

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, February 19, 2024 in the Commissioner's meeting room of the Wabash County Courthouse. The January 22, 2024 meeting was canceled due to weather. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Council members present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Sam Hann, Philip Dale, Gary Ridenour, Matt Dillon and Nick Kopkey. Mize 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 December 6, 2023 meeting & January 8, 2024 Organizational meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Cynthia Johnson, Julie Gardner and Tenille Zartman for Learn More Center gave a presentation for a new Adult Learning Center. Johnson stated a strategic location has been located at 1100 N Cass Street in Wabash for establishment of the training center. Gardner stated the start up cost for lease of the building, buildout of space, and purchasing of equipment and furnishings are estimated to be 1.7 Million. The Learn More Center is requesting \$500,000. The City of Wabash just approved \$300,000 from their ARPA funds. There are still some funds that are being held from the Heartland project, that fell through, that can be used for this project. After some discussion, Hann made a motion to table the request until the next Council meeting, giving the ARPA committee time to meet and reevaluate the ARPA plan. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the Public Hearing for the request for Tax Abatement by CFC Distributors, LLC. Chairman Bowman asked if the public had any questions or comments for this tax abatement request. Hearing no questions or comments Bowman made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Matt Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. Mark Frantz, representing CFC said this is the second reading to approve the Resolution. Matt Mize made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-85-02. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0-1 vote. (Kopkey abstained)

Alex Downard of Imagine One 85 along with Zach Sand gave an update on the Broadband Deployment for NLC (Next Level Connections) Round 4 funding. Sand explained that the NLC Funding of 80 million in grant funding to be disbursed to Indiana entities for broadband expansion, applications are due the 1st week in April. The application process takes approximately 3-4 weeks. Due to the competitive application process, they would like the County to match in some way, funds tax abatements or waive fees, but this request will come at a later date. They have been working with providers in the community to apply for the funds, in the past they worked with Heartland REMC. Heartland REMC have expanded to include everyone in their current footprint and will not be expanding any more. Jemery Burton, with Comcast, Zia Zoom shared a map showing the area they are planning on running fiber. The expansion will encompass the small towns in the county such as Lagro, LaFontaine and Roann. The goal is to be in all seven townships. Mike Dickerson with Mediacom also shared a map showing the areas they are proposing to service. Mize said the county has 4 options to help get the broadband into the county. Tax abatements; matching funds, waive permit fees and political pressure. Downard stated in June they will have more information if the funding has been approved.

Cheryl Evenson, Clerk of the Courts requested permission to pay a first deputy stipend to her Voter Registration Deputy. In the past a resolution allowed for first deputy pay, unfortunately a previous employee was named in the

resolution. This employee has since retired. A new resolution from the Election Board will need to be created, without naming a person, so the resolution can carry forward. The \$2,000 stipend is currently in the budget. Dillon made a motion to approve the \$2,000. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Sheriff Ryan Baker requested an Amendment to the Sheriff’s Retirement plan. The amendment would remove the caps that are now in place. Baker said this change would affect the Sheriff, Chief Deputy and maybe Sergeants in later years. Baker said the Merit Board has approved the change. Mize asked how it would affect the budget in coming years. Sheriff Baker stated he would reach out to One America and find out. Dillon made a motion to table the request pending answers to budget questions. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The next agenda item is the encumbrance of funds request.

ENCUMBRANCE OF FUNDS from 2023 into 2024

FUND		Requested	Approved	AYE	NAY
County General	1000.30660.000.0032	\$ 21,218.00	\$ 21,218.00	7	0
County General	1000.30710.000.0018	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	7	0
County General	1000.40400.000.0018	\$ 1,356.02	\$ 1,356.02	7	0
County General	1000.30002.000.0031	\$ 2,523.82	\$ 2,523.82	7	0
County Highway	1176.40431.000.0040	\$161,482.00	\$161,482.00	7	0
County Highway	1176.40431.000.0040	\$152,426.85	\$152,426.85	7	0
County Highway	1176.40500.000.0040	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	7	0
HWY Restricted	1173.40440.000.0000	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	7	0
Local Road & Street	1169.40500.000.0000	\$ 33,956.00	\$ 33,956.00	7	0
Clerk’s Perp	1119.40420.000.0000	\$ 1,081.25	\$ 1,081.25	7	0
Cum Cap	1138.40400.000.0000	\$ 39,442.94	\$ 39,442.94	7	0
ARPA	8961.30600.000.0000	\$264,612.00	\$264,612.00	7	0
Public Safety	1170.23103.000.0000	\$ 49,871.00	\$ 49,871.00	7	0

Auditor Shepherd explained these invoices were not received in time to pay in 2023. Cole Wyatt, Wabash County Highway Superintendent, reported the equipment was ordered in 2023. They will receive the new equipment in 2024.

Dillon made a motion to approve the Encumbrances as presented. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2024-85-01

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, 2024 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:

ACTION FUNDS # 1148				
AAction Funds	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
1148.12200.000.0000	\$ 3,635.00	\$ 3,625.00	7	0
1148.21102.000.0000	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	7	0
1148.31160.000.0000	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	7	0
1148.30141.000.0000	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	7	0
1148.31191.000.0000	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	7	0
1148.31194.000.0000	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 5,250.00	7	0
1148.31192.000.0000	\$15,225.00	\$15,225.00	7	0
1148.30443.000.0000	\$ 5,625.00	\$ 5,625.00	7	0
1148.31030.000.0000	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,275.00	7	0

Dan Gray with the Aaction Committee said this is the appropriations request is for the 2023 Applications for 2024. Mize made a motion to approve the appropriation. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

GENERAL FUND #1000				
Jail	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Inmate Transfers				
1000.30331.000.0033	\$225,000.00	\$225,000.00	7	0

Sheriff Baker reported that Council thought they would be in the new jail and removed these funds in the budget. Hann made a motion to approve the appropriation. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

**Superior Court
Petit Jurors**

1000.13500.000.0036	\$ 10,566.00	\$10,566.00	7	0
---------------------	--------------	-------------	---	---

Judge Vanderpool, requested Petit Juror funding, he was unaware the jury fund was low and that he needed to budget for it in the General fund. Dillon made a motion to approve the appropriation. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

ARPA #8961

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Operating Supplies				
8961.20000.000.0000	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	7	0
Inmate Transfers				
8961.30331.000.0000	\$250,000.00	\$0	0	0
Contract Services				
8961.30650.000.0000	\$2,300,000.00	\$2,300,000.00	7	0

Auditor Shepherd reported these are costs associated with supplies not accounted for in the bond, along with the new roof cost. Dillon made a motion to approve the appropriation without funding the inmate transfer's line. Hann seconded the motion; it pass by a 7-0 vote.

STATEWIDE 911

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Software Maintenance				
1222.30660.000.0000	\$173,485.00	\$173,485.00	7	0

Sandy Beeks, Director of Central Dispatch along with Stacie Frehse explained the need to update the hardware and software on the consoles. The second part is for the upgrade of the fire repeaters. Dale made a motion to approve the request. Dillon seconded the motion; it pass by a 7-0 vote.

AUDITOR INELIGIBLE #1217

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Courthouse Renovation				
1216.40540.000.0000	\$3,492.00	\$3,492.00	7	0

Auditor Shepherd reported repairs are needed in the front office ceiling. Mize made a motion to approve the request. Dillon seconded the motion; it pass by a 7-0 vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
#2024-85-01**

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, 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:

INCREASE		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
GENERAL FUND					
Office Cleaning	1000.30610.000.0032	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	7	0
Supplies/Equipment	1000.21102.000.0032	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	7	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 Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
GENERAL FUND					
Custodian	1000.11617.000.0032	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	7	0
Preventative Maintenance	1000.30993.000.0032	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	7	0

Auditor Shepherd said that during the budget hearings council removed the office cleaning and requested a full-time cleaning person be hired. This has not happened yet and the cleaning company has continued to clean and needs paid. Hann made a motion to approve the transfer, but change the office cleaning to \$20,000. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote

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 March 18, 2024 @ 6:00pm.

Items for Review: Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for December 2023 - January 2024

Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for December 2023 - January 2024

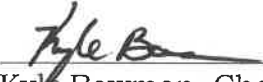






Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation December 2023 - January 2024

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

Shelly Bauccho, Brian K. Hauptert, Barry J. Eppley, Jeff D. Dawes, Mark Frantz, Connie Rich, Nicky Burnsworth, Cheryl Ross, Louella Krom, Jim Dixon, David Terflinger, Tyler Niccum, Jade Hall, and Dave Nelson.

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	