

COMMON COUNCIL

November 10, 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, November 10, 2025, in regular session.

The Council meeting was called to order with Mayor Scott Long presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison; Terry Hinds of Refresh & Rekindle Ministries 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 October 27, 2025, were approved. Council Member Burnsworth made a motion to accept the minutes. Council Member Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to come before the Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Mark Dixon was sworn in as First-Class Patrolman by Mayor Long.**
- 2. Appointment of new Wabash City School members – School Board Liaison Dillon explained that as terms were up for two current School Board members, new appointments were needed. Rhonda Hipskind and Connie Gorman submitted applications. Their packets were reviewed and sent to all Wabash City Council members. After a brief question and answer session with the candidates, Dillon made a motion to approve appointment of the two applicants; Council Member Barrows seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
- 3. Resolution No. 15, 2025 – A Resolution of the City Council of Wabash, Indiana Adopting the 2025 Title VI Implementation Plan. This is a annual requirement highlighting goals and plans the City has accomplished as well as upcoming plans to implement the intent of the ADA and Title VI statutes that apply to the City. The mayor's assistant, Shelley Hipskind, is the program manager for the City. Council Member Brewer made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15; Council Member Schoening seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
- 4. Resolution No. 16, 2025 – A Resolution of the City Council of Wabash, Indiana of the City of Wabash, Indiana Adopting the Americans with**

Disabilities Act (ADA) ADA Coordinator and Procedures. As the previous Resolution adopted the Plan, this Resolution designates who the coordinator is as well as outline certain procedures. Burnsworth made a motion to approve Resolution No. 16; Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- 5. First Reading of General Ordinance No. 15, 2025 – Being an Ordinance Amending Various Provisions of the Wabash City Code for the City of Wabash, Indiana.** This Ordinance amends the City’s credit card policy to add the police and fire chiefs to the list of those carrying credit cards for training and other purposes. A few other items were amended to reflect current practices: the Code shows the Aviation Board meets in the evening; this amendment reflects their afternoon meetings. Also, the code states an order of business for Council meetings that is outdated, so that likewise has been changed. After further discussion, Attorney Lehman stated that an additional paragraph apparently wasn’t included which amended the credit card policy further to add store cards along with national credit cards, and include all department heads and the mayor’s assistant. Schoening made a motion to table the Ordinance until it can be amended as discussed. Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dillon relayed a question from a constituent concerning traffic flow plans for the businesses going in around Krogers, such as the Bowen Center, the car wash, and the rumored gas station. Mayor Long stated that as 24 is a limited-access highway, all ingress and egress for this area is from Cass Street and Bryan Avenue, as it is currently. Lehman stated that all pathways have already been approved by either the Plan Commission or the Board of Zoning Appeals, and approval has also been given from our engineer regarding stormwater and wastewater. Barrows pointed out concerns about the lack of lane markings on the parking lot, but as the parking lot is owned by a private company, the City and the businesses in that area have nothing to do with its maintenance. The easement from Alber Street into this area was discussed; there may be a possibility that it will be used in the future but is not currently part of any plan.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Rhonda Hipkind, a resident of Alber Street, asked who makes the decisions about what is allowed to come off of Highway 24, as there is already a lot of traffic for those trying to get onto Cass Street from the shopping area. She was told that INDOT makes those decisions and they are not allowing cuts to be made into the highway.

Another citizen who lives on Michigan Street asked about those who use this parking lot and surrounding areas to cut through to avoid traffic on their way to Cass and 24. Better lane markings may help this issue, but Mayor Long stated again that as the parking lot is private property, all the City can do is encourage the landowner to make improvements. Another citizen asked about handling the issue as a “public nuisance” but Lehman stated that as the purpose of the shopping center is to encourage people to come to the area, calling it a public nuisance is probably not feasible. The mayor also pointed out that as the LLC that owns the parking lot has a Lafayette address and tax bills are sent to a Maryland address, there is no local contact, adding complexity to any solution.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Dillon reported that the School Board met recently. Superintendent Sively went over the finances and is optimistic that the district will end in the black this period. Among other news, the new boilers and roof work are almost complete. Mrs. Anne Eddingfield will be retiring after 38 years, and the music teacher, Jennifer Denney, has resigned. Heartland teachers have approved their contracts. The Carnegie Library has appointed Jan Roland as interim director.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Adam Hall, Parks Superintendent, stated that the Park fundraising effort is about \$6,500 short with 21 days to go.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

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, November 24 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=9W4mmOrwwhU>

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR 

ATTEST:

MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER 