

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 17, 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. Seven Council members were present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Randy Curless, Matt Dillon, Lorissa Sweet, Philip Dale and Barbara Pearson. Bowman led in a word of prayer and 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 May 20, 2019 Council meeting. Dale made a motion to approve the minutes. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 5-0 vote in favor with Mize and Pearson abstaining due to absence from the May meeting.

Present for the next order of business was Keith Gillenwater, CEO of "Grow Wabash County" and Alan Marquardt of Custom Cartons, Inc., located at 3758W Old 24, in Noble Township who gave a history of his company and requested a ten-year tax abatement for equipment replacement because of his increasing business. Gillenwater had previously distributed copies of the "Statement of Benefits for Personal Property" form to council members. Marquardt explained that the company would like to replace die-cutter equipment with more efficient machinery. He stated that he has estimated that the upgrade would result in the addition of two new employees. Gillenwater reported that according to the evaluation of the Proposed Tax Abatement System, 50 points was assigned by the system which would qualify the business for a ten-year abatement. Council members and Tax Abatement committee members Randy Curless and Barbara Pearson gave a positive recommendation for the requested abatement

County Attorney Steve Downs submitted a "Declaratory Resolution" for the designation of an economic revitalization area for review and approval by County Council as the first step in the process to qualify for personal property tax abatement, followed by a public hearing and a confirmatory resolution. Council member Dillon asked how the property is zoned and Auditor Shepherd responded that it is zoned light manufacturing. He also asked why the area must be designated as an economic revitalization area. Downs responded that there is no re-zoning necessary and that the ERA designation is required per state statute in order to qualify for tax abatement. Curless made a motion to approve the declaratory resolution that would designate 3.335 acres as an economic revitalization area. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote with Dillon abstaining from the vote. See the following Resolution #2019-85-02:

**DECLARATORY RESOLUTION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA  
AT THE REQUEST OF CUSTOM CARTONS, INC.**

Custom Cartons, Inc. ("Applicant") has requested the County Council of Wabash County, IN ("Council") to find, pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5 that a tract of land in Wabash County, Indiana more particularly described as follows:

All parcels located in a part of the South half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 9, Township 27 North, Range 6 East.  
Parcel I: .0775 acres.

Parcel II: one acre and 2.56 acres.

Exception of one acre. Containing in the aggregate after said exception a total of 3.335 acres, more or less.

("Area") is an Economic Revitalization Area.

The area is located within the jurisdiction of the Council for the purposes of IC 6-1.1-12.1-2 and IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5.

The Applicant is planning to install new manufacturing equipment ("Project") as described in Applicant's Statement of Benefits ("Statement of Benefits") previously submitted to the Council.

The Council has reviewed the Statement of Benefits and hereby finds that the Project as described in the Statement of Benefits will be of public utility, will be to the benefit and welfare of all citizens and taxpayers of the County, and qualifies as investments for which deductions are permitted under IC 6-1.1-12.1-4.5.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council as follows:

Section 1. The Council hereby finds that (i) the Area is within the County, and (ii) the Area has become undesirable for, or impossible of, normal development and occupancy because of a lack of development, cessation of growth, deterioration of improvements or character of occupancy, age, obsolescence, substandard buildings or equipment, or factors which have impaired values and prevented a normal development of property and use of property.

Section 2. The Area is hereby declared to be an "economic revitalization area" pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1 et seq.

Section 3. Based on the information in the Statement of Benefits describing the Project, the Council makes the following findings:

- (a) The estimate of the value and cost of the Project is reasonable for projects of that nature.
- (b) The estimate of the number of individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained can be reasonably expected to result from the Project.
- (c) The estimate of the annual salaries of those individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained can be reasonably expected to result from the Project.
- (d) The estimate of the amount of solid waste that will be converted into energy or other useful products can be reasonably expected to result from the Project.
- (e) The other benefits about which information was requested are benefits that can be reasonably expected to result from the Project.
- (f) The totality of benefits is sufficient to justify the granting of personal property tax deductions to the Applicant pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-4.5, subject to the limitations set forth in the Resolution.

Section 4. Based on the information in the Statement of Benefits and the foregoing findings, the Council, pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-4.5, hereby approves and allows the Applicant personal property tax deductions for the Project located in the Area.

Section 5. The period for personal property tax deductions for the Project under IC 6-1.1-12.1-4.5 for new manufacturing equipment and new logistical distribution equipment installed in the Area shall be ten (10) years.

Section 6. Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-9.5, the Council hereby waives any noncompliance related to the failure to designate the Area an economic revitalization area prior to the initiation of the redevelopment or installation of new manufacturing equipment or new logistical distribution equipment. Such waiver will not result in a delay in the issuance of tax bills, require the recalculation of tax rates or tax levies for a particular year, or otherwise cause an undue burden on a taxing unit.

Section 7. Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5, there shall be published notice of the adoption and substance of this resolution in accordance with IC 5-3-1 ("Notice"), which Notice shall name a date for the public hearing on this matter ("Hearing") and state that at the conclusion of the Hearing the Council may take final action on the proposed designation and waivers. A copy of this resolution shall be filed with and shall be available for inspection in the office of the Wabash County Assessor.

Section 8. At least ten (10) days prior to the Hearing, pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5, the County Auditor shall file copies of the Notice and Statement of Benefits with the officers of each taxing unit that has the authority to fix budgets, tax rates, and tax levies under IC 6.1.1-17.5.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA  
By: Kyle Bowman, Chairman (signed)

Attest: Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor

Present for the next order of business was Purdue Extension educator, Mindy Mayes, who updated the Council members on the activities of the County Extension Office. She reported that the annual Purdue Farm Management tour will be held in Huntington and Wabash counties on June 27 & 28, 2019 and gave out copies of the tentative Wabash County 4-H Fair schedule.

