

Wabash County Council Minutes for August 20, 2026

The Wabash County Council met in session on Thursday, August 20, 2026, in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Council members present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Dave Terflinger, Matt Dillon, Sam Hann, Rhett Mast, and Nick Kopkey. Bowman opened with a word of prayer and Bowman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Shelly Bauccho.

Tuesday, August 18, and Wednesday, August 19, 2026 All but Sam Hann was present for the Budget Hearings on Tuesday. Full Council was present for the Budget Hearings on Wednesday. The 2027 proposed budgets were presented by the Elected Officials and Department Directors. The Council recommended changes to the budgets.

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:47 PM, Chairman Bowman called the Special Meeting to order. All seven council members were present. Bowman moved to enter executive session pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(3) for the purpose of discussion and evaluation of the job performance of individual county employee(s) as it relates to compensation and classification for the 2027 budget cycle. Mize seconded. Motion carried 7-0. The Council entered executive session at 4:47 PM. The Council returned to open session at 6:23 PM. No official action was taken during or as a result of the executive session.

Thursday, August 20, 2026 5:00pm Wabash County Council Meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Terflinger moved to approve the minutes of the July 20 2026, meeting as presented. Dillon seconded. Motion carried 6-0-1(Bowman abstained).

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Presentation

John Williams from McGowan Insurance Group presented an overview of healthcare costs, explaining that 80% of every dollar goes toward medical claims while 20% covers administrative costs. The presentation highlighted changes from Express Scripts to SmithRx for pharmacy benefits, which is expected to save the county approximately \$125,000 and employees nearly \$18,000. Williams discussed network utilization patterns, noting that 87-92% of employees use Parkview Hospital, and presented data showing that Signature Care provides the best network discounts at 61% compared to other options like UnitedHealthcare (54.97%) and Blue Cross Blue Shield (56%). He presented options for cost savings including telemedicine benefits and potential nurse navigation services. The Council discussed employee engagement strategies, including a benefits fair and a potential nurse advocacy program to encourage use of lower-cost facilities. No action was taken

Appointment of the MUST Committee Representative

The Auditor advised that House Bill 1210 directs counties to establish a municipal unit strategic task force ("MUST" committee); that the Council selects one representative; that the fiscal officer of each city and town serves on the committee; and that the committee must establish, by unanimous support, a local income tax distribution agreement as it pertains to the county's maximum local income tax rates. This committee will negotiate and establish through unanimous support a local income tax distribution agreement. Terflinger made a motion to appoint Bauccho to represent the county council. Dillon seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Review of the Wabash County-wide Circuit Breaker Report

The report was presented and reviewed by the council.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION NO. 2026-85-10 Weights and Measures

Bauccho presented a request on behalf of the Weights and Measures department to move funds from postage to miscellaneous supplies to cover a shortage for labels.

Weights and Measures: Decrease, Postage: \$50 - Increase, Misc. Supplies: \$50

Terflinger made a motion to approve Transfer Resolution NO. 2026-85-10. Kopkey seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

STIPEND REQUEST

The Council took up a previously discussed matter regarding a stipend request for the maintenance supervisor. Terflinger stated that, after consideration during executive session, he would move to deny the request. Mast seconded.

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County Commissioner Jeff Dawes asked for the reason behind the denial. Terflinger asked County Attorney Mark Frantz what could be said publicly about a personnel matter. Mr. Frantz stated he could not answer in detail because he had not attended the executive session. Terflinger offered to discuss the matter with the employee or the Commissioners after the meeting but declined to state a reason in a public meeting, citing the personnel nature of the matter. A member of the public asked for an explanation of the denial. Members responded that the matter was a personnel issue and declined to discuss the substance in open session. Commissioner Tyler Niccum questioned the purpose and effectiveness of the Personnel Administration Committee (PAC), given that the committee had recommended the request. Chairman Bowman explained that the PAC performs additional exploration and fact-finding before matters reach the Council, but that its recommendations are not binding. One member stated the Council had reviewed the wage study, the request, and other aspects of the job. Chairman Bowman stated he would have further conversations with the Commissioners regarding the issue and any clarification needed. Motion carried 6-1 (Dillon opposed).

COMP TIME

Terflinger discussed the comp time policy, proposing to limit employees to carrying 80 hours of comp time and requiring any excess to be paid out by December 1st. The Council agreed that exceptions for emergency personnel, including jail staff, should be incorporated. No formal vote was taken. The Council requested the Commissioners to consult with the county attorney and bring a formal policy proposal to the September or October 2026 regular meeting.

REVIEW ITEMS

The Council reviewed the following items: Auditor and Treasurer financial reports for July 2026; Wabash County Sheriff's Report of Commissary Fund July 2026.

With no other business to come before the Council, Terflinger made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:03pm.

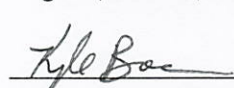
Chairman Bowman then reopened the Budget Hearings; all budgets were reviewed and changes were made. Council reviewed each budget, asked and answered questions and made changes. Hann made a motion for the Auditor's office to make the Council changes to the 2027 proposed budgets and prepare Budget Form 4, the ordinance and Form 4b that includes the tax levy and tax rates for official approval at the final adoption hearing advertised and scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2026. Mize seconded. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Terflinger abstained)

Kopkey made a motion to adjourn the budget hearings.

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

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

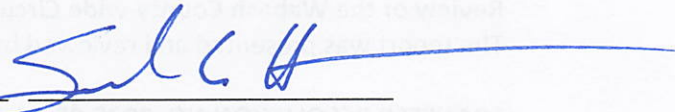
Shelly Baucco, Tyler Niccum, Cheryl Ross, Jeff Dawes, Greg Harnish, Lori Harnish, John Williams, Justin Gillispie, Marcie Shepherd, Tenille Zartman, Laci Stuber, Maureen Zinn, Stacie Frehse, Kimberly Lundmark, Brian Swihart, Ryan Baker, Tyler Guenin, Eric Rish, Chrissy Chamberlain, Brian Campbell, Jennifer Hicks, Brenda Hegal, Angela Miller, Bill Hartley, Kenneth Brown, LeAnn Kooli, Emily Guenin Hodson, Robert Shellhamer, Judge Ben Vanderpool, Angela Dunn, Geoff Schortgen, Bill Horan, Jim Johnson, Ryan Smith, Keith Walters, Dr. Roe, Rich Mofield, Cheryl Evenson, Mark Frantz, Cheri Slee, Braden See, and Emily Myers. Via **Zoom**: Laci, Brenda, Rich, Amanda S., Amanda iPhone, Down's, Angie K, Connie, Bob, Liz C, Laura, iPhone, Wabash, CAR.



Kyle Bowman, Chairman



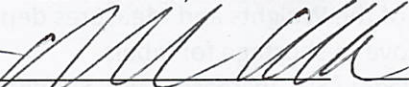
Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman



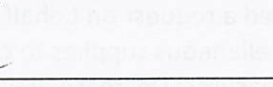
Sam Hann



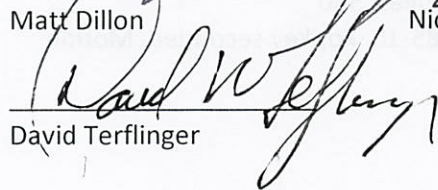
Matt Dillon



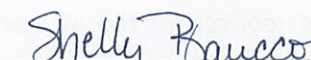
Nick Kopkey



Rhett Mast



David Terflinger

Attest: 
Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor