

Wabash County Council Minutes for January 20, 2026

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, January 20, 2026, in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. County Auditor Shelly Baucco called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. since a new Council chairman had yet to be elected. Seven council members were present: Kyle Bowman, Nick Kopkey, Matt Dillon, Sam Hann, David Terflinger, Rhett Mast, and Matt Mize. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

The first order of business was the election of the 2026 County Council Chairman. Dillon nominated Kyle Bowman for Council Chairman. Hann seconded the nomination. No other nominations were heard. Mize made a motion to close the nominations. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. Auditor Baucco called for the vote to elect Kyle Bowman as 2026 County Chairman. It passed by a 7-0 vote. Auditor Baucco turned the floor over to Chairman Bowman. Bowman asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Terflinger nominated Matthew Mize as Vice-Chairman for 2026. Hann seconded the nomination. No other nominations were heard. Dillon made a motion to close the nominations. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. Bowman called for the vote to elect Matthew Mize as 2026 Vice-Chairman. It passed by a 5-1-1 vote (Mize voted against and Terflinger abstained).

Next was a review and approval of the minutes from the December 8, 2025, meeting. Terflinger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote with 1 abstained from voting (Mast).

Council reviewed the proposed 2026 schedule of meeting dates. Terflinger made the motion to approve the schedule as presented. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

The County Auditor was directed to post the following meeting schedule:

- January 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- February 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- March 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- May 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- June 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- July 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- August 18 & 19, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. (2027 Departmental Budget Hearings)
- August 20, 2026 at 5:00pm (regular Council meeting – followed by the 2027 Departmental Budget Final Review)
- September 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. (2027 Budget Adoption/Tax Rates)
- October 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- December 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Council then reviewed the designation of Council liaisons for the purpose of assisting elected officials and department supervisors throughout 2026 and to assist with the 2027 budget request later in the year:

Kyle Bowman: Purdue Extension, Court Services, and County Surveyor

Matt Dillon: County Clerk, and CASA

Matthew Mize: County Commissioners, County Treasurer, Circuit Court, Superior Court, Veteran's, County Health Department, and Public Defenders.

Rhett Mast: County Assessor, County Recorder, and Weights and Measures

Sam Hann: County Auditor, and Area Planning

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

David Terflinger: Soil & Water Conservation District, Sheriff, Highway, and EMA

Next order of business was the 2026 appointments:

Kyle Bowman: Court Services

Matt Dillon: County Tax Abatement Committee, and Region III A

Matthew Mize: Financial Review and Health Board

Sam Hann: Plan Commission Board and GIS

Nick Kopkey: Central Dispatch Advisory Board, County Tax Abatement Committee, Personnel Administrative Committee, and Solid Waste Management District

David Terflinger: Emergency Management Advisory Council and Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and Personnel Administrative Committee

Wabash County Council Minutes for January 20, 2026

In regards to Ordinance 2026-85-01: An Ordinance Transferring Monies to the Rainy-Day Fund. Bowman indicated that at the end of each year, they will occasionally review the cash balance in the general fund and move monies to the Rainy-Day fund. In the new legislation, Bauccho indicated they are looking at the balance in the Economic Development and General Fund to see whether you can have a higher LIT rate or a lower one. Bauccho stated that they have some obligations coming up that the most of the CCD and the Economic Development is committed to. She stated that up to 15% of the unused portion of the budgeted amount, and therefore anything up to \$2 million can be transferred to Rainy Day. Bauccho indicated that the Council would have to do an Ordinance to spend any of the monies. The only thing currently that is paid from the Rainy-Day fund is benefit payouts. She indicated that currently there is a cash balance of \$9 million in the general fund. Terflinger made a motion to pass the Ordinance 2026-85-01. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules and move to a second reading. Terflinger seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote. Dillon made a motion to pass the ordinance on the second reading. Terflinger seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Bauccho next presented the Encumbrances for 2025 into 2026. She stated that they try very hard to keep Encumbrances to a minimum. The first encumbrance is for the Extension office for computer's that they purchased and did not receive the invoice in 2025. The second one is for preventative maintenance for the Health Department for a new HVAC unit and an invoice has not been received.

In Other funds the Health Department would like to encumber funds for the Jail project. Next was an encumbrance for the ARPA fund which the last bill for that has not been received. The last encumbrance was for Cum Bridge for some bridge projects and the Highway department for a new truck that is on order. The total encumbrances are as follows:

General Funds	\$ 12,028.51
Other Funds	<u>\$734,377.16</u>
Total	\$746,365.67

Dillon made a motion to pass the Encumbrances. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Bauccho presented a request from the Plan Commission to re-appoint Patti Lengel for the 2026 Board of Zoning Appeals. Terflinger made a motion to accept the re-appointment. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Jeff Dawes, Commissioner, indicated that the Commissioners will be coming before the Council to request an increase to the salary for the Maintenance Supervisor position. The Commissioners feel the position is currently mis-classified and the salary is not matching surrounding counties for the position. Bowman indicated that Marcie Shepherd HR is reaching out to other counties to get salaries and job descriptions. She will also reach out to the company who did our job study regarding the position classification. They will also be requesting a salary increase to the maintenance position at the Jail; the Commissioners feel they need a larger salary to be able to hire someone qualified to do the job. Bowman noted any changes to the salaries will have to go before the PAC committee.

Cheryl Ross, Commissioner, gave an update on the Health Department/Jail Project. She reported the project is going well and they are anticipating completion by March or sooner.

Terflinger indicated that he requested at the Commissioner's meeting earlier in the day for an update regarding the JCAP program at the Jail. Ross will be in contact with Melissa Campbell to have her present in update at the next meeting.

The Council reviewed the following items: Auditor and Treasurer reports for December 2025, Sheriff's Commissary Fund report for November and December 2025, the Solid Waste Management Report for December 2025 and A Request for Short-Term Disability.

With no other business to come before the Council, Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, ~~February 16, 2026~~, March 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Wabash County Council Minutes for January 20, 2026

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

Tyler Guenin, Jim Dixon, Mark Frantz, and Kandy Barker. Via Zoom: Laura Grandstaff, Rich Mofield, and Nicky B.



Kyle Bowman, Chairman



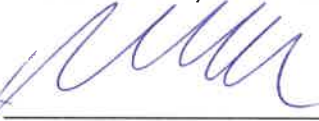
Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman



Sam Hann



Matt Dillon



Nick Kopkey



Rhett Mast



David Terflinger

Attest: 

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor