

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, April 19, 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, Lorissa Sweet and Barbara Pearson, in person and Philip Dale 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 March 15, 2021 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Hann seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote; Dale absent at this time.

COUNTY JAIL UPDATE Otto “Buzz” Krohn, Executive Partner with Krohn & Associates CPAs and Consultants, gave an update via Zoom on the preliminary illustration of Proposed Jail Financing. Krohn gave estimated sources & uses of funds; the cost will be broken out in more detail in subsequent updates, but to start working, the numbers he is using show an estimated cost of \$33 million. He then reviewed the amortization of \$33 million of proposed lease-rental bonds of 2021, explaining that Wabash County will need the maximum Jail LIT rate to offset roughly 2/3 of the annual Lease-Rental payment requirements. Krohn then reviewed how the Local Income Tax Distribution could be allocated to help maximize the Jail funding needed. A proposed timetable was reviewed, and in closing Krohn recommended that the county have a Building Corporation for the proposed lease rental.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS **ORDINANCE #2021-85-03**

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:

	PUBLIC SAFETY			
Personal Services	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Professional Services 1170-30000-000-0000	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by Auditor Shepherd: the additional is to pay for the services for the new jail – Survey/site prep, architect, financial advisor and bond council as discussed in the last meeting.

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

	FIREARM FUND			
Personal Services	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Flares & Ammo 1156-24600-000-0000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	7	0
Tasers 11-24601-000-0000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	7	0

Explanation submitted by Auditor Shepherd: During the budget hearings, council moved the Flares, Ammo and Tasers out of the General fund into the Firearm fund. This additional is to appropriate the funds into the firearm fund.

Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Sweet 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 proposals from architect firms showing interest in the jail project. They will take this week to review and approve the selection on Monday during the commissioners meeting. Pearson and Mize said they want the Jail committee to stay involved in the decision process until the jail is completed.

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% and raise the LIT Correctional Facility by .10% to generate the income needed to help finance the Jail as outlined by Mr. Krohn. Bowman would like to have the changes advertised to be able to vote on it as soon as possible. Shepherd said the timing would depend on the DLGF approval.

Council reviewed:

March 2021 – Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

February 2021 – Wabash County Solid Waste Management District income statement

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, May 17, 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 Baucio, County Commissioners Jeff Dawes, Barry Eppley, and Brian Hauptert, Wabash County Attorney Steve Downs, and Chris Lochner.

Via ZOOM: Rob Burgess

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

/S/Kyle Bowman, Chairman

/S/Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman

/S/Sam Hann

/S/Matt Dillon

/S/Lorissa Sweet

/S/Barbara Pearson

Attest: /S/Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor