

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, March 15, 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, Philip Dale, in person and Lorissa Sweet and Barbara Pearson Via Zoom. 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 February 15, 2021 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Hann seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Ken Brown, Wabash County Coroner, requested adjustments to his 2021 budget. Brown explained he met with the PAC committee and requested to be able to pay a deputy to be on call as he goes to training and/or on vacation. PAC approved the On Call position. Brown is doing an internal transfer to move \$1,000 out of the Part-time account into the new On-Call account number to cover the costs. Dale asked how often he would use the on call; Brown said that it would not be often, only during training and/or vacation that happens a couple times a year. Dillon made a motion to approve a stipend for an on-call position. Hann seconded; it passed with a vote of 7-0.

Lori Draper, Clerk of the Courts, requested approval of a wage increase for the IV-D deputy of \$1,000. Draper said she met with the PAC committee and they approved the increase. Draper explained this fund does not have to be appropriated but wanted approval due to an amendment to the Salary Ordinance. Dale made a motion to allow the increase and later amendment to the Salary Ordinance. Dillon seconded; it passed with a vote of 7-0. Draper also informed the council she will not be replacing the election deputy at this time, as we do not have an election this year. She will decide at budget time if the position needs replaced.

Keith Walters, Wabash County EMA Director, informed the council that the Wabash County Health Department was awarded a grant for COVID-related expenses in the amount of \$40,320.00. Walters explained that the request for payment has been submitted to the ISDH, but the refrigerator for the vaccines has broken down. Walters requested to be allowed to purchase the new refrigerator and freezer for \$6,290.20 before receiving the funds. Dillon made a motion to allow the purchase of the refrigerator and freezer before the funds are received, Dale seconded; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff, requested to start the Assistant Jail Commander position approved by the PAC committee now. Baker will fund this position using the money currently in the Jail Officer line item. The Assistant Jail Commander position will replace a regular jail officer, not add another position. Dale made a motion to allow

the Assistant Jail Commander to start now and make an amendment to the Salary Ordinance at a later time; Dillon seconded; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2021-85-02

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, 2021 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:

	AUDITOR PLAT BOOK			
Personal Services	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
GIS Deputy 1181-11200-000-0000	\$1,642.00	\$1,642.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by Auditor Shepherd: When the Council moved the Deputy pay into the Auditor Plat Book fund, it still needed an additional amount to fully fund the pay.

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

	GENERAL FUND - JAIL			
Personal Services	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Commissary Clerk 1000-11315-000-0033	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by Sheriff Ryan Baker: This was inadvertently left out of the budget. PAC recommended paying the wages of the Commissary Clerk out of the general fund, once commissary was brought in house. At budget time this will be reviewed to see if the Commissary could be self-sustaining.

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

The next order of business was to address the Transfer of Funds request.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION
#2021-85-01

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, 2021, the following sums of money are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts.

		Amount Requested	Amount Transferred	AYE	NAY
<u>INCREASE</u>					
GENERAL FUND – COMMISSIONERS					
Jail Facility Existing	1000-40090-000-0029	\$9,295.00	\$ 9,295.00	7	0
Other Equipment	1000-40440-000-0029	\$149,000.00	\$149,000.00	7	0

DECREASE

GENERAL FUND – COMMISSIONERS

Wards/CT & ST	1000-30992-000-0029	\$158,295.00	\$158,295.00	7	0
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Explanation submitted by Auditor Shepherd and Sheriff Baker: These expenses were for the Guardian Property & Evidence Packaging system and the Tek 84 Wole Body Scanning System that were approved by the commissioners to come from the COVID Grant received last year before the change to use the grant on Payroll.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Before the Wabash County Council are the appointments of Mark Guenin and Roger Cromer to the Redevelopment Commission. The term of the appointment is for one year. Hann made a motion to approve the appointments. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 vote.

COUNTY JAIL UPDATE Wabash County Commissioner Brian Hauptert gave an update on the Jail project. The commissioners received seven proposals from architect firms showing interest in the jail project. They will take the next week to review all the submissions. They are starting to move forward with the project and need to talk about financial commitment. The commissioners will need to sign a contract with a financial advisor to be able to get the financial plan together. Hauptert stated he would like to have the council make areas whole again if they are used to pay upfront costs. A review of the county funds was made to see how the upfront costs could be paid. Bowman outlined a commitment to cover up to \$100,000 for small professional fees that would come from Public Safety, if they cannot find another fund to pay the costs from. Dale made a motion to spend up to \$100,000 in professional service fees in the form of an additional appropriation from Public Safety at a later time if the Commissioners cannot find a fund to pay from. Hann seconded; it passed with a 7-0 vote.

AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING LOCAL INCOME TAX ALLOCATIONS was revisited; Bowman suggested they consider modifying the Local Income Tax Allocation in an effort to be able to fund the jail project. One change proposed was to lower the Property Tax Relief Rate by .10% to raise the LIT Correctional Facility by .10% to generate the income needed to help finance the Jail. This will be reviewed again next month after the Financial Advisors suggest how to pay for the jail.

Council reviewed:
February 2021- Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, April 19, 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, Barry Eppley, and Brian Hauptert, Wabash County Attorney Steve Downs, Wabash County Highway Superintendent Cole Wyatt, Wabash County Surveyor Cheri Slee

Via ZOOM: Carrie Colvin, Rob Burgess & Josh Goodman

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