

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, April 23, 2018 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Council Chairman Randy Curless called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Seven Council members were present: Curless, Matthew Mize, Lorissa Sweet, Matt Dillon, Philip Dale, Kyle Bowman and Barbara Pearson. Councilman Bowman led in a word of prayer and Curless led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

Chairman Curless 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 review the minutes of the March 26, 2018 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Sweet seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The next order of business was the selection of Council members to serve on the budget committee for the upcoming 2019 budgets. Last year's committee members explained what was addressed by the committee including the fact that outside sources are consulted by the committee when the issues require expert advice. Council members Randy Curless, Matt Mize, and Matt Dillon will serve on the committee.

Denny Grinstead, 113 Shady Lane, Wabash, former MSD teacher and MSD board member was present to ask why his property tax bill increased approximately 63%. He stated that he had talked to the County Assessor and received the County's written explanation. He asked about why the history of the LOIT tax and exactly why it was implemented. Curless explained why the county enacted the income tax as a relief for the property tax burden. Auditor Marcie Shepherd explained how the LOIT is distributed and Grinstead asked about the LOIT distribution amounts, whether they've increased or decreased. Shepherd stated that she will provide those figures for him. He asked questions about the tax caps and how his property is affected. He talked about the negative changes in his neighbor and how, as a result of this, his assessed values could have possibly increased. Council directed him to the Assessor's office for his assessed value questions and his environmental neighborhood concerns to the Wabash City Council. He recalled the financial issues he dealt with while on the MSD school board and how they had to make administrative cuts some years. He asked about what Council is doing to efficiently operate county government. Curless spoke about the increase in court and law enforcement expense and all the challenges that the Council must consider each year. Mize further explained how Council is trying to contain or reduce expenses and what is available to the taxpayer to help reduce the tax burden, all regulated by the State. Grinstead thanked the Council for listening and

answering his questions. Council members thanked him for taking the time and effort to address his concerns with the County body.

In other business, Auditor Shepherd stated that at a recent meeting, she was informed by a Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) representative that the DLGF will be reviewing additional appropriation requested at the beginning of the year very closely and rejecting those requests that were a result of poor or inadequate budgeting. From this point on, there will need to be very specific and supported reasons for additional appropriation requests so early in the budget year.

Council reviewed:

March 2018 Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

March 2018 Wabash County Solid Waste Mgmt. District Income & Expense Statement

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Curless adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Tuesday, May 29, 2018 because Monday, May 28th is Memorial Day.

The following individuals also attended the April 23th Council meeting:

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

Commissioner Brian Haupert, Attorney Mark Frantz, Sheriff's Deputy Tyler Guenin, Denny Grinstead, Leroy Striker, Jane Long, Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Andrew Maciejewski, and "The Paper" reporter Josh Sigler.