

The Common Council of the City of Wabash met in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and held a council meeting on Monday, January 26, 2026, in regular session beginning at 6pm.

The first item on the agenda was a Public Hearing regarding an Additional Appropriation. This is for the remainder of the money needed to pay for the upcoming solar project. Clerk-Treasurer Penn stated that this money will be pulled from our savings only as the invoices are presented for work completed through 2026. No one else spoke 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; Bruce Hostetler of Faith Harvest Fellowship gave the prayer. The roll was answered by 7 Council members: Mitzi Pilgrim, Eric Schoening, Bill Barrows, John Burnsworth, Terry Brewer, Charlie Coyne, and Bryan Dillon.

The minutes of the meeting held January 12, 2026, were approved with the addition of a second of Council Member Burnsworth on the motion for Resolution 4, which had been omitted in the minutes. Council Member Barrows made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Council Member Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 1, 2026 – An Ordinance Establishing the Requirement that the City of Wabash be Reimbursed for Expenses Incurred in Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents. Burnsworth made a motion to accept the second reading of General Ordinance No. 1, 2026. Council Member Schoening seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 2, 2026 – Being an Ordinance to Adopt an Investment Policy for the City of Wabash, Indiana for Fiscal Year 2026. Brewer made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2, 2026. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Sherri Petterson. Ms. Petterson was not able to attend tonight's meeting. It was noted that the Statement of Benefits form was unsigned; Attorney Lehman suggested that the Compliance be passed contingent upon receiving Ms. Petterson's signature. Shelley will ask her to sign it when she picks it up. Brewer made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Sherri Petterson with the previously stated contingency. Council Member Pilgrim seconded the motion. All were in favor.

First Reading of General Ordinance No. 3, 2026 – Being an Ordinance to Amend the Ambulance Fee Schedule for the City of Wabash. Fire Chief Oswalt and Ambulance billing employee Mary Ann Shepherd were present to answer questions. Chief Oswalt explained that the need for the increased rates was that we've been raising rates by much less than the inflation rate over the last several years in hopes of providing an affordable service for the community. To keep up with costs, we are planning to set our rates at 300% of the Medicare allowable rate even though we are allowed to charge 400% of this rate. Schoening made a motion to accept the first reading of General Ordinance No. 3, 2026. Council Member Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor. It was decided to suspend the rules in order to begin billing at the new rate as soon as possible; Burnsworth made a motion to suspend the rules. Schoening seconded the motion. All were in favor. Schoening then made a motion to accept the second reading of General Ordinance No. 3, 2026. Brewer seconded the motion and then asked what the city was doing for those can't afford these rates or who don't have insurance at all. Ms. Shepherd said that the City has a hardship policy for those who are a certain percentage of the poverty level. She explained the process to apply for this reduced rate. The vote then proceeded with all in favor.

Resolution No. 5, 2026 Additional Appropriations. This was to provide the \$2.9 million to pay for the solar project capital improvements. Dillon made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

There were no questions from the audience, but Rev. Hostetler complimented the Street Department for the great job done with all the snow over recent days. Brewer stated that he also appreciated the teamwork shown by the Parks and Wastewater Departments, as they also worked to remove the recent snow. Mayor Long agreed that our departments do a great job keeping streets open for our citizens.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

There were no reports from liaisons.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

There were no reports from department heads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Long stated that the City of Peru recently assisted us in getting a plow for our airport and we very much appreciate Mayor Sturch's help with this.

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, February 9 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=R0jb_fu9ifY

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR Scott A. Long

ATTEST:

MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER Melanie Givens Penn