

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Thursday, January 5, 2023 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Via Zoom, County Auditor Marcie Shepherd called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. since a new Council chairman had yet to be elected. Five council members were present: Kyle Bowman, Barbara Pearson, Matt Mize, Sam Hann and Nick Kopkey; Matt Dillon and Phil Dale arrived later. Bowman led in a word of prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

The first order of business was the election of the 2023 County Council Chairman. Mize nominated Kyle Bowman for Council Chairman. Hann seconded the nomination. No other nominations were heard. Mize made a motion to close the nominations. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0 vote. Auditor Shepherd called for the vote. The motion to elect Kyle Bowman as 2023 County Chairman passed by a 5-0 vote. Auditor Shepherd turned the floor over to Chairman Bowman. Bowman asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Hann nominated Matthew Mize as Vice-Chairman for 2023. Pearson seconded the nomination. No other nominations were heard. Hann made a motion to close the nominations. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0 vote. Bowman called for the vote. The motion to elect Matthew Mize as 2023 Vice-Chairman passed by a 5-0 vote.

Council reviewed the proposed 2023 schedule of meeting dates. Dillon made the motion to approve the schedule as presented. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote (Dale was absent).

The County Auditor was directed to post the meeting schedule:

January 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
February 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
March 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
April 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
May 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
June 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
July 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
August 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
September 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
October 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
December 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Departmental Budget hearings will be held on August 15 and 16, 2023 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Final review of the 2024 Budgets will be following the August 17 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the Budget schedule. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Council then reviewed the designation of Council liaisons for the purpose of assisting elected officials and departments supervisors throughout 2023 and assist with the 2024 budget request later in the year:

Kyle Bowman: Purdue Extension, Probation/Community Corrections (now known as Court Services), and County Surveyor

Phil Dale: County Highway, Soil & Water Conservation District, and EMA

Matt Dillon: County Clerk, County Health, County Commissioners, and CASA

Matthew Mize: County Treasurer, Circuit Court, Superior Court, and County Sheriff.

Barbara Pearson: County Assessor, County Recorder, and Weights and Measures

Sam Hann: County Auditor, Veteran's Service, and Area Planning

Nick Kopkey: County Prosecutor, Central Dispatch, Solid Waste Management District, and County Coroner

Next order of business was the 2023 appointments:

Kyle Bowman: ARPA funds, Court Services

Phil Dale: Emergency Management Advisory Council and Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and Region III A

Matt Dillon: County Tax Abatement Committee, Personnel Administrative Committee, and Health Board

Matt Mize: Financial Review and Personnel Administrative Committee

Barbara Pearson: ARPA funds, County Tax Abatement Committee

Sam Hann: ARPA funds Plan Commission Board and GIS

Nick Kopkey: Central Dispatch Advisory Board and Solid Waste Management District

Mark Frantz, County Attorney representative, presented a Waiver of Trial for the judges' mandate. Frantz said the matter was set for trial but if the waiver is signed now, we would not have to pay the mediator. After discussion, Mize made a motion to sign the Waiver of Trial. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 4/3 roll call vote. Mize-yes; Kopkey-no; Dale-yes; Dillon-no; Hann-yes; Pearson-no; and Bowman-yes.

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, January 17, 2023 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 Baucco, Commissioner Jeff Dawes.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL



Kyle Bowman, Chairman



Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman



Sam Hann


Matt Dillon

Nick Kopkey


Philip Dale
Barbara Pearson

Attest: 

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor