

COMMON COUNCIL

April 14, 2025

The Common Council of the City of Wabash met in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and held a Council Meeting on Monday, April 14, 2025, in regular session. The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison; Todd Render of Wabash Alliance Church gave the prayer.

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Scott Long presiding. The roll was answered by 7 Council members: Terry Brewer, Bryan Dillon, Charlie Coyne, John Burnsworth, Mitzi Pilgrim, Eric Schoening, and Bill Barrows.

The minutes of the meeting held March 24, 2025 were approved. Council Member Burnsworth made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Council Member Coyne seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Olivia Loft was sworn in as Probationary Patrolman with the Police Department.**
- 2. Compliance with Statement of Benefits Real Property – Kelly Springer. Ms. Springer was present to answer questions. Council Member Dillon made a motion to approve the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Real Property – Kelly Springer. Council Member Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
- 3. First Reading of General Ordinance No. 4, 2025 – Being an Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 6, Sections 9-275 Regarding the Stormwater Utility. Mayor Long noted that a correction to the written Ordinance needed to be made to correct section numbers. This amended Ordinance is to bring the City into compliance with the language required to meet IDEM audits. Brewer made a motion to approve the First Reading of General Ordinance No. 4, 2025. Council Member Barrows seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
- 4. Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 4, 2025 – Being an Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 6, Sections 9-275 Regarding the Stormwater Utility. As our IDEM audit is coming up soon, it was suggested that we consider suspending the rules and consider passing the Ordinance on the second reading tonight. Burnsworth made a motion to suspend the rules and pass on the second reading; Brewer**

seconded the motion. All were in favor. Dillon made a motion to pass the Ordinance on the second reading; Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5. **Wabash Library Update.** Director Jon Gaskill invited Council members to visit the library. They are in the process of strategic planning and will conduct listening sessions this month, open to the public. There is also an option to fill out an online survey regarding suggested directions of the library over the next five years, to help comply with the Indiana Code requirement of a five-year strategic plan for 2026-2030.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business to come before the Council.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Marcia Short asked that the City consider passing an ordinance dealing with vacant houses. There is one in her neighborhood that has been vacant for several years and has broken windows and no working utilities. It has been sold several times and its condition brings the values of the neighborhood down. The mayor asked the Building department to investigate and bring their findings to a meeting of the Board of Works.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Dillon reported that the City School Board honored their grade 1-4 Kathy Swan winners. Prom is coming up, and the Drivers Ed program has been approved. Former teacher Connie Gorman has been appointed to fill the vacant Board position.

Council Member Schoening reported that the Park Board heard discussions about a broken water line at the pool. Signage for the pool and Friendship Hill fence was discussed. A \$35,000 grant was received from Duke. Restoration of the pool slide is continuing.

Schnoening also reported that the Library Board is requesting a Book Walk at the main park.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Chief Mooney reported that with the hiring of Olivia Loft, the department will be at full staff again as soon as her training is complete. Also, Operation Pullover has had officers working about 260 hours of overtime on various projects, writing 73 citations and 388 written warnings to go with a few misdemeanor arrests. He feels that work is more educational than anything, hence the number of warnings.

Fire Chief Oswalt reported that five department members attended FDIC (a firefighter's conference) recently. He was happy with the tactics learned and felt it was time well spent.

Street Superintendent Richardson stated that Spring Cleanup will be the week of April 28.

Mayor Long asked if there were any Title VI or ADA compliance concerns. None were heard.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 28 at 6:00 pm.

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Wabash City Council meeting. A video archive of the meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqksLFpUDaU> for as long as this media is supported.

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR Scott A. Long

ATTEST:

MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER Melanie Givens Penn