

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, August 27, 2018 in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Randy Curless called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Seven Council members were present: Curless, Matt Mize, Barbara Pearson, Matt Dillon, Lorissa Sweet, Philip Dale and Kyle Bowman. Councilman Bowman led in a word of prayer and Curless led 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 July 23, 2018 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote with Mize abstaining due to his absence from that meeting.

The next order of business was to address the additional appropriation requests. Present for the requests were Jen Rankin, Wabash County Solid Waste Management District Director, Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks, and County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Brian Hauptert and Scott Givens.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2018-85-05

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, 2018 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:

WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

(The Solid Waste District is not a county department but is under the jurisdiction of the County Council to approve all budget appropriations)

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Facility Repair and Maintenance	\$7,970.00	\$7,970.00	7	0

Explanation from Solid Waste Director, Jen Rankin: This additional appropriation request is for the replacement of a 1993 air handler heating and cooling unit in the warehouse. The dysfunction of the unit could be a potential source of equipment damage throughout the building if temperatures are too high so the unit needs replaced.

Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Bowman seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

GENERAL FUND #1000

Superior Court	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Personal Services- Part-time Security Officer #1000-12501-000-0036	\$3,794.00	\$3,794.00	7	0

Explanation from Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore, Karen Springer: The Chief Security Officer (J. Martin) has been off work since July 6, 2018 because of colon surgery. He's scheduled to be off work 4-6 weeks, and may have doctor appointments after he returns to work and may also have sick days and comp time to use. Because of the hourly wage increase recently, the 2018 estimated budget for this position was too low.

Dale made a motion to approve the request. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Central Dispatch	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Other Services/Charges -Telephone #1000-30240-000-9600	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	7	0

Explanation from Central Dispatch Director, Sandy Beeks: Beeks stated that she only needs \$4,000 to be appropriated. The copier and phone bill expense had been budgeted in the Statewide 911 Fund but Statewide 911 Fund authorities require that the expense be paid from the General Fund/Central Dispatch department, so need an additional appropriation to pay the expenses.

Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Sweet seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Veteran's Service	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Office Supplies #1000-21100-000-0025	\$30.00	\$30.00	7	0

Explanation from Veteran Service Officer, Sam Daughtery (not in attendance): Mutual Bank employees choose an organization to donate to because of their "Friday informal dress policy" and a \$30.00 donation was made to Veteran's services. Need to appropriate the money in order to spend it for supplies.

Mize made a motion to approve the request. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Commissioners	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Other Services & Chgs - Inmate Transfers #1000-30331-000-0029	\$215,000.00	\$215,000.00	7	0

Explanation from County Commissioners and County Auditor Shepherd: Miami County inmate housing fees have increased and this expense is difficult to estimate at budget time, so this is the estimated cost of inmate transfer expense through the end of the year.

Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

RAINY DAY FUND #1186

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Personal Services- Accrued Employee Benefits #1186-11316-000-0000	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	7	0

Explanation from County Auditor Marcie Shepherd: This request is for the pay out of accrued vacation time for departing and retiring employees.

Dale made a motion to approve the request. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

As an update to the department relocations project, Commissioner Eppley stated that the County will be purchasing a building that will house the County Coroner's office and county morgue. The cost of the 1,800 square foot building is \$73,000 and is located at 443 McCarty Street. He stated that the building needs no renovation and that the closing is tentatively scheduled for next week. He stated that the building would be purchased with existing CEDIT dollars, but the Commissioners are in agreement that the Cumulative Capital Development Fund should pay for any building purchase, so an additional appropriation will be requested next month. Council member Mize asked if the existing "cooler" could be used in the morgue and stated that this purchase does not address the relocation of the Health and Probation departments. Eppley stated that the Commissioners have learned that other county departments should not be housed with the Coroner's office because of environmental and discretionary issues. Council member Pearson asked if there are other renovation or equipment costs needed for the Coroner's office. Commissioners Eppley and Givens replied that there are no renovations needed in the building and that there are approximately \$5,000 in purchase-related costs and for a new generator.

Pearson stated her frustration with the overall department relocation process on the part of the Commissioners. She stated the frustration was due to the lack of documentation of each option and the lack of cost information being given to the project committee and the Council concerning the entire project of relocating the Health and Probation departments and the housing of the Coroner's office and a county morgue. Commissioners Eppley and Givens stated that funding was already available for the coroner's office and that it was an emergency situation to get a location for the coroner and morgue and in light of Council's disapproval of the doctor's office location, the Commissioners chose to address the coroner issue first and consider other options for the Health and Probation departments in the future. Eppley stated that the building committee will be consulted about the possible options for the Health and Probation departments. Pearson stated that she would have appreciated getting exact figures in order to justify the costs to the taxpayers and would expect documented options and proof of costs concerning the remaining department relocations in the future.

Chairman Curless stated that because the Sheriff's department is currently without the services of six officers, the department must pay overtime for other officers to cover the shifts. He stated that the Sheriff will be requesting additional appropriations to the budget to pay the overtime costs. Council

member Mize stated that this has been recently discussed and addressed by the personnel committee.

County Auditor Shepherd distributed the 2019 Proposed Budget binders including all budgeted county funds for Council's review and reminded Council members that the upcoming 2019 budget hearings are scheduled for September 11th & 12th beginning at 12:30 P.M. and on September 13th at 5:00 P.M.

Council reviewed:

July 2018 Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

July 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 regularly scheduled Council meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, September 24, 2018.

The following individuals also attended the August 27th Council meeting:

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

County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Brian Hauptert, and Scott Givens, Attorney Mark Frantz, Coroner Susie Lewis, Bonnie Corn, Louella Krom, and The Paper reporter, Josh Sigler.