

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, May 17, 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. Sweet 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 April 19, 2021 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Cheri Slee, Wabash County Surveyor presented: RESOLUTION NO. 2021-85-04. A Resolution authorizing a loan to finance reconstruction of the Revere Speicher Drain #640B Drain. Mize made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-85-04 that will cost up to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00), the loan to be at Crossroads with an APR of 2.25%. Sweet seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Geoff Schortgen, CED Purdue Extension Educator, was present and gave an updated report on the Purdue Extension office:

1. The outreach is growing now that they are getting back into the schools. Schortgen provided a copy of the 2020 Impact Report and the May 2021 Newsletter AG Connections sent out.
2. Purdue Extension's work with Heartland Career Center Precision Ag Team has given them statewide recognition for their UAV programs.
3. Purdue Fast Start program is an early money-saver toward a Purdue degree by helping students take the first steps toward a Purdue degree.
4. The County Fair will be in person and the animals will be staying on site. Fair week is July 16 to July 24, 2021.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS **ORDINANCE #2021-85-04**

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:

GENERAL FUND

Personal Services	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
High School Intern 1000-11809-000-0020	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	7	0

Explanation by Geoff Schortgen: they have an anonymous donor that donates each year to offer a student an opportunity of working at the Extension office to learn more about the behind-the-scenes of 4-H, Ag and HHS. The donor requested that the funds be used specifically for this; the funds were received on January 8, 2021.

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

Other Services & Charges	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Highway Garage Project 1000-30021-000-0032	\$275,000.00	\$275,000.00	7	0

Explanation by Auditor Shepherd: the highway garage project began in 2020 due to covid and the garage needing to be socially distanced. The project was approved by the IFA and the Commissioners at the time. The funds for the project have been placed in the general fund – due to the change in the reimbursement process. The estimate of the project is between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

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

HIGHWAY FUND

Supplies	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Liquid Bituminous 1173-26000-000-0000	\$240,000.00	\$240,000.00	7	0

Explanation by Cole Wyatt, Superintendent: During the budget, this amount was removed to meet the DLGF's request.

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

Dennis Otten, Bose McKinney & Evans LLP via Zoom presented; RESOLUTION 2021-85-07, Resolution of Wabash County, Indiana, relating to the Financing of a Sheriff's office and jail facility project and approving a form of taxpayer petition in connection therewith.

Mize asked the make-up of the Building Corp; Otten said they would need 3 like-minded people. They do not need to be commissioners or council. Mize suggested one from council, one from commissioners and 1 citizen. The petition needs to be done by the end of May. The Building Corp would be set up in June. Mize made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-85-07 in the amount not to exceed \$40,000,000 and upon receipt of at least 50 taxpayer signatures on the petition. Hann seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Jerrold Hall, Krohn & Associates via Zoom presented; ORDINANCE 2021-85-04, An ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the County and, if necessary, bond anticipation notes, for the purpose of providing funds to be applied on preliminary costs of the design, acquisition and construction of a sheriff's office and jail facility. Hann made a motion to

approve Ordinance 2021-85-04 in the amount not to exceed \$3,500,000. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote. Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules and move to second reading. Sweet seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote. Hann made a motion for approval on the second reading. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

COUNTY JAIL UPDATE Wabash County Commissioner Brian Haupert gave an update on the Jail project. The commissioners have had the first meeting with the architect RQAW for the jail project . They will have the second meeting on May 18, 2021. Haupert said most of the design decisions are up to Sheriff Baker and his staff right now. Mize said they want the Jail committee to stay involved in the decision process and Haupert said after they have some sketches done, they could meet with the jail committee to keep them up to date.

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 to raise the LIT Correctional Facility by .10% to generate the income needed to help finance the Jail as outlined by Mr. Krohn. Shepherd said the new Ordinance is at the DLGF for approval and once she gets it back, she will be able to advertise. This process could take up to 30 days.

Council reviewed:

April 2021 – Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

March 2021 – Wabash County Solid Waste Management District income statement

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Herby and Maxine Hughs asked who they would speak to about drainage issues on 100 E off of State Road 15 S. Hughs explained when it rains the water is not draining as it should and he believes the tile is blocked or broken. Commissioner Eppley informed him that they were currently looking into this problem. Deirdre Earl said the flooding is getting really bad and would like the County to do something. All present were told that if they would like more information or express concerns, they could attend the Wabash County Drainage Board meeting which are held on the 1st & 3rd Mondays each month.

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, June 21, 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 Baucco, County Commissioners Jeff Dawes, Barry Eppley, and Brian Haupert, Wabash County Attorney Steve Downs, Wabash County Sheriff Ryan Baker, Chief Deputy Tyler Guenin and Alex Brainard. Via ZOOM: Rob Burgess, Jarrod Hall, Dennis Otten.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

/s/Kyle Bowman, Chairman /s/Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman /s/Sam Hann

/s/Matt Dillon /s/Lorissa Sweet /s/Philip Dale

/s/Barbara Pearson

Attest: /s/Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor