

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 in the Commissioner's meeting room of the Wabash County Courthouse.

Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Council members present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Sam Hann, Matt Dillon, Barbara Pearson and Philip Dale. Lorissa Sweet was present via Zoom. Bowman opened with a word of prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco.

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 December 13, 2021 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Christa Stroup, Circuit Court Reporter, requested permission to apply for the 2022 Court Interpreter Grant through the Indiana Supreme Court. The court has two jury trials in which the defendants are Spanish and require interpreting services. This grant request is for \$25,000. Stroup said this grant is reimbursable and they have been using the funds left from the 2019 grant. Dillon made a motion to approve the grant. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by 7-0 roll call vote.

Christine Flohr, Visit Wabash County, gave a presentation on what Visit Wabash County is doing to attract visitors from all over the country. As of 2019 they saw tourism spending reach \$59 million, and continue to see tourism spending grow by the millions each year. Airbnb-style stays have increased in Wabash County. They have doubled Trolley Tours for 2022, because they sell out within two days. The Dam to Dam Century Bike Ride & D!M! Extreme Triathlon attracted people from 14 states across the country. All of that is in addition to selling conventions, meetings, private tours, and putting together an 82-page Visitor's Guide. Flohr is mentoring other counties on how to build excellent tourism organizations.

Bowman reported that the ARPA committee met this week to go over the plan needed to appropriate the funds. The US Treasury has issued new guidance for the funds that may allow anyone who received less than \$10 million to move the funds into the general fund. Eppley said they were looking to fund three drainage projects with the ARPA funds totaling around \$225,000. The ARPA committee of Sam Hann, Barbara Pearson, Kyle Bowman, Commissioners Barry Eppley, Jeff Dawes and Brian Hauptert and the Auditor will meet again before the next council meeting to work on the plan.

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, February 21, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

Deputy Auditor Kandy Barker, County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Jeff Dawes, and Brian Hauptert. Via Zoom: Rob Burgess.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL



Kyle Bowman, Chairman



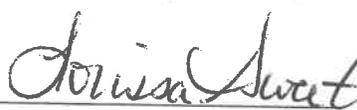
Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman



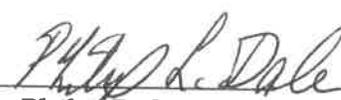
Sam Hann



Matt Dillon



Lorissa Sweet



Philip Dale

Barbara Pearson

Barbara Pearson

Attest: Marcie Shepherd

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor