

Wabash County Council Minutes for July 20, 2026

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM | Commissioner's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Wabash County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER

Matt Dillon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Dillon opened with a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Shelly Bauccho.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matt Dillon, Nick Kopkey, Sam Hann, David Terflinger, Rhett Mast, and Matt Mize (via zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kyle Bowman

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Frantz, Tenille Zartman, Dan Krouse, MPS Egg Farms, Marcie Shepherd, Eric Rish, Greg Harnish, Jeff Dawes, Cheryl Ross,

VIA ZOOM: Laura Grandstaff, Rich Mofield, W. Bradford, Brenda, and iPhone

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Hann moved to approve the minutes of the June 15 2026, meeting as presented. Mast seconded. Motion carried 5-0-1(Dillon abstained).

NEW BUSINESS

MPS EGG FARMS; CF-1 COMPLIANCE -Public Hearing

President Dillon noted that a public hearing on the CF-1 compliance for MPS Egg Farms was before the Council. Dan Krouse, representative of MPS Egg Farms, addressed the Council. Mr. Krouse summarized the background.

MPS Egg Farms has held a tax abatement since approximately 2018-2019 for a high-grade farm following a fire that destroyed several older buildings. At the prior meeting, the Council declined to grant renewal of the abatement due to noncompliance, citing (1) a late submission of the CF-1 form and (2) concerns about whether the project achieved the benefits described in the original Section 5 filing.

Mr. Krouse acknowledged the late submission as MPS Egg Farms' error and stated the company has implemented an improved internal process to ensure timely submission in future years (prior to the April meeting). He presented data indicating that at least 55% of manure from the North Manchester farms was sold to farmers within an approximately one-hour drive. He noted that MPS Egg Farms has invested over \$246 million in Wabash County over the last 20 years, employs over 400 people in the county, and was holding a grand opening for a new feed mill the following day representing a nearly \$30 million investment.

Council discussion centered on: (1) whether the company met the substantive compliance requirements (investment of stated funds, employment levels, and wage levels, all confirmed as met or exceeded); (2) concerns from one Council member regarding the timeliness of the filing, changes in how manure is distributed locally, and consistency of enforcement with other applicants; and (3) the distinction between substantial noncompliance and minor procedural error.

Mize made a motion to approve the CF-1 compliance for MPS Egg Farms. Hann seconded. Motion carried 4-1-1 (Terflinger voted nay; Kopkey abstained). Dillon stated his vote in favor was based on his reading of state law, which requires failure to substantially comply, and his determination that the noncompliance in this instance was not substantial.

WABASH CARNEGIE LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

Dillon called for discussion on the appointment of a member to the Wabash Carnegie Board. Jim Widner had submitted a recommendation by email for the appointment of Lindsay Knee. Terflinger made a motion to approve appointment of Lindsay Knee on the Wabash Carnegie Library Board. Hann Seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION 2026-85-09

Weights and Measures / Recorder's Perpetuation Fund

Bauccho presented a request on behalf of the Weights and Measures department. The transfer is needed to purchase 2027 decals and seal pliers inserts. Reallocating the funds as shown below will allow the department to acquire the necessary supplies.

Weights and Measures:

- Decrease, Printing: \$150 - Increase, Misc. Supplies: \$150

Recorder Eric Rish presented the second portion of the resolution on behalf of the Recorder's office. The transfer is needed to fund a part-time employee performing back indexing through the end of the year.

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Recorder's Perpetuation Fund:

- Decrease, Equipment Repair: \$1,000
- Decrease, Book Binding: \$1,000
- Decrease, Printers: \$1,230
- Increase, Part-Time: \$3,000
- Increase, FICA: \$230

Terflinger made a motion to approve Transfer Resolution 2026-85-09. Mast seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS 2026-85-06
General Fund – Health Department

Rich Mofield, County Health Department (via Zoom), addressed the Council regarding a retirement in the County Health Department. A public health nurse retired, necessitating a vacation payout and a two-week salary overlap with her replacement. Mr. Mofield confirmed he worked with Auditor Shelly Baucco on the figures. Terflinger made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$10,361 for retiring nurse's vacation payout (\$8,502 salary overlap + \$651 FICA + \$1,208 PERF). Mize seconded. Motion carries 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

JAIL MAINTENANCE PERSON AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR PAY

The Council took up a previously discussed matter regarding pay for the jail maintenance person and maintenance supervisor. Greg Harnish was present and addressed the Council. Mr. Harnish explained that he has been maintaining the jail and all county properties and is requesting a stipend, along with an increase in the wage for the maintenance position to assist in filling a vacancy. He stated he had appeared before the Personnel and Administration Committee (PAC Committee) requesting a stipend and wage increase for the position. Council discussion confirmed that the wage increase for Greg Harnish was approved by the PAC Committee, but further discussion on the maintenance position remained ongoing.

David Terflinger made a motion to table the discussion regarding jail maintenance person and maintenance supervisor pay until after the budget hearings next month, as new information has come to light since the PAC Committee meeting. Mize seconded. Motion carries 4-2 (Kopkey, Hann)

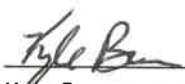
Following the tabling vote, President Dillon stated that he had been asked to review Greg Harnish's time sheet. Mr. Harnish was reported to have 113 hours of accrued compensatory time. Dillon noted that all other employees had their comp time paid out to zero in the prior year. After discussion, the motion was amended to pay out only the comp time above 80 hours. Mr. Harnish indicated he wished to retain some comp time. Terflinger made a motion to pay out all hours above 80. Mize seconded. Motion carries 6-0.

REVIEW ITEMS

The Council reviewed the following items: Auditor and Treasurer financial reports for June 2026; Wabash County Solid Waste Management for May and June, 2026; Wabash County Sheriff's Report of Commissary Fund June 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Terflinger moved to adjourn the meeting. Kopkey seconded. Matt Dillon adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is for Budget Hearings on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19 with the Council meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 5:00 PM.



Kyle Bowman, Chairman



Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman



Sam Hann



Matt Dillon



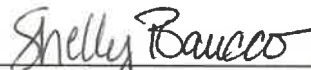
Nick Kopkey



Rhett Mast



David Terflinger

Attest: 

Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor