

COMMON COUNCIL

May 12, 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, May 12, 2025, in regular session.

Prior to the Council meeting, a Public Hearing was held regarding an Additional Appropriation request from Wabash City Schools to use their Rainy Day fund for custodial salaries and insurance expenses. Superintendent Sively was present to answer questions. No questions were asked.

The meeting was then called to order with Mayor Pro Tem John Burnsworth presiding, as Mayor Long is out of town. The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison; Council Member Charlie Coyne gave the prayer. The roll was answered by 6 Council members: Bryan Dillon, Charlie Coyne, John Burnsworth, Mitzi Pilgrim, Eric Schoening, and Bill Barrows. Terry Brewer was absent.

Mayor Pro Tem Burnsworth amended the agenda to add #5 Compliance with Statement of Benefits - Personal Property for DS Products/JAMAT Leasing, which arrived via certified mail today.

The minutes of the meeting held April 28, 2025 were approved. Council Member Dillon made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Coyne seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Compliance with Statement of Benefits Real Estate – Rahee Hospitality. Associates of the company were in attendance to answer questions. Dillon asked about the current number of employees at this location and was told there were 18; they are attempting to hire more. Dillon made a motion to approve the abatement. Council Member Barrows seconded the motion. All present were in favor.**
- 2. Compliance with Statement of Benefits Real Estate – Rock City Lofts LP. An associate of the company was in attendance and stated they are 97% occupied and still have two employees. Council Member**

Schoening made a motion to approve the abatement. Council Member Pilgrim seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

- 3. Resolution No. 3, 2025 – Wabash City Schools Additional Appropriation. Council Member Dillon made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation Resolution to allow the movement of funds from the School’s Rainy Day fund. Council Member Burnsworth seconded the motion. All present were in favor.**
- 4. First Reading of General Ordinance No. 5, 2025 An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Wabash, Indiana Amending Chapter 10, Article 1, Division III, Subdivision III, Section 10-53b Describing a Light Industrial Use. After explaining that the current zoning ordinance references environmental issues, Attorney Lehman said he is concerned about this Ordinance because it simply states that the standard is whatever the Building Inspector finds objectionable, which is subjective and not likely to hold up in court. The change before the Council instead references that violating the standard is “beyond whatever has been established as legally permissible levels.” Because these levels have been legally established, the Ordinance would be specific as a standard will have been set and therefore the Ordinance will be more enforceable. He further explained that this recommendation is from the Planning Commission; they have already passed a Resolution to make a recommendation to Council to change the Zoning Ordinance. After discussion of the change, including where one might find these “legally permissible levels, and the chances of enforcing the current Ordinance in court, Burnsworth made a motion to pass the First Reading as written; Dillon seconded the motion. All present were in favor. Upon recommendation of Attorney Lehman that the rules be suspended and the Ordinance passed this evening, Barrows made a motion to suspend the rules. Pilgrim seconded the motion and all present were in favor. Burnsworth then made a motion to pass the Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 5, 2025; Barrows seconded the motion. All present were in favor.**
- 5. Compliance with Statement of Benefits Personal Property – DS Products/JAMAT Leasing. Representatives from the company were in attendance to answer questions. Burnsworth asked if employment was down this year. It was explained that their largest customer had a manufacturing conversion and didn’t take product for 90 days, but employment numbers are now back to 43-44 people today. Burnsworth made a motion to approve the abatement. Coyne seconded the motion. All present were in favor.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business to come before the Council.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Brian Thompson of Chestnut Street brought up concerns about the smell from the fertilizer plant on the north edge of town. He was also expecting to see the City Code Enforcement Officer about his concerns over the haunted house business at 200 Chestnut Street as he feels their year-round outdoor decor is lowering property values and upsetting neighborhood children. As he has brought this up to the Council previously, he is very disappointed that nothing has changed. He was advised to get in touch with the Building Department to see if anything can be done by the City. Mr. Thompson also brought up his concerns about local industry's chemical spills and runoff violations, and the effect on nearby property owners and employees. He inquired about the status of the old General Tire property and was told that clean-up is in the last stages there.

Jim Dixon wanted to talk about the fertilizer plant and the promises that the company had made concerning their environmental impact on the area. Burnsworth said his understanding is that the company is having growing pains as they start up and are still working on it, including testing by IDEM.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Police Liaison Pilgrim reported that this is National Police Week and a time to remember and appreciate our City Police. She attended today's training at both the gun range and airport. Training at the airport was to practice pulling people over; she appreciated Chief Mooney's invitation to attend and enjoyed watching.

School Board Liaison Dillon reported on the recent School Board meeting. He filled the Council in on City School's current successes and plans, and informed them of the upcoming graduation ceremony.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

There were no reports from Department Heads.


Mayor Pro Tem Burnsworth 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 Tuesday, May 27 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=SR4Vd6kKvoQ> for as long as this media is supported.

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR

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ATTEST:

MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER

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