

HARRISON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Minutes of the Harrison County Council meeting held on Monday, February 9, 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.

Dustin Meeks of Barnes & Thornburg announced the first reading of an ordinance authorizing general obligation bonds for Harrison County's justice center facility renovation. The ordinance includes approval for the issuance of up to \$19 million in bonds, covering the project cost and incidental expenses. It also includes provisions for bond sales flexibility to secure the best interest rate, including insurance on bonds.

Jason Semler of Baker Tilly spoke to the council about the financial scenarios associated with the bond issuance. He explained that the interest rate will be set at the time of the bond sale. As financial advisor, he is responsible for securing the lowest interest rate possible for the bonds. Included in his bond presentation were scenarios for a seven-year term with an annual payment of \$2.8 million and a ten-year term with an annual payment of \$2.1 million. Mr. Semler explained how the bond term, potential for refinancing, or options for paying off the bond early can impact interest rates.

Harrison County Community Foundation CFO Derrick Grisby came before the council to provide a quarterly investment update. Mr. Grigsby said casino transfers for the fourth quarter of 2025 totaled \$2,242,064.25. The community fund had a quarterly performance of approximately 2.44% with an ending balance of \$210,805,700.41. Mr. Grigsby also noted positive year-to-date performance of the community fund, with a gain of about \$11.7 million.

The council reviewed an additional appropriation request in the amount of \$2,060.00 for the circuit court clerk to purchase Microsoft 365 licenses for her staff. The request is advertised to be voted on at the council's next meeting.

County engineer Kevin Russel came before the council with two additional appropriation requests for the highway department. The first request was in the amount of \$34,327.44 to update and modernize the security cameras at the highway facility. The next request was in the amount of \$95,856.00 for treated salt, with the county engineer noting this would allow the department to order the full 120% of their contract amount.

Chairman Nix read the remaining new additional appropriations to be voted on at the council's next meeting. Riverboat infrastructure additional appropriations totaled \$9,338.44 and riverboat revenue sharing totaled \$173,428.16. Additional appropriations for the veteran's court 2026 grant fund totaled \$33,378.00.

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 deny an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,231.46 for equipment repair & maintenance 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 \$74,686.00 for contractual services in the cumulative bridge fund. Councilman Kellum 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>		
1000-36100-000-0001 Equip. Repair & Maintenance	\$ 1,231.46	\$ 0.00
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,231.46	\$ 0.00
 <u>CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND</u>		
1135-31600-000-0530 Contractual Services	\$ 74,686.00	\$ 74,686.00
TOTAL CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND	\$ 74,686.00	\$ 74,686.00

ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

Chairman Nix said the next order of business would be transfer of funds for the council's consideration. Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$784.00 from office supplies to contractual services-other in the circuit court clerk budget in the county general fund. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve transfer requests as follows: \$600.00 from equipment repair & maintenance to equipment and \$952.96.00 from office supplies to equipment in the IT management budget in the county general fund. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$800.00 from office supplies to contractual services in the prosecutor IV-D budget in the county general fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Capelle made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$1,595.13 from garage mechanic to head mechanic in the motor vehicle highway fund. Councilwoman Brown 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	\$ 784.00	\$ 784.00
1000-44200-000-0001 Equipment	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
1000-44200-000-0001 Equipment	\$ 952.96	\$ 952.96
1000-31600-000-0660 Contractual Services-IV-D	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 3,136.96	\$ 3,136.96
 <u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND</u>		
1176-11318-000-0533 Head Mechanic	\$ 1,592.13	\$ 1,592.13
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 1,592.13	\$ 1,592.13

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	\$ 784.00	\$ 784.00
1000-36100-000-0001 Equip. Repair & Maintenance	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
1000-21100-000-0001 Office Supplies	\$ 952.96	\$ 952.96
1000-21100-000-0660 Office Supplies-IV-D	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 3,136.96	\$ 3,136.96
 <u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND</u>		
1176-11218-000-0533 Garage Mechanic	\$ 1,592.13	\$ 1,592.13
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 1,592.13	\$ 1,592.13

ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

Chairman Nix said the next order of business would be encumbrances for the council's consideration. Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the encumbrances as recommended by the county auditor's office. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

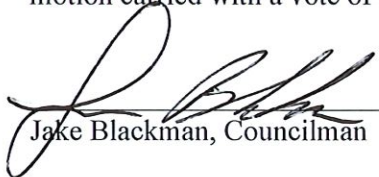
County administrator Chad Shireman presented the 2026 Harrison County Community Fund grant request form. Mr. Shireman said the Community Foundation had received January's transfer from the casino and was holding the funds to send directly to the County prior to being invested. Due to the time-sensitive

nature of the request, chairman Nix had signed the letter so the Harrison County Community Foundation could take action at their meeting. The letter reflected the \$5.3 million request from the community fund, as approved by the council during the 2026 budget process. Councilman Blackman made a motion to ratify councilman Nix's signature. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions. Councilman Nix and councilwoman Castetter abstained.

County engineer Kevin Russel came before the council to provide the revenue and expenditures report for the highway department for 2016-2025. He also provided an updated version of the equipment inventory report.

Former council chairman and current Lanesville Community School corporation board member Donnie Hussung came before the council to discuss the planned justice center renovations. He suggested looking at options for private financing from an institution to see how it compares to the projected bond rates. Tax-exempt loans given to governmental entities would require smaller interest rates than other loan offerings. He noted that the bond rate would likely still be lower, but fees associated with a bond compared to a bank loan may make the overall cost more competitive.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Councilwoman Castetter 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