

The Common Council of the City of Wabash met in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and held a council meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026, in regular session beginning at 6pm.

The first item on the agenda was a Public Hearing regarding the Vacation of an Alleyway. Ben Bailey of Barrett McNagney represented the Diocese to request the vacation of an alley adjacent to St. Bernard Church on the west. The “alley” is currently covered with grass, and the purpose of the request is to increase safety for the school’s students during the school’s dismissal times. Abby Stanley, principal of St. Bernard School, also spoke in favor of vacating the alley. It was pointed out that the Diocese already owns much of the property adjacent to this alleyway. 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; Robb Rensberger of Wabash Church of God gave the prayer. The roll was answered by 6 Council members: Eric Schoening, Bill Barrows, John Burnsworth, Terry Brewer, Charlie Coyne, and Bryan Dillon. Mitzi Pilgrim was absent.

The minutes of the meeting held January 26, 2026, were approved as Council Member Schoening made a motion to accept the minutes. Council Member Coyne seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – David Moore. Mr. Moore was in attendance to answer questions. In response to a question by Council Member Burnsworth, Mr. Moore stated that this will be the first year to receive the abatement on his new home. Burnsworth then made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – David Moore. Council Member Dillon seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

First Reading of Special Ordinance No. 1, 2026 – Being an Ordinance Vacating an Alleyway on Sinclair Street in the City of Wabash, Indiana. Dillon requested clarification concerning the east-west alley and the path that drivers owning surrounding homes would take, with the consensus being that they would drive through the St. Bernard parking lot. Barrows made a motion to accept the first reading of Special Ordinance No. 1, 2026. Schoening seconded the motion. All present were in favor. The second reading of the Ordinance will take place at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

There were no questions from the audience, but the Street Department was again complemented for their work during the recent snow.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Schoening reported that the Parks Board will have PCAP students at their next meeting to present their murals for potential future implementation at various Park locations. The Council was invited to attend. Dillon reported that the City School Board enjoyed a presentation by the 4th grade OJ Leaders and also honored their school nurse for her recent life-saving heroics. City Schools have applied for a waiver for three of the snow days that were used this winter; Mayor Long stated that the waiver had been granted by the State. The official Count Day showed they have increased their student count by eleven students this year.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

There were no reports from department heads.

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, February 23 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=_yGWVaNvHAQ

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR *Scott A. Long*

ATTEST:
MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER *Melanie Givens Penn*