Next on the agenda was Sheriff Ryan Baker who was present to request the hiring of a school resource officer immediately versus waiting until the beginning of the school year in August. Baker stated that he would like the officer to begin the SRO training as soon as possible and that it is given at various places throughout the State and that he has one officer ready for hire and another that will be interviewing. Mize made a motion to hire two school resource officers as soon as possible instead of waiting for the start of the school year. Dillon seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote. Auditor Shepherd asked Attorney Downs if the school resource officers' contract has been completed yet. Downs replied that the Commissioners, at their upcoming meeting on June 24, 2019 will be reviewing the School Resource Officer (SRO) contract which designates July 1, 2019 as the beginning hire date.

Sheriff Baker also reported on the Memorial Day storm damage sustained by several Sheriff's department vehicles in the amount of \$7-9,000.00. He said that one vehicle sustained extensive water damage and will need replaced without enough insurance to cover the cost. Mize asked the Sheriff if the department could get by without replacing vehicles until the end of the year. Baker said that all cars are needed and that he is still waiting on delivery of cars that have been on order for several months. Council's consensus was that Baker prepare exact figures for the cost of repairs and the replacement of the water-damaged vehicle and a proposed source of funding for consideration at next month's Council meeting.

Next on the agenda was Sarah Lochner, Chief Probation Officer and Director of Court Services and Probation Officer Trisha Hanes. Lochner was present to request the hiring of a part-time probation officer to assist with Community Corrections programming, pre-sentence investigation report writing, and Probation intake. Council member Mize, as a member of the Wage & Salary Committee stated that the committee had not met concerning this request, but had attempted to communicate through email. He said that he could not give a recommendation to Council concerning this request because he has more questions of Lochner. Lochner referred to the proposal that she had submitted and the reasons for the request. She stated that the position would require 25-29 hours per week and that it should be given a rate of pay consistent with the "Minimum Salary Schedule for Indiana Probation Officers". She requested that the position continue in the 2020 budget, and then, in the 2022 budget, the position would transition to full-time. Lochner stated that she would like to hire for this position by July 1, 2019 at approximately \$21,737.82 to be paid from the General Fund/Probation Department budget. She said there would be no additional cost to the County for the set-up of the intake space, computers, and office equipment because the set-up will be funded from the JDAI Grant. She also submitted a revised proposal that included the addition of FICA benefits in the amount of \$1,663.00 to be funded from the General Fund also. Mize stated concern about the timing of the request but after hearing Lochner's explanation about the need for the position, felt the reasons for hiring justified

the funding. Pearson asked where the new employee would be located within the department since office space is limited. Lochner stated that the employee would be mobile and portable and would be located in a section of the “Day Reporting” office. Pearson stated her concern about additional appropriations to the current budget that would be necessary to fund this request now. Pearson made a motion to table this request until it could be addressed during the 2020 budget hearings. Dillon seconded the motion but it failed by a 3-4 vote (3 in favor and 4 opposed). Lochner stated that she is aware of a probation officer with the necessary qualifications and experience whom the department trusts and who would be willing to start as a part-time employee. Mize made a motion to approve the hiring of a part-time employee as soon as possible as outlined in the revised proposal from Lochner. Curless seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-3 vote (4 in favor and 3 opposed). Chairman Bowman noted that an additional appropriations request for funding would need to be submitted for the next scheduled Council meeting.

The next order of business was to address the additional appropriation requests. Present for the requests were E911 Director Sandy Beeks. There was no one in attendance to represent the Circuit Court, so Auditor Shepherd explained the request.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2019-85-04**

**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:**

<b>STATEWIDE 911 FUND #1222</b>				
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Appropriated</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Professional Services #1222-30000-000-0000	\$36,774.00	\$36,774.00		
Professional Services #1222-30000-000-0000	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>		
Total:	\$51,774.00	\$51,774.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by E911 Director, Sandy Beeks: Council has approved two additional dispatchers at the first of 2019. The Statewide 911 Fund cannot pay for salaries, so the money will need to be transferred from the Statewide 911 Fund, professional services account into the PSAP/Public Safety Access Point Fund (#1235) for payment of additional dispatcher salaries.

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE FUND #4019**

	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Appropriated</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Software Installation #4019-30171-000-0000	\$5,397.00	\$5,397.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by Circuit Court Judge Robert McCallen: Requesting the replacement of 2012 recording software in the courtroom with software (BIS Digital Recording) that will interface with existing "Odyssey Case Management" system.

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

**Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 20th day of May 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.**

Council reviewed:

May 2019 Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

May 2019 Wabash County Solid Waste Mgmt. District Income Statement

Auditor Shepherd suggested that Council may want to review the procedures of the Wage & Salary Committee that are currently being followed for possible change or continuation. She explained that the committee's procedures are not those being followed as outlined in an attachment to the approved 2019 Salary Ordinance. She explained that the current procedures are resulting in no committee written recommendation for submission to and review by Council when a salary change or increase comes before Council. Council member Mize asked Shepherd to make notes on the committee's written procedures regarding the differences and possible changes and email these notes to each Council member before the next Council meeting.

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, July 15 at 6:00 P.M.

**The following individuals also attended the June 17th County Council meeting:**

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

Deputy Auditors B.J. Grube and Shelly Baucro, County Commissioners Jeff Dawes, Barry Eppley and Brian Hauptert, Attorney Mark Frantz, Deputy Sheriff Tyler Guenin and MSD School Superintendent Mike Keaffaber.