

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, July 19, 2021 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Seven Council members were present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Sam Hann, Matt Dillon, Lorissa Sweet, and Barbara Pearson in person, and Philip Dale. Bowman opened with a word of prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

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.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2021 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0-1 Sweet abstained from the vote.

Mark Hobbs, Director of Heartland Career Center, gave a brief overview of the mission of the Career Center. Heartland supports five schools: Wabash City, MSD of Wabash, North Manchester, North Miami, and Peru and offers some adult programs as well. Heartland and Wabash County have received a Federal Award in the amount of \$4,000,000 for the Heartland Career Center Expansion Project. Hobbs said the Community Foundation is holding the matching funds needed and the total project budget is \$5,000,000. The grant will be put toward offering in-demand credential programs for adults. He believes that this effort will dramatically increase Wabash County's capacity to maintain and expand a trained workforce.

Next on the agenda was a Public Hearing: Proposed lease between Wabash County and the non-profit Jail Building Corp. Steve Downs, Wabash County Attorney, went over what the lease involved. Via Zoom, Dennis Otten of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP and Jim Treat of Krohn & Associates answered questions concerning the lease.

Bowman reviewed Ordinance 2021-85-09 An Ordinance of Wabash County, Indiana, approving matters related to lease financing of the sheriff's office and jail facility project. Dillon made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-85-09. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed to second reading. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. Dillon made a motion to approve on second reading, Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Bowman reviewed Resolution 2021-85-12 concerning establishing the policy for meeting participation by electronic means of communication. Dale made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-85-12. Hann seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, requested the use of Commissary funds in the amount of \$6,038.02. The request is for AR500 level 3 body armor for the Kosciusko County SWAT team. They assist the County when SWAT is needed for no charge. Dillon made a motion to approve the request of \$6,038.02. Sweet seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

COUNTY JAIL UPDATE Sheriff Baker said they have some sketches done but are still working on the layout. The next meeting would be to decide where the kitchen will be placed.

Keith Gillenwater of Grow Wabash County presented the 2021 Tax Abatements for approval. Gillenwater recommended that the Council find all in compliance with the tax abatements. Mize made a motion to approve the 2021 tax abatements. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor, presented, on behalf of the Clerk, a request to spend from the IV-D Incentive fund. The requests is to purchase a laptop in the amount of \$650 from IV-D Incentive funds, with the balance paid from the Clerk's perpetuation fund. Dillon made a motion to approve the request of \$650; Sweet seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

**AMENDMENT #2021-85-01
TO THE 2021 SALARIES AND WAGES ORDINANCE**

Whereas: Public Law No. 231 requires County Councils to fix salaries of County Officials and Employees for the year.

SEC. 1. BE IT ORDAINED by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana that the salaries and wages of County Officials and Employees and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2021 are as follows:

<u>Fund and Title of Position & Employee Classification</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
JUVENILE USER FEE FUND	
2150.11113.000.0000 COP/JDAI Coordinator	\$7,000.00
2150.11410.000.0000 ACPO/JDAI Coordinator	\$7,000.00
2150.11212.000.0000 Office Manager	\$2,000.00
COUNTY GENERAL	
1000.11315.000.0033 Commissary Clerk	\$18,000.00
1000.11809.000.0020 High School Intern	\$1,000.00

Dated this 19th day of July, 2021

These additional salaries were approved as additional appropriations earlier in the year. Dillon made a motion to approve the request; Hann seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-1 vote.

Council reviewed:

June 2021 – Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

May 2021 – Wabash County Solid Waste Management District income statement

PUBLIC COMMENTS: David Milliner is looking for funding on a bridge in Wabash County. Mize said the package he received was a very good evaluation of the bridge in question. We have 157 bridges in the county and we get them evaluated and reviewed to get the cost to rehabilitate them to the required standard. Everything we have received shows that that particular bridge is not worth the cost. He understands that nearby residents may feel differently, but the County must look at all the bridges and best decide how to spend the available money for the good of the entire county. We cannot spend that kind of money on a bridge that services such a low of number of residents. Commissioner Hauptert said they have had the Public Hearing and the decision is under advisement while searching for other funding options. Mize stated the county will be having a funding problem soon due to the number of bridge projects needed, and some tough decisions will have to be made on a number of bridges. James Derck stated he spoke to Andy Zay and feels we can get funding for the bridge in a grant.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. Budget hearings will begin at 12:30 p.m. August 24 and 25 and at 6:00 p.m. August 26, 2021. The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Wabash County Council is Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.

Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Bauccho, County Commissioners Jeff Dawes and Brian Hauptert, County Highway Superintendent Cole Wyatt, Jeffery Thompson, Suzanne Kattan, Chad Harris, Dave Terttinger, and Alex Downard. Via ZOOM: Rob Burgess.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

/s/Kyle Bowman, Chairman /s/Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman /s/Sam Hann

/s/Matt Dillon /s/Lorissa Sweet /s/Philip Dale

/s/Barbara Pearson

Attest: /s/Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor