

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, December 8, 2025, 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, Matthew Mize, Dave Terflinger, Matt Dillon, Sam Hann and Nick Kopkey. Gary Ridenour was absent at home recuperating from surgery. Bowman opened with a prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Shelly Bauccho.

First order of business was a review and approval of the minutes from October 20, 2025 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Terflinger seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0 vote with 1 abstained from voting (Hann).

Geoffery Schortgen, Director of the Wabash County Purdue Extension, came before the council to provide an end of year update about the programs that they were able to provide this year with the addition of Blake Huston as the new 4-H Youth Development Educator and Jessi Huston, no relation to Blake, as the new Health and Human Services Educator. Schortgen highlighted the success of the County Fair as well as the Ag Expo for the County 4th graders. He also stated that there has been success with their Mock Grocery Store and with the program for providing raised beds to grow produce in with the Master Gardeners. Bowman thanked Schortgen for the update.

Bowman presented the Appointment of Laura Rager to the Visit Wabash County Board of Directors. Bowman stated that they had a nomination for Laura Rager and asked for comments or questions. Mize motioned to approve the appointment. Hann seconded the motion; it passed with a 5-0-1 (Dillon abstain) vote.

Transfer Resolution 2025-85-12: Bowman stated this is common towards the end of the year, and he would read through the resolution quickly and then the council could respond to the resolution as a whole. After all items were read Terflinger asked how much a drug screen cost, Bauccho advised that we pay about \$8,000 a Month, we pay for all the screenings. Hann motioned to approve the transfer resolution. Dillion seconded the motion; it passed with a 6-0 vote.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION NO. 2025-85-12

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, 2025 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:

INCREASE		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
<u>GENERAL FUND - CORONER:</u>					
Transports	1000.30230.0000.0007	\$900.00	900.00	6	0
Autopsies	1000.30120.0000.0007	\$1,325.00	1325.00	6	0
Autopsies	1000.30120.0000.0007	\$1,325.00	1325.00	6	0
<u>GENERAL FUND - PURDUE EXTENSION:</u>					
Office Supplies	1000.21100.0000.0020	\$1,314.00	3314.00	6	0
Office Supplies	1000.21100.0000.0020	\$600.00	600.00	6	0
<u>GENERAL FUND - CIRCUIT COURT:</u>					
Petit Jurors	1000.13500.0000.0035	\$6,000.00	6,000.00	6	0
Petit Jurors	1000.13500.0000.0035	\$7,000.00	7,000.00	6	0
<u>GENERAL FUND - PROBATION:</u>					
Office Equipment	1000.40420.0000.0037	\$3,822.50	3822.50	6	0
Adult Services/Drug Screens	1000.30004.0000.0037	\$5,000.00	5,000.00	6	0
Education & Training	1000.30110.0000.0037	\$806.80	806.80	6	0
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY:</u>					
Liability Insurance	1176.30420.0000.0000	\$50,500.00	50,500.00	0	0

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

DECREASE		Amount Requested	Amount Approved	AYE	NAY
GENERAL FUND - COMMER:					
Operating Supplies	1000.38000.0000.0007	\$900.00	900.00	6	0
Autopsy Supplies	1000.22410.0000.0007	\$1,325.00	1,325.00	6	0
Biological Supplies	1000.23405.0000.0007	\$1,325.00	1,325.00	6	0
GENERAL FUND - FUNDING EXTENSION:					
PT Secretary	1000.11906.0000.0020	\$3,314.00	3,314.00	6	0
Computer Lease	1000.30714.0000.0020	\$400.00	400.00	6	0
GENERAL FUND - CIRCUIT COURT:					
PD Appeals	1000.30280.0000.0035	\$4,000.00	4,000.00	6	0
PD Appeals	1000.30280.0000.0035	\$7,000.00	7,000.00	6	0
GENERAL FUND - PROBATION:					
PT Intake Officer	1000.11418.0000.0017	\$3,872.30	3,872.30	6	0
PT Security Officer	1000.11908.0000.0017	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	6	0
PT Security Officer	1000.11908.0000.0017	\$806.80	806.80	6	0
MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY:					
Health Insurance	1176.17300.0000.0000	\$50,500.00	50,500.00	6	0

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 8th day December, 2025, by the following aye and nay vote:

AYE	NAY
	
	
	
	
	

ATTEST: 
Shelly Baucce, Wabash County Auditor

Resolution Number 2025-85-13 A Resolution Authorizing a loan to finance reconstruction of the Henry Keaffaber Drain #584: Bowman asked the question as to where the drain located in the county. The Drainage board advised that the drain is located north of Urbana near SR 16. The work has been started and there was also a lawsuit involved in this work that had to be resolved before the work could be completed. Terflinger motioned to approve the resolution. Hann Seconded the motion; it passed with a 6-0 vote.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-85- 13

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOAN TO FINANCE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HENRY KEAFFABER DRAIN #584

The Wabash County Drainage Board has determined that a loan in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-Severn Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$167,500.00) will need to be obtained to reconstruct the Hansing Branch of the Henry Keaffaber Drain #584, and has asked the Council to obtain a loan in that amount in accordance with the Drainage Board's resolution adopted November 3, 2025.

The cost is an amount that the owners of the land to be assessed may conveniently pay in installments over a five (5) year period.

Having made such determinations, the Drainage Board, under I.C. 36-9-27-97.5, has asked the County Council to obtain a loan from a bank, trust company, savings association, or savings bank authorized to engage in business in Wabash County, to finance such reconstruction, with the interest on the loan and loan processing fee part of the final assessment under I.C. 36-9-27-84(a), and, notwithstanding I.C. 36-9-27-85(c), with interest on the loan charged back to the benefited landowner at a rate that is set in accordance with I.C. 36-9-27-97.5(b).

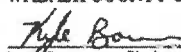
Any loan obtained under I.C. 36-9-27-97.5: (1) must have a fixed or variable interest rate; (2) must mature within six (6) years after the day it is obtained; (3) shall be repaid from installments collected from assessments of landowners over a five (5) year period; and (4) is not subject to the provisions of I.C. 36-9-27-94 that concern interest.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED:

That the Wabash County Council shall obtain a loan in the amount of up to One Hundred Sixty-Severn Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$167,500.00) to reconstruct the Hansing Branch of the Henry Keaffaber Drain #584 with the interest on the loan and loan processing fee part of the final assessment under I.C. 36-9-27-84(a), and, notwithstanding I.C. 36-9-27-85(c), with interest on the loan charged back to the benefited landowner at a rate that is set in accordance with I.C. 36-9-27-97.5(b).

Dated this 8th day of December, 2025.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL


Kyle Bowman, Chairman

Attest:


Shelly Baucce, Auditor

Additional Appropriation 2025-85-21: Baucco advised the first one is from Solid Waste Management, there was some confusion as to how it should be handled, some thought it was a transfer not an additional appropriation. Mize motioned to approve the additional appropriation for Solid Waste. Hann seconded the motion; it passed with a 6-0 vote. Next item was a for Edit Fund to appropriate to fund the animal shelter. There was some discussion on the funding. Mize motioned to deny the request. Terflinger seconded the motion; it passed with a 5-1 vote (Dillion). Next was an additional for \$358 for Computer monitors. Baucco advised that the assessor wanted to replace monitors and was not aware that she could budget for this. Terflinger motioned to approve the Appropriation. Mize seconded the motion; it passed with a 5-1 vote (Hann). The last appropriation item was for the County Sheriff Pension fund to keep that fund from being in the negative. Hann motioned to approve the appropriation. Dillion seconded the motion; it passed with a 6-0 vote.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE 2025-85-21

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:


		Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND					
Other Services and Charges					
Facility R&M	6361	\$51,900.00	51,900.**	6	0
EDIT FUND					
Other Services and Charges					
	1112.30810.000.0000	\$25,000.00	0	5	1
COUNTY SALES DISCLOSURE FEES					
Capital Outlays					
Computer Equipment	1131.40400.000.0000	\$358.00	358.**	5	1
COUNTY SHERIFF PENSION					
Personal					
Sheriff Pension	1193.17400.000.0000	\$4,000.00	4,000	6	0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 8th day of December 2025 by the following aye and nay vote:

AYE	NAY
	
	
	

The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriations to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

Kyle Bowman
Chairman, Wabash County Council

ATTEST 
Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor

Ordinance 2025-85-22 Amending ordinance 2024-85-11 The Salaries and Wages Ordinance: Bowman advised that this was to clean up loose ends—didn't have hourly pay spreads correct for some departments and had some items added that were not in the 2024 ordinance due to not having the grant funding when the ordinance was done. Dillion motioned to approve the Ordinance. Hann Seconded the motion; it passed with a 6-0 vote.

ORDINANCE 2025-85-22
AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-85-11
THE 2025 SALARIES AND WAGES ORDINANCE

Whereas: Public Law No. 231 requires County Councils to fix salaries of County Officials and Employees for the year. SEC.1. BE IT ORDAINED by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana that the salaries and wages of County Officials and Employees and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2025 are as follows:

<u>Fund and Title of Position & Employee Classification</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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COUNTY GENERAL

1000.11307.00000.0025 - Veterans Service PT Deputy	\$20.62/Hr.
1000.11609.00000.0037 - Adult Probation Officer	\$46,336.00

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1161.12700.00000.0000 - 1 st Deputy Stipend	\$2,000.00
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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

1176.11115.00000.0039 - Driver/Operator	\$23.25-24.65/Hourly
1176.11312.00000.0039 - Sign Supervisor	\$24.19-25.65/Hourly
1176.11419.00000.0039 - Operators/TL	\$24.25-25.71/Hourly

OPIOD

1237.11520.00000.0000 - Inmate Services Coordinator	\$30,818.00
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SOIL & WATER

4948.12102.00000.0000 - Per Diem Bd Members	\$35.00/Hr.
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PROBATION

8100.12007.00205.0000 - FRC Coordinator Stipend	\$5,115.35
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Bowman advised that was all of the new business and moving into old business. Bowman started with a clarification for some issues that came up during the budget hearings, one of the items was that two positions were not eligible for comp time due to the positions being excluded; after getting clarification on the difference between exempt, non-exempt and excluded from Baucce. He also advised that the council had decided that no changes were to be made to the classifications at this time.

During budget hearing and discussions surrounding the Matron's pay. Commissioners wanted to bring the pay up to match the surrounding counties. After much discussion, Terflinger made a motion to raise the pay \$3,500.00 making the pay \$53,852.00. Commissioner Dawes asked if this was to be a two-step process to raise the pay. After some discussion, Terflinger withdrew his motion. Kopkey motioned to give a raise to make the Matron salary of \$56,539.47 for the Matron in 2026, Terflinger seconded the motion with a note this position does not get comp time; it passed with a 6-0 vote.

Moving on to the Comp time payout: The Health Department payout is \$4,579.00 this will be paying out comp time to zero. The Health Department has line item that can be used to cover the payout without an additional appropriation. Dillon made a motion to approve the payout. Sam seconded the motion; it passed with a 6-0 vote.

In the Sheriff's department budget (05) the comp time payout would be \$46,797.40 to be paid from left over appropriation in the Jail staff line item. Terflinger made a motion to approve the payout. Dillion seconded the motion; it passed with a 6-0 vote.

The Jail Staff comp time payout is \$61,042.73, the payout for comp time will come from a jail staff line item that has funds available to cover. Kopkey made a motion to approve the payout. Hann seconded the motion; it passed with a 6-0 vote. It was noted that no more than two weeks comp time may be accrued in the future; after two weeks the time will be paid as overtime.

Second Item that needs to be addressed is years of service stipend for the jail staff. Discussion followed about the incentive to stay pay. This would be a flat dollar amount stipend payable to all jail staff at \$300.00 per year of continuous service with Wabash County and a max of 20 years or \$6,000. The stipend will not be considered when figuring next year's raise; the percent for annual raise is only on the Base pay. The pay will be set starting with the year of service as of the 1st pay of the year, not to change during the year.

The Merit Deputy pay metric is as follows; the Deputy base was set at \$62,264 for 2026 this amount is subject to the annual wage increase. Next each deputy will be awarded a Years of Service Stipend of \$300 per year with a max of 20 years or \$6,000, this is a flat rate and will not be subject to annual increase. Then a Sargent will be awarded \$6,000 for that position, not subject to the annual raise. The Major will be awarded a \$15,000 for that position, not subject to the annual raise. The pay will be set starting with the year of service as of the 1st pay of the year, not to change during the year. Dillion made a motion to approve the pay metric for the Merit Deputies. Mize Seconded the motion; it passed with 6-0 vote.

There was an email about the coroner position, but based on a current bill that is pending there are questions on what is going to be allowed, so this will be tabled to see how the state decides on the matter.

Terflinger brought up the contract from Grow Wabash, he wants to make a motion to target the negotiations of funds to \$75,000.00 instead of \$85,000.00. The original contract for 23/24 was \$100,000.00; for 2025

\$95,000.00 was budgeted and for various reasons the contract did not get signed, so it reverted to \$85,000.00 which was stipulated in the contract. Mize advised that services do not have to be bid. And Terflinger withdrew his motion for the direction on the negotiations. Terflinger then asked why one commissioner has to sign an NDA agreement. Per the County Attorney, it is not unusual for this to happen.

The Council reviewed the following documents:

Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports – October -November 2025

Wabash County Sheriff's report of Commissary Fund – October 2025

Wabash County Solid Waste Management – September 2025

Commissioners provided an update on the old jail, renovations are moving along should be done in the first quarter of 2026, the bad news is that there was an HVAC issue that cost an additional \$58,294.92 so the project is going to be overbudget by close to \$40,000.00. There are funds available to cover this overage.

Dillion advised the council that Gary Ridenour has tendered his resignation effective 12/31/2025. Will hold a caucus on January 2nd to replace him, and will have a new council member, and the replacement would then have to also run for election in 2026 as well. This is District 2.

With no other business to come before the Council, Terflinger made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting.

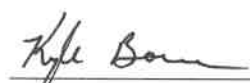
The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 20, 2026, at 6:00pm.

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

Tenille Zartman, Ryan Baker, Tyler Niccum, Cheryl Ross, Jeff Dawes, Mark Frantz, Tyler Guenin, Diane Morris, Steve Smith and Laura Grandstaff. Via **Zoom**: Rich Mofield, Connie Rich.

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL



Kyle Bowman, Chairman



Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman



Sam Hann



Matt Dillon



Nick Kopkey



Gary Ridenour

RAET MAST



David Terflinger

Attest:



Shelly Baucos, Wabash County Auditor