	Approved		
<u>County Election Board:</u>					
Election Meals	1000-30961-000-0018	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	6	0
Precinct Board Members	1000-11602-000-0018	\$3,860.00	\$3,860.00	6	0
<u>ADULT PROBATION USER FEES:</u>					
Adult Services/Drug Screens	2100-30004-000-0000	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	6	0

Auditor Shepherd for Clerk Draper reported they had one poll pad that did not work and having trouble with two others. These new pads are needed for the 2023 election. Kopkey made a motion to approve the transfer. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Brian Swihart, Chief Probation Officer, explained that he had a shortfall in payroll due to the way IOCS pays the grant payments. Dale made a motion to approve the transfer. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**WORK RELEASE FUNDING**

Brian Swihart, Chief Probation Officer, along with Judge Vanderpool inquired about the status of the work release facility. Hauptert said the plans are almost ready to put out to bid. Bowman said due to the change in Council, a new vote would need to be made to fund the project. The estimated cost of employees alone is estimated at \$450,000 per year. After some discussion of the pros and cons, Cheryl Ross asked how we would be able to fund this project now and in the future. Dale stated that now with the additional request for personnel in the new jail, he is worried about staying under the max levy. Dale said he is rethinking moving forward with the project. Swihart and Vanderpool said they appreciate the position Council is in and how they are conveying their concerns. Bowman and Swihart are going to connect later in the week to expand on what Council will need in the way of budgeting to move forward.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is for Budget hearings on August 15 @ 1:00pm; August 16 @ 1pm; and the next Council meeting is August 17, 2023 @ 5:00pm.

**Items for Review:**

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for June 2023  
Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for June 2023  
Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation June 2023

**The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:**

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Jeff Dawes, Barry Eppley, Brian Haupert, Tyler Guenin, Nicky Burnsworth, Cheryl Ross, Connie Rich, Sheryl Ridgeway, Jeff Hobson, Jim Dixon and Dave Nelson. Via Zoom: Karsten Kersey

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**



Kyle Bowman, Chairman



Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman

Sam Hann



Matt Dillon



Nick Kopkey



Philip Dale



Gaty Ridenour

Attest:



Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor