

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, April 18, 2023 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, Barbara Pearson, Matt Dillon, Nick Kopkey, Sam Hann and Philip Dale. Matthew Mize was absent. Hann 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.

First order of business was review and approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2023 meeting. Dale made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 4-0 with Dillon and Kopkey not yet in attendance.

Darren Bates of Data Pit Stop reviewed options for modifying the Local Income Tax Allocations due to changes required by the state. Bates stated we need to change the allocation percentages for PTRC (Property Tax Relief Credit); this change is needed as the State has done away with the credit for Qualified Residential. Bates explained that he has changed the percentages around that would make the tax bills relatively the same for 2024, if the tax rate was the same. The other option would be to reduce the income tax rate, which would make Wabash County more attractive to those considering moving here. Bowman directed the Auditor to proceed with the first option that would not change the taxes much for next year. Dillion made a motion for Auditor Shepherd to prepare the Ordinance for the next council meeting with the changes to percentages that will keep the tax bills close to what they are this year. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Cole Wyatt, Wabash County Highway Superintendent, presented changes to payroll. Wyatt had submitted this request to the PAC committee and has not received a suggestion. The change would give Class A and Class B CDL license holders a yearly stipend of \$5,000 and \$2,000 respectively. Dillon made a motion to approve the stipends. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

COUNTY TAX ABATEMENTS:

David Flora, Midwest Poultry Services, presented his CF1 for his real and personal property. Flora said that 2022 was a challenge but they are in compliance.

Donna Huneryager, Lens Source Optical Laboratory; Vision Properties, presented real and personal property CF1's. Huneryager said they are in compliance.

Advanced Ag Resources and Custom Cartons submitted CF1's to the Auditor to present to Council. Shepherd stated that the company reported they are in compliance. Dale made a motion to approve all the abatements. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-1 vote.

WORK RELEASE FUNDING:

Chairman Bowman asked the Commissioners what they would be funding in regards to the work release building. Hauptert said they would build the building in the \$2 million budget. Pearson asked who would be heading up the project. Hauptert reported that Terry Burnworth with Pyramid will be the architect for the building. The estimated hard cost and soft costs for the Architecture fees will be \$100,000. Hauptert reported that it could be possible for the project to go out for bid in June. Pearson asked if any other firms had been contacted for the project; Burnworth said that 5% of gross cost is low and no other firms would charge so little. Gary Ridenour stated that he would like to see the architect work be put out for bid. Council members Bowman and Hann requested that the commissioners put the architecture fees out for a RFP and report back at the next meeting. Bowman requested Burnworth track his time to be sure he is paid.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2023-85-02

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, 2023 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:

OPIOID FUNDS #1237				
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
WC Drug Prevention Comm				
1237.30000.000.0000	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00		Tabled

GENERAL FUND # 1000				
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Inmate Transfers				
1000.30331.000.0033	\$960,000	\$500,000	6	0

Auditor Shepherd explained that this line was cut during the budget hearings in anticipation of the new jail being ready. Dillon made a motion to appropriate \$500,000 at this time from the General Fund. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Bowman expressed his appreciation to Barb Pearson for serving Wabash County. The Council wishes her the best as she moves on to the next chapter of her life.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is May 22, 2023.

Items for Review:

- Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for March 2023
- Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for March 2023
- Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation Update - March 2023

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Baucco, Gary Ridenour, Terry Burnworth, Connie Rich, Jim Dixon, Tyler Guenin, and Jeff Ravenscroft.

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