

A public hearing was held concerning the Proposed Wabash City Schools Budget, Tax Rate, and Levy for 2025. Matt Stone of Wabash City Schools was present to answer questions. Hearing no comments or questions, the public hearing was closed.

Two public hearings were held concerning the Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriations. The first was to request \$3,635,000 for the Redevelopment Fund and the second was to request \$200,000 for the Rainy Day Fund. City Clerk-Treasurer Melanie Givens Penn was available to answer questions. Hearing no comments or questions, the public hearing was closed.

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 23, 2024, in regular session. The meeting was called to order with Mayor Scott Long presiding and the Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

City Attorney Doug Lehman gave the prayer.

The roll was answered by 7 Council members: Mitzi Pilgrim, Charlie Coyne, Terry Brewer, Bryan Dillon, John Burnsworth, Eric Schoening and Wade Weaver.

The minutes of the meeting held September 9, 2024 were approved as circulated. Council Member Weaver made a motion to accept the minutes. Council Member Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 12, 2024 Being an Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, Article 2 Setting fees and Charges for Records Produced Pursuant to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA). Dillon moved to accept the Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 12, 2024. Council Member Brewer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

First Reading of General Ordinance No. 13, 2024 Being an Ordinance to Propose Wabash City Schools Budget, Levy, and Tax Rate for 2025.

Dillon commented that he appreciated all the budget information provided to the Council this year and asked how the student population compared to last year. Matt Stone stated that the corporation was down 40 students this year, consisting mostly of younger students, and a majority of those had moved out of the area as opposed to transferring to other local schools although some were now enrolled at St Bernards School. Brewer made a motion to accept the First Reading of General Ordinance No. 13, 2024. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

First Reading of General Ordinance No. 14, 2024 Being an Ordinance for Additional Appropriation for General Fund. This money is for the RDC to purchase to 232 acres of annexed land for the Industrial Park. Council Member Burnsworth made a motion to accept the First Reading of General Ordinance No. 14, 2024. Dillon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

First Reading of General Ordinance No. 15, 2024 Being an Ordinance for Additional Appropriation for Rainy Day Fund. This money is to replenish the Rainy Day Fund to be in a better position for the upcoming 2025 Budget. Weaver made a motion to accept the First Reading of General Ordinance No. 15, 2024. Brewer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation from John Gaskill regarding the Wabash Carnegie Library Budget. Mr. Gaskill is the new executive director of the library and he gave a handout to Council and briefly went over the proposed budget of the library. He also invited council members to the November 15 ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the building's remodeling.

Resolution No. 12, 2024 – Tax Abatement for David Moore. Mr. Moore is building a new home at 1574 Liberty St and the Tax Abatement Authority made a favorable ruling to allow the benefit of a five-year abatement. Council Member Burnsworth made a motion to accept Resolution No. 12, 2024. Dillon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 13, 2024 – Intent to Purchase Real Estate and Reimburse Funds. As the City is using \$3,635,000 to purchase acreage in the Industrial Park, this Resolution will allow the City, in the future, to sell bonds for the project and at the same time use the bond to reimburse the City for the funds spent. This Resolution is recommended by Board

Counsel. Council Member Schoening asked if there was an expectation of the City recouping its costs if this Resolution is not put into place. Mayor Long stated that Duke Site Readiness has rated this land “high value” and we need to recoup just a fraction of the selling price to pay for the installation of infrastructure etc. This Resolution is just a contingency to be used if needed. Brewer asked if any companies had shown interest; Tenille Zartman of Grow Wabash County said there were. Dillon made a motion to accept Resolution No. 13, 2024. Brewer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business brought before the Council.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

There were no questions from the audience.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Park Board Liaison Dillon reported that the Board met September 11. The ribbon cutting at the new park went well and the playground gets a lot of use. Bids for a new vehicle were discussed. Adding a pickleball court is definitely a possibility for next year.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Street Department Head Scott Richardson said Fall Clean-up is going well and is actually ahead of schedule. The entire department hustled Monday due to the impending rain.

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 upcoming holiday, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15 at 6:00 pm.

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Wabash City Council meeting. The full video archive of the meeting is unavailable for this meeting as the recording equipment malfunctioned.

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR Scott A. Long

ATTEST:

MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER Melanie Givens Penn