

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, April 15, 2019 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Six Council members were present: Bowman, Randy Curless, Barbara Pearson, Matt Dillon, Lorissa Sweet, and Philip Dale. Council member Matthew Mize was absent. Bowman led in a word of prayer and 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 review the minutes of the February 18, 2019 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 5-0-1 vote in favor with Curless abstaining due to his absence from the February meeting. There was no Council meeting in March.

Next, on the agenda was the request to re-appoint Max Gaston to the Roann Library Board of Trustees. Dale made a motion to appoint Gaston to the Library Board. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Next, on the agenda was Dr. Levine, President of the Wabash County Astronomical Society and the Executive Director of the Argus Project who was present to explain the three phases of the Argus Project to Council members. Levine stated that the Astronomical Society has existed for 19 years and currently has a presence on Facebook and that the Society is located off CR 950 South, north/northwest of Somerset on twenty-four acres. He stated that the Argus Project is an astronomy-based initiative which will essentially be an observatory or "Starship" for recreational and educational usage. He stated that the first phase of the Argus Project includes a 12" diameter observatory device, which with the addition of pods, would become a 20" device to be utilized by high school and post-secondary institutions. The observatory will be fully computerized and will require high-speed internet. He stated that the Project will be partnering with CEO Wayne Parker of the "Skyship" observatory in Fort Wayne. Levine stated that the Project's steering committee will include City of Wabash members and that they would like to include a County member also. He stated that the Project has attracted corporation sponsors and that the Project's facility will be "green" utilizing recycled materials and products. Levine stated that Phase 2 is the "Mississinewa Skies Star Party" that could attract many people from around the world who would like to observe with their own instruments and which will benefit local businesses by their attendance in the area. Levine described Phase 3 as a large convention at the Honeywell Center that will coincide with "First Friday" events in downtown Wabash. Levine stated

that the City of Wabash is backing the Project and may provide the Society with a building. The Society is also working closely with the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau in order to promote the Argus Project. Chairman Bowman thanked Mr. Levine for the introduction and explanation of the Argus Project and wished the Society much success.

Next, on the agenda was Merit Deputy Tyler Guenin, representing Sheriff Baker who had submitted a request for additional department vehicles and equipment. Guenin explained that the department is needing to lease two additional Dodge Charger vehicles at \$18,000 per year for three years; one is needed because, out of the current 20 merit deputies, there is one deputy that does not have a vehicle and is currently using a “pool” car but will be attending the law enforcement academy soon. Guenin explained that, as a result of hiring school resource officers, there will be a need for additional vehicles. The department will also need to add new equipment to the cars at a cost of \$20,000 for both cars. Guenin stated they will need to order the vehicles soon to get them outfitted within 2-3 months. Council requested that Sheriff Baker get the exact costs for the purchase of the vehicles and equipment for the May Council meeting.

The next order of business was to address the additional appropriation requests. Auditor Shepherd explained two of the requests and Probation Officer Trisha Hanes was present and explained the Aaction Fund request.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2019-85-02

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, 2019 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:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND #1000

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Jail- Janitorial Supplies #1000-21600-000-0033	\$112.00	\$112.00	6	0

Explanation submitted by Sheriff Baker: Appropriation to correct an error. Need to appropriate this amount back into the account/line item because an invoice was paid twice by the Sheriff Dept. and also by Community Corrections.

Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Co. Extension – Personal Services	\$2,000.00	\$2000.00	6	0

#1000-11809-000-0020

Explanation submitted by Director Angela Christopher: Need to appropriate a donation into the Extension budget in order to pay for a high school intern, not to exceed \$2,000.00. If the donation is not received next year for 2020 or after that, the intern position will not be filled.

Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Sweet seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

ADULT PROBATION ADMINISTRATIVE FEES FUND #2000

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Personal Services	\$34,517.00	\$34,517.00	6	0
#2000-11804-000-0000				

Explanation submitted by County Auditor Marcie Shepherd: During the 2019 budget hearings, Council removed one Probation Officer's salary from the General Fund with the intention of funding the salary from the Adult Probation Administrative Fees Fund. That change was omitted at the time of the 2019 budget approval so an additional appropriation is requested in order to fund the salary.

Dale made a motion to approve the request. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

ACTION FUND #1148

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Personal Services				
#1148-12200-000-0000	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00		
#1148-17100-000-0000	150.00	150.00		
Supplies				
#1148-21102-000-0000	638.09	638.09		
Other Services & Charges				
#1148-30141-000-0000	4,130.00	4,130.00		
#1148-30443-000-0000	5,312.91	5,312.91		
#1148-31030-000-0000	3,500.00	3,500.00		
#1148-31040-000-0000	1,200.00	1,200.00		
#1148-31070-000-0000	1,500.00	1,500.00		
#1148-31160-000-0000	3,000.00	3,000.00		
#1148-31191-000-0000	3,000.00	3,000.00		
#1148-31210-000-0000	2,700.00	2,700.00		
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$28,431.00	\$28,431.00	6	0

Explanation submitted by Probation Officer Trisha Hanes: The Aaction funds are not approved by the Aaction committee in time for the scheduled county budget hearings, so once the committee decides who and how much is being awarded, the amounts need to be appropriated in order to disburse the funds.

Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Sweet seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 15th day of April 2019 by the above aye and nay votes. The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriations to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

Next, on the agenda was an amendment to the 2019 Salary Ordinance. Present for this was Probation Officer, Trisha Hanes who explained the amendment. Auditor Shepherd also assisted with clarifications. Council had questions concerning the title of Court Services Supervisor and the resulting salary increase.

Explanation of request: When Community Corrections and the Probation department merged together, Jeff Hobson’s salary was increased from \$55,076 to \$62,534 to reflect his previous years of experience with Probation. The extra amount is coming from Community Corrections Project Income Fund from which he is currently paid. There is no additional appropriation required in order to reflect this increase because this is grant money and the State has already approved the increase.

AMENDMENT #2019-01 TO THE 2019 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, 2019 are as follows:

<u>FUND and TITLE of Position & Employee Classification</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
ADULT PROBATION ADMINISTRATIVE FEES FUND #2000-11804-000-0000 Probation Officer – J. Gibson	Additional pay: \$518.00 Total Salary: \$34,517.00
COMMUNITY CORRECTION PROJECT INCOME FUND #4960-11102-018-0000 Court Services Supervisor – J. Hobson	Additional pay: \$7,458.00 Total Salary: \$62,534.00

Dated this 15th day of April, 2019.

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Kyle Bowman	0	Matthew Mize
Randy Curless		
Barbara Pearson		
Matt Dillon		
Lorissa Sweet		
Philip Dale		

Attest: Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor

Dillon made a motion to approve the amendment to the 2019-01 Salary Ordinance. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote. A motion and a second to suspend the second reading of the ordinance passed by a 6/0 vote.

The next item on the agenda is the encumbrance of funds requests. There were no department representatives present, so Auditor Shepherd explained the encumbrance requests.

ENCUMBRANCE OF FUNDS from 2018 into 2019

FUND: Requested Approved AYE NAY

General Fund – EMA department

#1000-40430-000-0031 Capital Outlay/Motor Vehicle	\$12,000.00	12,000.00	6	0
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Explanation of request: Submitted by Keith Walters, EMA Director- EMA purchased a vehicle for \$38,920.00 and received a Homeland Security Grant for \$30,000.00 with the difference of \$8,920.00. The remaining \$3,080.00 will be needed to purchase emergency lighting and to pay for re-lettering the vehicle. The radios are moved from old to new and antennas are placed on the new vehicle. The current director’s vehicle will need to be lettered the same as current EMA pool vehicles and will be put in the EMA pool replacing a 2000 Explorer. Per Auditor Shepherd: The EMA encumbrance was submitted to the Auditor’s office in a timely manner in order to be presented with the original encumbrances, but this one was misplaced and not found until recently.

FUND:	Requested	Approved	AYE	NAY
Aaction Fund				
#1148-12200-000-0000 Payroll	2,775.00	2,775.00		
#1148-17100-000-0000 FICA/SS/Medicare	341.47	341.47		
#1148-21102-000-0000 Supplies/Equipment	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>		
Total:	\$4,116.47	\$4,116.47	6	0

Explanation of request: Submitted by Trisha Hanes, Probation Officer: The Aaction Committee agreed that the unexpended 2018 monies should be used in 2019. Per Auditor Shepherd: The Aaction Fund budget items are not typically encumbered, however, the Aaction Committee agreed to allow the Sheriff’s dept. to use the funds they did not spend last year.

Curless made a motion to approve the encumbrance requests as submitted. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

In regard to a non-agenda item, Auditor Shepherd explained that Sheriff Baker has received Commissioners’ approval to replace a door at a private residence that was destroyed by mistake by the Sheriff’s department. Baker had proposed to the Commissioners that one half of the door replacement costs will be paid from Commissary funds and the other half will be paid by the County. Auditor Shepherd reported that State statute says that Commissary monies can be spent at the Sheriff’s discretion under certain guidelines, so Council’s approval would not be necessary. Because of Sheriff Baker’s interpretation of the statute, he wants the approval of Council in order to proceed. It was the consensus of Council to approve the door replacement using Commissary funds and County funds as approved by the Commissioners.

Council reviewed:

- February & March 2019 Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports
- February & March 2019 Wabash County Solid Waste Mgmt. District Income Statement

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

The following individuals also attended the April 15th County Council meeting:

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

County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Jeff Dawes and Brian Hauptert and Wabash Plain Dealer reporter Kaitlyn Gebby.

