

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 21, 2021 in the Commissioner’s Meeting room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Vice-Chairman Matt Mize called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Mize, Sam Hann, Matt Dillon, Barbara Pearson and Phil Dale. Chairman Kyle Bowman was present via Zoom and Lorissa Sweet was absent. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor Marcie Shepherd.

The first order of business was the review of the minutes of the May 17, 2021 meeting. Dillon made the motion to approve the minutes. Dale seconded the motion; roll call votes were taken, it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Julie Garber, Imagine One 85, presented an update of the Imagine One 85 Wabash County Comprehensive Plan. Imagine One 85 is a coalition of leaders from all sectors that are joining in an unprecedented countywide collaboration to develop a bold, comprehensive plan for the growth and prosperity of the entire county. County citizens are invited to a growth summit being held on July 14, 2021 at the Honeywell Plaza.

David Milliner requested information concerning the petition to close portions of 50 E, 1050 S and Bridge 144. Milliner stated he was not in favor of the bridge closure. Mize stated he was unaware of the bridge Milliner was speaking about but would discuss with the Commissioners and Highway Department Superintendent and would discuss with Milliner.

Next on the agenda came a public hearing discussing Ordinance 2021-85-06 Modifying Local Income Tax Allocation:

### **BEFORE THE WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-85-06**

#### **AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING LOCAL INCOME TAX ALLOCATIONS**

On June 21, 2021, a public hearing was held to consider an ordinance (a) decreasing property tax relief rates from 0.50% to 0.40%, and (b) allocating 0.1% to the LIT Correctional Facility. Proper notice of the public hearing was provided pursuant to IC 5-3-1.

**BE IT ORDAINED** that, effective January 1, 2022, the local income tax rate imposed within the County shall be modified as follows:

<b>Local Income Tax Type</b>	<b>Existing Rate</b>	<b>Proposed Rate</b>
Property Tax Relief Rate (IC 6-3.6-5)	0.50%	0.40%
Expenditure Rate (IC 6-3.6-6-10)	2.4%	2.5%

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that, as of January 1, 2022, the previously imposed expenditure rate under IC 6-3.6-6 shall be allocated as follows: Revenue derived from the first 0.25% of the expenditure rate shall be used to provide for distributions to school corporations

and other civil taxing units in accordance with IC 6-3.6-6-3. The remaining revenue shall be allocated as follows:

<b>Allocation Rate Category</b>	<b>Existing Allocation Percentage</b>	<b>Proposed Allocation Percentage</b>
Public Safety	.34%	.34%
Economic Development	.25%	.25%
Certified Shares	1.71%	1.71%
LIT Correctional Facility	0.10%	.20%

<b>Property Tax Credit Allocation Categories (IC 6-3.6-5-6)</b>	<b>Existing Percent of Revenue</b>	<b>Proposed Percent of Revenue</b>
All Property Tax Allocation Categories	40%	40%
1% Homestead eligible for credit under IC 6-1.1-20.6-7.5	20%	20%
Residential property, as defined in 6-1.1-20.6-4	40%	40%

The public safety allocation identified above includes revenue associated with an expenditure rate that was previously authorized for the purpose of funding the county's public safety access point ("PSAP"). The revenue associated with this rate shall be directed to the PSAP prior to the distribution of the remainder of the public safety revenue.

<b>Allocation Rate Category</b>	<b>Existing LIT Rate</b>	<b>Proposed LIT Rate</b>
Public Safety (IC 6-3.6-6)	0.34%	0.34%
Local Income Tax Type	Existing PSAP Rate	Proposed PSAP Rate
Public Safety Access Point Rate	0.09%	0.09%

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that, as of January 1, 2022, the previously imposed expenditure rate under IC 6-3.6-6 shall be allocated as follows:

The expenditure rate identified above includes a rate associated with revenue to be directed to the LIT Correctional Facility; the expenditure rate being directed to the LIT Correctional Facility after adoption of this ordinance is as follows:

<b>Local Income Tax Type</b>	<b>Existing Rate</b>	<b>Proposed Rate</b>
Correctional Facility	.1%	0.20%

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the rates and allocations described herein shall continue in effect until rescinded or modified.

After discussions and no objections from the public, Hann made the motion to approve Ordinance 2021-85-06. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. Dillon made the motion to suspend the rules and proceed to second reading. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. Dale made the motion to approve Ordinance 2021-85-06 on the second reading. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Sarah Lochner, Chief Probation Officer, stated she would like to have a work release building constructed at the new jail site. The work release program is a type of alternative sentencing. Recent discussions with Terry Burnworth and

the Commissioners are estimating the cost to be approximately \$3,000,000 for a stand-alone 50 bed facility, and estimated \$372,000 annual operating cost. If the facility was to be attached to the new jail, the amount would increase to approximately \$7,000,000 as the addition would need to be built to jail specifications.

Lochner stated the work release program consists of 18 beds with 10 people currently on work release. Due to logistics, the program is not filled to capacity, nor does it allow for women on work release. A new facility would generate approximately \$228,000 annually which would be available to offset programing and staffing. After discussion, the Council requested more information on the work release program. Lochner is to provide the statistics requested.

Next on the agenda was a public hearing for Ordinance 2021-85-07  
Appropriation Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-85-07**  
**APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, the County Council of Wabash County, Indiana (the “Council” and the “County”, respectively) has determined to proceed with the financing of the preliminary costs of the design, acquisition and construction of a sheriff’s office and jail facility (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the estimated cost of the Project, and the incidental expenses necessary to be incurred in connection with the Project, and with the issuance of bonds and, if necessary, bond anticipation notes (the “BANs”) to finance the Project, will be in an amount not to exceed Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000); and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined to issue local income tax revenue bonds and, if necessary, BANs in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) to fund the costs of the Project; and

WHEREAS, there has been published a notice of a public hearing on the appropriation of the proceeds of the local income tax revenue bonds and, if necessary, BANs to be held on this date, the hearing has been held and the Council has considered the evidence presented at the hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Council now finds that the County does not have sufficient funds available or provided for in the existing budget and tax levy to fund the cost of the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF WABASH, INDIANA THAT:

Section 1. The Council finds that all proceedings required before appropriation of the proceeds of the income tax revenue bonds and, if necessary, BANs have been accomplished and completed.

Section 2. For the purpose of paying the cost of the Project and incidental expenses necessary to be incurred with the Project and the local income tax revenue bonds and, if necessary, BANs, an amount not to exceed Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) shall be appropriated from the proceeds of the local income tax revenue bonds and, if necessary, BANs.

Section 3. The Auditor is directed to submit and certify this ordinance and the related proceedings to the Department of Local Government Finance in accordance with Indiana Code 6-1.1-18-5.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

After discussions and no objections from the public, Dillon made the motion to approve Ordinance 2021-85-07. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. Dillon made the motion to suspend the rules and proceed to second reading. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. Dale made the motion to approve Ordinance 2021-85-06 on the second reading. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The next order of business was the review of additional appropriation request:

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE 2021-05**

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 expenses of the taxing unit, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

<b>JAIL PROJECT #4971</b>				
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Appropriated</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>
Other Services & Charges	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,500,000.00	6	0
Professional Services #4971-30000-000-0000				

Dillon made the motion to approve the request. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

The next order of business was the review of transfer request.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION**  
**2021-02**

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to transfer appropriations from one major budget classification to another within the same fund;  
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 sums of

money are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the appropriated accounts herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

	Amount Requested	Amount Transferred	AYE	NAY
<b><u>INCREASE</u></b>				
<b>GENERAL FUND – PLAN COMMISSION</b>				
Applicant Legal Ads 1000-20000-000-0020	400.00	400.00	6	0
<b>GENERAL FUND – VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER</b>				
Cemetery Flags 1000-21500-000-0025	700.00	700.00	6	0

SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts:

			AYE	NAY
<b><u>DECREASE</u></b>				
<b>GENERAL FUND – PLAN COMMISSION</b>				
Operating Supplies 1000-30330-000-0020	400.00	400.00	6	0
<b>GENERAL FUND – VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER</b>				
Education & Training 1000-30110-000-0025	700.00	700.00	6	0

Explanation submitted by Auditor Shepherd for Plan Commission: due to the increase in Special Exceptions, variances and vacate requests, the legal ad line item is low on funds. The Plan Commission pays for the legal ads and the applicant reimburses the county for the cost of the ads, which is deposited into the County General fund.

Explanation submitted by Sam Daugherty, Veteran Service Officer: additional flags are being requested by the area county legions. Since the training conferences have been moved to virtual this year, he is requesting to use the funds to purchase more flags to have on hand as requests come in.

Dillon made the motion to approve the transfer request for the Plan Commission. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Dillon made the motion to approve the transfer request for the Veteran Service Officer. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

With no other business to come before the Council, Vice-Chairman Mize adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, July 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

County Commissioners Jeff Dawes and Barry Eppley, Steve Downs, Sam McFadden, Judge Ben Vanderpool, Judge Robert McCallen, Bill Hartley, Connie Rich, Tyler Guenin, Sheriff Ryan Baker, Cole Wyatt. *Via Zoom:* Chairman Kyle Bowman and Rob Burgess.

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

/s/Kyle Bowman, Chairman      /s/Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman      /s/ Philip Dale

/s/Matt Dillon                      /s/Barbara Pearson                      /s/Lorissa Sweet

/s/Sam Hann

Attest: /s/Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor