

Wabash County Council Minutes for September 21, 2026

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, September 21, 2026, 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. Rhett Mast was not present. Mize 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 Baucoco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dillon moved to approve the minutes of the August 20 2026, meeting as presented. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2026-85-13: Adoption of the Wabash County 2027 Budget

Bowman asked if there were any questions on the 2027 budgets; the questions were as follows.

Jail Maintenance Positions

Council discussed maintenance staffing and budget ownership across county facilities, including the jail, courthouse, and health department. Concerns were raised about potential duplication of duties between the external QPH contract and internal maintenance tech positions.

A need for clear job descriptions for the entire maintenance group, including supervisors, was identified to clarify roles, prevent paying for unnecessary advanced skills, and define responsibilities for the "advanced systems" in the new jail building.

The discussion included the sheriff being involved in the interview process and oversight for jail-related maintenance roles.

Council agreed to keep the maintenance funds in the commissioners' budget. Council asked commissioners to review the entire maintenance plan to see if headcount could be consolidated and if in house services could reduce third-party contracts.

Purdue Extension

Geoff Schortgen, Bill Horan and Kelly Heckaman appeared on behalf of Purdue Extension. Purdue asked for the full \$140,000 to be funded for its contractual services agreement. The Council discussed a proposed \$40,000 budget cut reducing funding from a requested \$140,000 to \$100,000. Council members expressed frustrations with an email from Purdue perceived as a threat to cut services and cited a loss of local control under the regional model.

The Council justified the cut by noting other non-profits faced reductions and by comparing payments to what other counties pay. Heckaman addressed the Council saying that the old funding model was outdated and that comparing counties is difficult due to varying services.

Terflinger made a motion to keep the adjustment as \$40,000. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-1 (Kopkey) vote.

Action Grant

Dan Gray appeared on behalf of Action and outlined the programs and funding. Funding comes from drug court fines, and grants are allocated across prevention/education, treatment and enforcement. Outreach for applicants was conducted, but some eligible entities did not apply. Council asked about why only certain schools receive funds. Gray stated only applicants are funded.

Terflinger made a motion to restore the Action Grant request "as presented". Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Dillon made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2026-85-13** Wabash County 2027 Budgets. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-1 (Terflinger) vote.

ORDINANCE 2026-85-12: Adoption of the Solid Waste Management District 2027 Budgets.

Dillon made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Management District 2027 Budgets. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-1 (Terflinger) vote.

Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforce (MUST) Distribution Report

The report was presented and reviewed by the council.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE: 2026-85-14

Motor Vehicle Highway (1176.30420.000.0038) \$138,000: Terflinger made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for Motor Vehicle Highway. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0.

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Pre-Trial Diversion (250130990.000.0000) \$5,000: Terflinger made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for Pretrial Diversion. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION NO. 2026-85-11

General Funds (1000-07) Coroner's: Decrease, Autopsy supplies 1000.22410.000.0007: \$1,500- Increase, Transports 1000.30127.000.0007: \$1,500.

Dillon made a motion to approve Transfer Resolution NO. 2026-85-11 Coroners. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0.

General Funds (1000-0029) Commissioners: Decrease, Wards/CT & St Institution 1000.30992.000.0029: \$42,702 - Increase, Weapons 100.40001.000.0029: \$42,702.

Hann made a motion to approve Transfer Resolution No. 2026-85-11 Commissioners. Terflinger seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissary Report

Pursuant to statute, the Sheriff presented the Report of Commissary Fund for August 2026. The Council reviewed the report. Terflinger made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the commissary report with a balance of \$258,246 for August 2026. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0.

Mileage

Auditor informed the council that she sent an email referencing mileage reimbursement. No action was taken.

Travel Meal Reimbursement

There was discussion about increasing the daily meal reimbursement from \$35 to a higher rate, possibly \$40-\$45. No action was taken.

REVIEW ITEMS

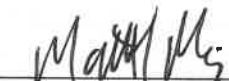
The Council reviewed the following items: Auditor and Treasurer financial reports for August 2026; Wabash County Sheriff's Report of Commissary Fund August 2026.

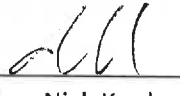
With no other business to come before the Council, Dillon made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:21pm.

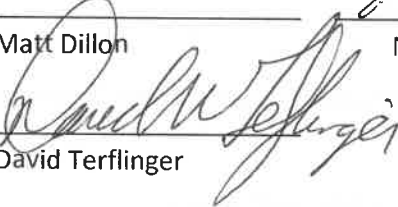
The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

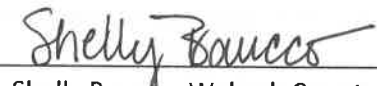
**If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

Shelly Baucio, Cheryl Ross, Jeff Dawes, Mark Frantz, Tyler Guenin, Kristie Bone, Dan Gray, Jim Dixon, Blake Huston, Geoff Schortgen, Bill Horan, Kelly Heckaman, and Emily Myers. Via Zoom: Tyler, Mara R., Rich Mofield, Brenda, Courtney Schmidt.

 Kyle Bowman, Chairman  Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman _____ Sam Hann

_____ Matt Dillon  Nick Kopkey  Rhett Mast

 David Terflinger

Attest:  Shelly Baucio, Wabash County Auditor