

COMMON COUNCIL

September 22, 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, September 22, 2025, in regular session.

A public hearing was held concerning a Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriations - \$100,000 for Motor Vehicle Highway and \$200,000 for Economic Development Income Tax CREDIT. No one spoke for or against the Notice, and the public hearing was closed.

A public hearing was held concerning the Proposed City of Wabash Budget, Levy and Tax Rate for 2026. No one spoke for or against the Notice, and the public hearing was closed.

The Council meeting was then called to order with Mayor Scott Long presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison; Council Member Terry Brewer gave the prayer. The roll was answered by 7 Council members: Mitzi Pilgrim, Eric Schoening, Bill Barrows, John Burnsworth, Bryan Dillon, Terry Brewer and Charlie Coyne.

The minutes of the meeting held September 8, 2025, were approved. Council Member Burnsworth made a motion to accept the minutes. Council Member Barrows seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Resolution No. 13, 2025 – Additional Appropriations. In order to appropriate more money for calendar year 2025 that the amount fixed by the annual budget, a need has been determined to increase Fund 2201 Motor Vehicle Highway by \$100,000 to complete Allen Street paving this year, and also to increase Fund 4436 Economic Development Income Tax CREDIT by \$200,000 to cover expenses at the GDX site as the City waits for settlement monies to come in. Council Member Dillon asked if a dollar amount was known for the reimbursement amount for the cleanup of the GDX site; Mayor Long stated that he believes the total settlement was for \$6.7 million and the cost of closure was \$5.7 million. The City will receive the difference. Burnsworth made a motion**

- to approve Resolution No. 13; Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.
2. **First Reading of Special Ordinance No. 1, 2026 – Being the Salary Ordinance for 2026.** Dillon made a motion to approve the First Reading of Special Ordinance No. 1; Burnsworth seconded the motion. All were in favor.
 3. **First Reading of General Ordinance No. 10, 2025 – Proposed Budget, Levy and Tax Rate for 2026.** Burnsworth made a motion to approve the First Reading of General Ordinance No. 10; Pilgrim seconded the motion. All were in favor.
 4. **First Reading of General Ordinance No. 11, 2025 – Being an Ordinance to Amend Chapters 6 and 7 of the Wabash City Code to Apply the Provisions of Chapter 7 to the City of Wabash Jurisdictional Zoning Area.** City Attorney Lehman explained that the state statute allows the City of Wabash to exercise zoning jurisdiction for up to two miles outside the city limits. The County's zoning ordinance includes things like junk vehicles, tall grass, unsafe buildings, etc. The County has proposed that the City exercise authority over those issues within this stated jurisdictional area. Ordinance No. 11 extends provisions of the City Code to the jurisdictional area by incorporating those various powers within our zoning ordinance, putting the City Code Enforcement Officer in charge of enforcement in these areas. This does not affect stormwater in any way. Burnsworth stated that this issue had come before the Plan Commission two weeks ago where it was approved unanimously by those present. Brewer asked if Code Enforcement Officer Zartman had time to take care of that extra area; he replied that as he's already issuing building permits for that area, he doesn't feel that responding to the relevant calls in this Ordinance will take much additional time. Burnsworth made a motion to approve the First Reading of General Ordinance No. 11; Barrows seconded the motion. All were in favor.
 5. **Resolution No. 14, 2025 – A Resolution to Approve and Negotiate a Contract with Veregy to Proceed with a Guaranteed Energy Savings Project.** This Resolution will allow the City to proceed with the guaranteed energy savings project involving adding solar panels to city buildings. Council Member Schoening, who served on the RPG committee, stated that he wished there had been more competition for the work. He stated that he made phone calls to other communities and companies to verify satisfaction of Veregy's previous projects and no negative comments were heard. Barrows and Pilgrim, who were also on

the committee, had spoken with others who were familiar with Veregy's work and also received positive feedback; the committee feels they have done their due diligence. Brewer asked about the possibility of floodwaters impacting the area by the Wastewater Treatment plant set aside for the solar panels. Veregy representatives stated that there are provisions in the contract to ensure that the panels are placed two feet above the 100-year flood line. After a few more questions, Dillon made a motion to approve Resolution No. 14; Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Council.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Jim Dixon, who lives on East Street, asked about the initial outlay of the Veregy project and was informed that the initial outlay from the City is \$3,120,963; we should get \$1.1 million back in incentives and the project has a ten-year payback period. He then asked about the status of the recent trash removal issues. The company's general manager and operations manager had both met with Mayor Long today and stated that these issues should be resolved soon, as the four drivers who quit have been replaced and some of the other causes for all the calls are being resolved.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Schoening reported that the Park Board met and discussed things such as the pickleball court, drainage issues, and 2026 pavilion rental pricing. Pool attendance numbers were finalized for the year; it was a busy year there.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Mayor Long stated that it looks like there is apparently not as much set out for Fall Cleanup as there has been in the past, so things were going well for the Street Department this week.

Dillon asked Police Chief Mooney about School Resource Officer Sam Hipskind's election as President of the Indiana State School Resource Officer Association and offered his congratulations.

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. Due to the Columbus Day holiday, the next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14 at 6:00 pm.

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Wabash City Council meeting. A video recording of this meeting can be found for at least 90 days following the meeting date at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhWqw-nNrdY>

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR Scott A. Long

ATTEST:

MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER Melanie Givens Penn