

HARRISON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Minutes of the Harrison County Council meeting held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. local time, in the Commissioners' and Council Room of the Harrison County Government Center located in Corydon, Indiana.

Present: Jake Blackman, Council Member Tad Whitis, Council Attorney
 Sherry Brown, Council Member Sara Burdick, County Auditor
 Jennie Capelle, Council Member Chad Shireman, County Administrator
 Holli Castetter, Council Member
 Richard Gerdon, Council Member
 Joe Kellum, Council Member
 Kyle Nix, Council Member

Chairman Nix led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chairman Nix called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with all seven members of the Harrison County Council and County Attorney Tad Whitis present.

County prosecutor Otto Schalk came before the council with a request to expand the problem-solving court. He described the current problem-solving court model, which addresses the underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior, and how it contrasts from traditional courts. The plan for expansion would include a new, 30-hour per week employee dedicated to this role.

The salary for the position was requested at \$60,000.00 per year, with no benefits other than health insurance eligibility. The employee would not receive PERF, vacation, sick, personnel, or holiday pay. Mr. Schalk proposed dividing half of the salary out of the infraction deferral fund and half of the salary out of the opioid settlement grant fund. The prosecutor asset forfeiture fund would pay for FICA and health insurance, if applicable. This structure would fund the position for four years, with alternative funding needing to be secured for year five and beyond.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve the new position as requested, with a start date of April 1, 2026. Councilwoman Castetter seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Nix formally called the public hearing to order on Ordinance 2026-02 for the justice center renovation bond issuance at 7:35 PM.

Dustin Meeks of Barnes & Thornburg LLP came before the council to provide an overview of the bond ordinance for the county's justice center renovation project. The ordinance authorizes up to \$19 million in general obligation bonds. Councilwoman Castetter emphasized the intention is not to raise property taxes and that the riverboat fund has sufficient reserves to cover the bond issuance. The council members and Mr. Meeks discussed the options for bond term length and interest rates, with the goal of securing the best possible interest rate. Chairman Nix then asked if there were any additional questions or comments from members of the council and general public.

County resident Karen Lopp asked if there was an option to pay the bond off early. Dustin Meeks explained that adding the option of an early payoff can be included but would add to the overall cost. On a bond term of seven to ten years, paying it off after three years would add an approximate \$232,000.00 to the cost and a five-year payoff option would add approximately \$200,000.00 to the cost.

Chairman Nix asked for any further public or council comment. Councilwoman Capelle noted that the council heard these options at their last meeting, with those decisions to be made once the ordinance is approved.

Hearing no more public comment, chairman Nix called for a motion to close the public hearing. Councilwoman Capelle made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:50 PM. Councilwoman Castetter seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Brown made a motion to adopt and sign Ordinance 2026-02 as presented. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

The next order of business was new additional appropriation requests to be heard by the council. County administrator Chad Shireman presented a request in the amount of \$200,000.00 for contractual services in the commissioner budget in the cumulative courthouse fund. He said this would be to cover any upfront costs associated with the flood damage at the county courthouse that may be incurred prior to insurance claims being processed.

The next request was in the amount of \$215,733.00 for capital outlays in the EMS budget in the county share of riverboat fund. EMS director Jeremy McKim explained that this was for a Ford F450 4 x 4 Osage remount of an ambulance. The funding had already been approved but was unable to be encumbered.

The last new additional appropriation request was in the amount of \$5,056.25 from the government facilities plan fund. Auditor Sara Burdick said this was the remaining balance in the fund and the monies must be used at the Government Center. It is being requested to be put toward the planned renovation of the dispatch office area.

Chairman Nix said that the next order of business was additional appropriations advertised to be voted on at tonight's meeting. Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,060.00 for contractual services in the circuit court clerk budget in the county general fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Gerdon made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$95,856.00 for salt in the local road & street fund. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$34,327.44 for contractual services in the motor vehicle highway fund. Councilwoman Castetter seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve additional appropriations as follows: \$5,025.95 to the Town of Corydon, \$218.52 to the Town of Crandall, \$311.90 to the Town of Elizabeth, \$129.80 to the Town of Laconia, \$1,364.35 to the Town of Lanesville, \$87.78 to the Town of Mauckport, \$688.24 to the Town of Milltown, \$44.83 to the Town of New Amsterdam, \$151.28 to the Town of New Middletown and \$1,315.79 to the Town of Palmyra for infrastructure out of the county share of riverboat fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve additional appropriations as follows: \$80,043.77 to Crawford County, \$13,340.63 to Washington County, \$13,340.63 to Floyd County, \$6,670.31 to the Town of Georgetown, \$20,010.94 to the City of New Albany, \$14,624.00 to the Town of Corydon, \$1,906.38 to the Town of Crandall, \$2,178.52 to the Town of Elizabeth, \$1,644.90 to the Town of Laconia, \$5,265.54 to the Town of Lanesville, \$1,523.50 to the Town of Mauckport, \$4,651.88 to the

Town of Milltown, \$1,396.76 to the Town of New Amsterdam, \$1,707.60 to the Town of New Middletown and \$5,122.80 to the Town of Palmyra for riverboat revenue sharing out of the county riverboat ordinance 98-12 fund. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nay.

Councilwoman Capelle made a motion to approve additional appropriations as follows: \$7,500.00 for probation officer 1, \$7,500.00 for probation officer 4, \$1,147.50 for FICA, \$2,130.00 for PERF, \$500.00 for miscellaneous supplies, \$13,100.50 for other instruments and medical supplies, and \$1,500.00 for contractual services in the veteran's court 2026 fund. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the Annual Budget;

NOW THEREFORE: Sec. 1 Be it ordained by the County Council of Harrison County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums are hereby appropriated out of the funds named for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u>		
1000-39307-000-0001 Contractual Services-Clerk	\$ 2,060.00	\$ 2,060.00
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,060.00	\$ 2,060.00
<u>LOCAL ROAD & STREET FUND</u>		
1169-22211-000-0530 Salt	\$ 95,856.00	\$ 95,856.00
TOTAL LOCAL ROAD & STREET FUND	\$ 95,856.00	\$ 95,856.00
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND</u>		
1176-39307-000-0530 Contractual Services	\$ 34,327.44	\$ 34,327.44
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 34,327.44	\$ 34,327.44
<u>COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND</u>		
1191-30601-000-0100 Town of Corydon (I)	\$ 5,025.95	\$ 5,025.95
1191-30702-000-0100 Town of Crandall (I)	\$ 218.52	\$ 218.52
1191-30801-000-0100 Town of Elizabeth (I)	\$ 311.90	\$ 311.90
1191-30901-000-0100 Town of Laconia (I)	\$ 129.80	\$ 129.80
1191-31002-000-0100 Town of Lanesville (I)	\$ 1,364.35	\$ 1,364.35
1191-31109-000-0100 Town of Mauckport (I)	\$ 87.78	\$ 87.78
1191-31207-000-0100 Town of Milltown (I)	\$ 688.24	\$ 688.24
1191-31307-000-0100 Town of New Amsterdam (I)	\$ 44.83	\$ 44.83
1191-31408-000-0100 Town of New Middletown (I)	\$ 151.28	\$ 151.28
1191-31508-000-0100 Town of Palmyra (I)	\$ 1,315.79	\$ 1,315.79
TOTAL COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND	\$ 9,338.44	\$ 9,338.44
<u>COUNTY RIVERBOAT ORD. 98-12 FUND</u>		
7303-30107-000-0100 Crawford County (RS)	\$ 80,043.77	\$ 80,043.77
7303-30204-000-0100 Washington County (RS)	\$ 13,340.63	\$ 13,340.63
7303-30301-000-0100 Floyd County (RS)	\$ 13,340.63	\$ 13,340.63
7303-30501-000-0100 Town of Georgetown (RS)	\$ 6,670.31	\$ 6,670.31

7303-30404-000-0100 City of New Albany (RS)	\$ 20,010.94	\$ 20,010.94
7303-30600-000-0100 Town of Corydon (RS)	\$ 14,624.00	\$ 14,624.00
7303-30701-000-0100 Town of Crandall (RS)	\$ 1,906.38	\$ 1,906.38
7303-30800-000-0100 Town of Elizabeth RS)	\$ 2,178.52	\$ 2,178.52
7303-30900-000-0100 Town of Laconia (RS)	\$ 1,644.90	\$ 1,644.90
7303-31001-000-0100 Town of Lanesville (RS)	\$ 5,265.54	\$ 5,265.54
7303-31108-000-0100 Town of Mauckport (RS)	\$ 1,523.50	\$ 1,523.50
7303-31206-000-0100 Town of Milltown (RS)	\$ 4,651.88	\$ 4,651.88
7303-31307-000-0100 Town of New Amsterdam (RS)	\$ 1,396.76	\$ 1,396.76
7303-31407-000-0100 Town of New Middletown (RS)	\$ 1,707.60	\$ 1,707.60
7303-31507-000-0100 Town of Palmyra (RS)	\$ 5,122.80	\$ 5,122.80
TOTAL RIVERBOAT ORD. 98-12 FUND	\$ 173,428.16	\$ 173,428.16

VETERAN'S COURT 2026 FUND

9133-11311-000-0201 Probation Officer 1	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
9133-11517-000-0201 Probation Officer 4	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
9133-12100-000-0201 FICA	\$ 1,147.50	\$ 1,147.50
9133-12200-000-0201 PERF	\$ 2,130.00	\$ 2,130.00
9133-21102-000-0201 Misc Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
9133-21601-000-0201 Other Int & Med Supplies	\$ 13,100.50	\$ 13,100.50
9133-31600-000-0201 Contractual Services	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL VETERAN'S COURT 2026 FUND	\$ 33,378.00	\$ 33,378.00

ADOPTED THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

Chairman Nix said the next order of business would be transfer of funds for the council's consideration. Councilwoman Capelle made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$161.72 from office supplies to contractual services-other in the county general fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Gerdon made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$10,000.00 from chief probation officer to equipment in the juvenile probation budget in the LIT public safety-county share fund. Councilwoman Castetter seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Gerdon made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$30,000.00 from capital murder case to contractual services in the commissioner budget in the county share of riverboat fund. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Councilwoman Capelle abstained.

Councilwoman Capelle made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$10,000.00 from mental health court coordinator to equipment in the circuit court budget in the county share of riverboat fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 54

WHEREAS, certain extraordinary emergencies have developed since the adoption of the existing annual budget, so that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the Annual Budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, to meet such extraordinary emergencies:

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the County Council of Harrison County, Indiana, that for the expenses of said Municipal Corporation the following items are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u>		
1000-39307-000-0001 Contractual Services-Other	\$ 161.72	\$ 161.72
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 161.72	\$ 161.72
<u>LIT PUBLIC SAFETY-COUNTY SHARE FUND</u>		
1170-44200-000-0273 Equipment-Juvenile Probation	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL LIT PUBLIC SAFETY-COUNTY SHARE FUND	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
<u>COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND</u>		
1191-31600-000-0068 Contractual Services	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
1191-44200-000-0232 Equipment-Circuit Court	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00

Sec. 2. **WHEREAS**, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have un-obligated balances which will not be needed for the purpose for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced the following amounts:

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u>		
1000-21100-000-0001 Office Supplies-Clerk	\$ 161.72	\$ 161.72
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 161.72	\$ 161.72
<u>LIT PUBLIC SAFETY-COUNTY SHARE FUND</u>		
1170-12110-000-0273 Chief Probation Officer	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL LIT PUBLIC SAFETY-COUNTY SHARE FUND	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
<u>COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND</u>		
1191-31318-000-0068 Capital Murder Case	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
1191-16000-000-0232 Mental Health Court Coordinator	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00

ADOPTED THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBUARY, 2026

Councilman Blackman made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the monthly clerk's report for the month of January. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Brown made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the monthly treasurer's report for the month of January. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

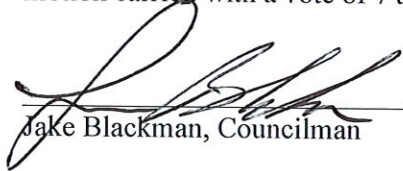
The next order of business was council meeting minutes. Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the November 10, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the November 24, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

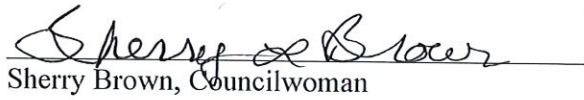
Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the December 8, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the December 22, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.




Jake Blackman, Councilman



Sherry Brown, Councilwoman



Jennie Capelle, Councilwoman



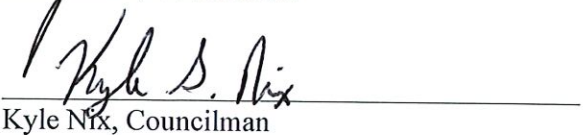
Holli Castetter, Councilwoman



Richard Gerdon, Councilman



Joe Kellum, Councilman



Kyle Nix, Councilman

ATTEST: 

Sara Burdick, County Auditor