

HARRISON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

Minutes of the Harrison County Council meeting held on Tuesday, May 26, 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	Mike Summers, 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 7:06 p.m. with all seven members of the Harrison County Council and Council Attorney Mike Summers present.

Patrick O'Brien and Nicholas Haverstock from the public defender's office were present to request an amendment to the salary ordinance for deputy public defender. The current salary is \$100,400.00, and they are requesting it be amended to \$107,500.00 to meet pay parity with the prosecutor's office. The increase is necessary to qualify for a 40% reimbursement from the State. Due to the position being vacant for the past three months, no additional funds will be needed for the request. The position is expected to be filled on June 18, 2026. Chairman Nix said the council would take the request under advisement and vote at their next meeting.

County engineer Kevin Russel came before the council with two additional appropriation requests. The first was in the amount of \$30,200.00 for district 2 projects in the highway department budget in the county share of riverboat fund. Mr. Russel said this request was to replenish the district 2 account for funds spent on a geotechnical investigation of an apparent sinkhole on Federal Drive. Previous repairs were done in 2008, but the issue has resurfaced. The proposed solution is injection grouting instead of excavation down to rock, which would be less costly and disruptive.

The second additional appropriation request was in the amount of \$208,992.00 for equipment in the highway department budget and was advertised out of both the motor vehicle highway fund and county share of riverboat fund. Mr. Russel said this would allow the department to purchase a new grader. Two older graders are being traded in at a total value of \$57,800.00 to lower the overall purchase cost.

Mr. Russel also requested that the council consider selecting two or three members to work with the highway department and a commissioner on forming a committee that would build and maintain an equipment replacement plan for the department. He said this would establish a more formalized plan for equipment replacement to help streamline the annual budget and future funding requests.

County administrator Chad Shireman presented an additional appropriation request in the amount of \$839.72 for equipment repair & maintenance in the extension office budget in the county general fund. Mr. Shireman explained that the work wasn't fully completed and invoiced until 2026, with the appropriation formerly approved by the council in 2025 reverting back to the fund at the end of the year. The department also submitted a transfer request to go toward the final payment.

Commissioner Nelson Stepro came before the council with a request to repurpose \$6,000.00 of a \$30,000.00 appropriation previously allocated toward a TIF district feasibility study. Mr. Stepro said the developer had opted to pay for the study out-of-pocket, so the funding was never used. The \$6,000.00 would be used to pay for two appraisals of a building currently being leased to provide workspaces for county employees displaced by the justice center renovation. The lease has an option to purchase clause, and the appraisals would need to be completed to give the County an opportunity to purchase the building. Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve repurposing the appropriation for the appraisal costs. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 2 nays. Councilwoman Castetter and councilwoman Capelle were opposed.

Chairman Nix read the remaining new additional appropriations to be voted on at the council's next meeting. Riverboat infrastructure additional appropriations totaled \$13,050.70 and riverboat revenue sharing totaled \$242,370.09.

Chairman Nix said that the next order of business was additional appropriations advertised to be voted on at tonight's meeting. Councilman Gerdon made a motion to approve additional appropriations as follows: \$5,000.00 for probation officer 1, \$5,000.00 for probation officer 3, \$5,000.00 for probation officer 2, \$1,531.00 for FICA, \$5,000.00 for chief probation officer and \$2,841.00 for PERF in the superior probation user fees fund. Councilwoman Capelle 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>SUPERIOR PROBATION USER FEES</u>		
2002-11311-000-0201 Probation Officer 1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
2002-11409-000-0201 Probation Officer 3	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
2002-11509-000-0201 Probation Officer 2	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
2002-12100-000-0201 FICA	\$ 1,531.00	\$ 1,531.00
2002-12101-000-0201 Chief Probation Officer	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
2002-12200-000-0201 PERF	<u>\$ 2,841.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,841.00</u>
TOTAL SUP. PROBATION USER FEES FUND	\$ 24,372.00	\$ 24,372.00

ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF MAY, 2026

Chairman Nix said the next order of business would be transfer of funds for the council's consideration. Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$6.76 from office supplies to equipment in the assessor budget in the county general fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$200.00 from travel, per diem & meals to equipment repair & maintenance in the extension office budget in the county general 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>		
1000-42100-000-0008 Equipment-Assessor	\$ 6.76	\$ 6.76
1000-36100-000-0011 Equip. Repair & Maintenance	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 206.76	\$ 206.76

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>		
1000-21100-000-0008 Office Supplies	\$ 6.76	\$ 6.76
1000-32300-000-0011 Travel, Per Diem & Meals	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 206.76	\$ 206.76

ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF MAY, 2026

County administrator Chad Shireman announced that there had been an issue with the additional appropriations advertisement voted on at the May 11, 2026 council meeting. As a result, the additional appropriations from the previous meeting were re-advertised and would need to be voted on again. Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve those additional appropriation requests in the same manner they were acted upon during the original meetings. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Councilman Kellum abstained.

A list of those additional appropriations are reflected in the ordinance below.

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>CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND</u>		
1138-37403-000-0000 Rent/Lease	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEV. FUND	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 0.00
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY-RESTRICTED FUND</u>		
1173-33360-000-0530 Bituminous	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00
TOTAL MOTOR VEH. HWY-RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00
<u>JUSTICE CENTER RENOVATION BOND FUND</u>		
4802-39307-000-0000 Contractual Services-Other	\$19,465,000.00	\$19,465,000.00
TOTAL JUSTICE CENTER RENO. BOND FUND	\$19,465,000.00	\$19,465,000.00
<u>COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND</u>		
1191-36209-000-0270 Repairs-Truck & Tractor	\$ 29,909.55	\$ 29,909.55
1191-42100-000-0803 Capital Outlays-Parks Dept	\$ 24,500.00	\$ Tabled
1191-30601-000-0100 Town of Corydon (I)	\$ 8,424.03	\$ 8,424.03
1191-30702-000-0100 Town of Crandall (I)	\$ 366.26	\$ 366.26
1191-30801-000-0100 Town of Elizabeth (I)	\$ 522.80	\$ 522.80
1191-30901-000-0100 Town of Laconia (I)	\$ 217.57	\$ 217.57
1191-31002-000-0100 Town of Lanesville (I)	\$ 2,286.79	\$ 2,286.79
1191-31109-000-0100 Town of Mauckport (I)	\$ 147.13	\$ 147.13
1191-31207-000-0100 Town of Milltown (I)	\$ 1,153.57	\$ 1,153.57
1191-31307-000-0100 Town of New Amsterdam (I)	\$ 75.13	\$ 75.13
1191-31408-000-0100 Town of New Middletown (I)	\$ 253.56	\$ 253.56
1191-31508-000-0100 Town of Palmyra (I)	\$ 2,205.39	\$ 2,205.39
TOTAL COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND	\$ 70,061.78	\$ 45,561.78
<u>COUNTY RIVERBOAT ORD. 98-12 FUND</u>		
7303-30107-000-0100 Crawford County (RS)	\$ 134,162.01	\$ 134,162.01
7303-30204-000-0100 Washington County (RS)	\$ 22,360.33	\$ 22,360.33
7303-30301-000-0100 Floyd County (RS)	\$ 22,360.33	\$ 22,360.33
7303-30501-000-0100 Town of Georgetown (RS)	\$ 11,180.18	\$ 11,180.18
7303-30404-000-0100 City of New Albany (RS)	\$ 33,540.50	\$ 33,540.50
7303-30600-000-0100 Town of Corydon (RS)	\$ 24,511.40	\$ 24,511.40
7303-30701-000-0100 Town of Crandall (RS)	\$ 3,195.29	\$ 3,195.29
7303-30800-000-0100 Town of Elizabeth RS)	\$ 3,651.44	\$ 3,651.44
7303-30900-000-0100 Town of Laconia (RS)	\$ 2,757.03	\$ 2,757.03
7303-31001-000-0100 Town of Lanesville (RS)	\$ 8,825.62	\$ 8,825.62
7303-31108-000-0100 Town of Mauckport (RS)	\$ 2,553.55	\$ 2,553.55
7303-31206-000-0100 Town of Milltown (RS)	\$ 7,797.05	\$ 7,797.05
7303-31307-000-0100 Town of New Amsterdam (RS)	\$ 2,341.13	\$ 2,341.13
7303-31407-000-0100 Town of New Middletown (RS)	\$ 2,862.12	\$ 2,862.12
7303-31507-000-0100 Town of Palmyra (RS)	\$ 8,586.37	\$ 8,586.37
TOTAL RIVERBOAT ORD. 98-12 FUND	\$ 290,684.35	\$ 290,684.35

ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF MAY, 2026

Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the March 23, 2026 council meeting minutes as amended. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the April 27, 2026 council meeting minutes as presented. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the June 11, 2026 council meeting minutes as amended. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

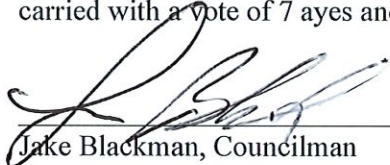
Councilwoman Castetter raised the issue of funding school resource officers for the remainder of the year and 2027. The council previously decided to fund SROs from January to June 30, 2026 and now needs to decide on funding for the rest of the year. The school boards would need to be informed about the funding decision to help them with their budget planning. New memorandums of understanding would be needed to clarify funding terms and responsibilities.

Council attorney Mike Summers will be working on revised memorandums of understanding to present at the next council meeting.

Chairman Nix said the council's second meeting of June is currently scheduled for June 22, 2026. Multiple council members will not be able to attend due to involvement with the county fair. With that, the council may want to consider moving the meeting to another date. Councilman Blackman made a motion to move the second meeting of June to Monday, June 29, 2026 at 7 PM. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Capelle recommended the council set a defined dollar amount to be put toward school resource officers for each school in order to avoid the council having to decide every year what the schools' resource officer needs are.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.



Jake Blackman, Councilman



Sherry Brown, Councilwoman



Jennie Capelle, Councilwoman



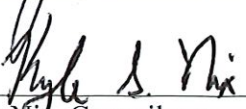
Holli Castetter, Councilwoman



Richard Gerdon, Councilman



Joe Kellum, Councilman



Kyle Nix, Councilman

ATTEST: 

Sara Burdick, County Auditor