

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, July 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, Lorissa Sweet, Barbara Pearson, Matt Dillon, Philip Dale and Sam Hann. Matthew Mize was absent. Bowman opened with a word of prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by County Auditor Marcie Shepherd.

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 June 20, 2022 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Hann seconded the motion and it passed by a 5-0 vote, Sweet abstained.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS** **ORDINANCE #2022-85-05**

**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, 2022 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>PUBLIC SAFETY #1170</b>		
	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>Personal Services</b>			
Photographic Supplies			
10170.22001.000.0000	\$27,741	6	0

County Sheriff Ryan Baker requested body cameras be purchased in connection with a grant he is to receive. Dillon made a motion to approve the appropriation. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

**JAIL UPDATE:** Todd Durnil, Owner's rep for the jail, presented (via Zoom) an update on the progress. The roofers have all had Covid but are back to work now. Durnil stated the steel cells should be showing up tomorrow, two weeks early. The cells will be offloaded into the building, install them and will tarp them. All is looking good, but Stage 4 is going out to bid late, waiting on INDOT permits and Indiana American Water. He is looking to bid this out later this month; the jail should still be on schedule. Jail is looking to be done around March/April 2023 and turning it over May/June for the jail staff to be trained. Bowman asked if we are far enough along to have numbers on personnel for budgets. Tyler Guenin said they are currently fully staffed at the jail, but a lot of them are new. Auditor Shepherd showed some photos of the progress of the jail.

**MILEAGE:** Auditor Shepherd gathered the information requested and sent it out in the packet to Council. Dillon said everyone's budget looks like they should be able to pay an increased rate. Hann suggested we start matching the state rate of \$0.49. Bowman suggested a set rate of \$0.50 a mile, instead of changing quarterly as the state does. Everyone was in agreement to this and requested Auditor Shepherd to prepare an ordinance to present at the next meeting and that it should be reviewed each year.

**Items for Review:**

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports – June 2022

Solid Waste Management District Income Statements – May/June 2022

Review information from Wabash County Bar Association information on Work Release. Dillon said we need some kind of solution whether it be at the new jail site or old jail. Hann said he also thinks it a great program but we need some numbers to know if they would need a new building or use of the old jail. Eppley discussed the need to look at the cost of both before making a decision. Pearson has concerns of the success of the program and the cost to the taxpayers. The county is also currently looking at a resolution going around for a new school, and new places need to be

found for the Health department and Probation. What is the success rate of the program, how many people have gone through the program? How many people have come back through the program. Hann asked if we using the space we have now and are we utilizing every bed we have in the program. Dale said the biggest drawback of the program is qualifying for it. He is not ready to throw money at it without using what we have. Sweet agrees that taxpayers are maxed out on paying taxes and we should not ask for more at this time. Hauptert said the jail watches the work release people currently. How are they going to staff it after the jail moves? Bowman said work release will have to stop in 2023 when we move to the new jail or hire new staff. Eppley and Hauptert said there will be a stop to the program but they want to work on a way for it to proceed. We will also need to look at where the Community Corrections workers will work during the transition. Dawes would like work release to work at capacity from now until then to show it is a successful program. Bowman will reach out and try to get more information on the program and express concern about the program's success. Guenin said that the Sheriff had reviewed state status and they can only have eight people due to shower availability. Pearson asked the status on finding a place for the Health department; Eppley said right now it is on the back burner.

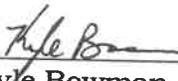
With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Tuesday, August 16 at 1:00 P.M for the 2023 Budget Departmental meetings.

**The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:**

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Chief Deputy Sheriff Tyler Guenin, Cole Wyatt, Commissioners Barry Eppley, Jeff Dawes, and Brian Hauptert. Via Zoom: Rob Burgess and Marcie Shepherd.

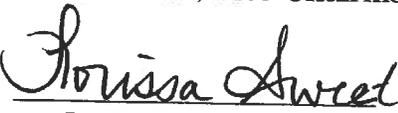
**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

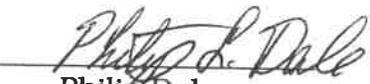
  
 Kyle Bowman, Chairman

  
 Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman

  
 Sam Hann

  
 Matt Dillon

  
 Lorissa Sweet

  
 Philip Dale

  
 Barbara Pearson

Attest:   
 Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor