Martin County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 5, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in a regular session on Monday, January 5, 2026, in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Council Members attending were Warren D. Albright, Monty Gregory, Jim Hamby, Sheri Bowling, Jordan Berry, and Jim Woody. Gerald D. Montgomery was absent. Also attending was Auditor Michelle Norris.

Warren Albright called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 pm.

RE: REORGANIZATION

Warren Albright opened the floor for nominations for the 2026 Council President. Monty Gregory nominated Warren Albright to retain the position of President, seconded by Jim Woody. All in favor, motion passed. President Albright then opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. Jim Woody nominated Monty Gregory to retain the position of Vice-President, seconded by Sheri Bowling. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Monty Gregory to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on December 1, 2025, and the special session held on December 29, 2025, seconded by Jim Woody. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

RE: 2026 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

The Council reviewed the list of board appointments for 2026. The approved appointments are as follows:

- Economic Development Commission: Warren Albright
- Alcohol Beverage Board: Kenneth Inman
- Samaritan Advisory Council: Sheri Bowling
- SIDC Board: Monty Gregory
- Solid Waste Board: Jim Hamby
- PTABOA: August Bauer & Roger Downey
- Redevelopment Commission: Warren Albright & Monty Gregory
- Community Corrections Advisory Board: Warren Albright
- Daviess Martin Park Board: Susan Harrawood & Gerald Montgomery
- Martin County Alliance Board: Jim Woody

A motion was made by Monty Gregory to accept the 2026 Council appointments as presented and discussed; Jordan Berry seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

RE: 2027 SHERIFF SALARY

Auditor Michelle Norris provided an overview of the state-mandated guidelines for the Sheriff's salary, referencing Indiana Code 36-2-13-2.8. She explained that for counties with a population under 20,000, the Sheriff's annual salary must be at least 50% of the salary paid by the State to a full-time prosecuting attorney in the county. Based on the current prosecutor's salary of $183,513, the minimum sheriff salary would be $91,756.50. The Council discussed that this salary would take effect in 2027 for the incoming sheriff, whether it be the reelected current sheriff or a new individual. Warren Albright noted the importance of discussing this publicly before the election to ensure transparency and avoid any appearance of favoritism. Auditor Norris noted the State might adjust the prosecutor's salary on July 1st, which could require an adjustment to the sheriff's salary to remain in compliance with the 50% statute. The discussion served as a formal statement of intent, with the final salary to be officially set during the budget process in July.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT GRANT FUNDS- ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Auditor Norris requested a budget adjustment for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness fund (8102) and Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response (8103) for the 2026 budget. She explained that these federal grant fund numbers were recently renumbered from the 9000 series to the 8000 series (Fund 8102 and 8103), but this change was not reflected in the 2026 budget as it was not part of the departmental budget meetings. This action was necessary to appropriate the funds under their correct new fund numbers to align with the 2026 budget. A motion was made by Monty Gregory to approve the appropriations for fund 8102 and fund 8103. The motion was seconded by Jordan Berry. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness- 8102	
PHEP Grant	
Asst Public Health Nurse	$12,500
Social Security	$1,000
Pod Supplies	$4,100
Wireless Card/Postage	$1,000
Mileage	$400
Equipment	$1,000
TOTAL FOR FUND 8102	**$20,000**
Cooperative Agreement for Emerg Res- 8103	
PHER Grant	
Asst Health Nurse	$36,059
Social Security	$2,885
Benefits	$9,000
Health Insurance	$16,000
Supplies	$2,500
Mileage	$600
Phone	$750
Postage	$1,000
Equipment	$1,000
TOTAL FOR FUND 8103	**$69,494**

RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SALARY FUNDING CORRECTION

Auditor Norris presented a request from the Highway Department to correct the funding source for two employee salaries. During the budget process, the salaries for Operator with CDL (6) and Lead Operator W/CDL were budgeted in the Cumulative Bridge Fund (1135). However, the Highway Department decided they would rather pay these employees from the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund (1173). The request was to de-appropriate the funds from the Cumulative Bridge Fund and re-appropriate them to the Restricted Motor Vehicle Highway Fund (1173). A motion was made by Jim Hamby to approve the salary de-appropriation in the cumulative bridge fund and the appropriation of those salaries to the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted fund, seconded by Jim Woody. All in favor, motion passed.

Highway- Cumulative Bridge- Fund 1135	
Operator W/CDL (6)	-$50,212
Lead Operator W/CDL	-$52,562
TOTAL FOR FUND 1135	**-102,774**
Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted- 1173	
Operator w/CDL (6)	$50,212
Lead Operator W/CDL	$52,562
TOTAL FOR FUND 1173	**$102,774**

RE: AUDITOR'S OFFICE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Norris requested an appropriation of $12,000 for the Auditor's Ineligible Deductions Fund (1216) for furniture and equipment. Approximately $3,700 of this amount is for the final payment owed to Red Fox Cabinetry for a custom-built reception desk in her office that was recently completed. The remaining funds are needed for a new office copier, as the current one is malfunctioning. A quote from Hoosier Business Machines for a new Kyocera copier was obtained for $7,367. A motion was made by Jim Hamby to approve the additional appropriation for fund 1216, seconded by Monty Gregory. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Auditors Ineligible Deductions- 1216

Furniture and Equipment	$12,000

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Auditor Norris presented additional appropriation requests that were necessary to align with budget decisions made after the initial budget was submitted to the State or to cover grant-related expenses carried over from last year. The request for the Supplemental Adult Probation Fund (2100) for $36,926 was to fund a portion of the third probation officer's salary from that fund, as decided by the Council during budget hearings. The Hazard Mitigation Fund (9111) required $1,304 to pay the remaining balance for the recently completed hazard mitigation plan. The Traffic Safety Enforcement Fund (8118) needed an appropriation of $20,000, as this was another federal grant fund that had been renumbered and was not budgeted under the new number. Finally, the SEED Grant Fund (9152) required an appropriation of $15,000 to cover the outstanding balance on a reimbursable grant used for updating 911 addresses. A motion was made by Monty Gregory to approve all requested appropriations for funds 2100, 9111, 8118, and 9152 respectively. The motion was seconded by Jim Woody. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Supplemental Adult Probation- Fund 2100

Probation Officer	$36,926

Hazard Mitigation Plan- Fund 9111

Professional Services	$1,304

Traffic Safety Enforcement- Fund 8118

Deputy Salaries	$20,000

Seed Grant Fund- 9152

Professional Services	$15,000

RE: AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW

Auditor Norris initiated a discussion regarding the Ambulance Department's budget, suggesting a proactive approach to budget management by potentially releasing funds on a quarterly basis rather than all at once due to current contract negotiations. The Council reviewed the advertised proposal to decrease certain line items for the first quarter. After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Hamby to table the agenda item until the February meeting. The motion was seconded by Monty Gregory. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS JUVENILE GRANT BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Auditor Norris presented a request on behalf of Community Corrections Director Danielle Murphy regarding the Juvenile Community Corrections Fund (9131). The budget for 9131, previously submitted to the Council, required revision to align with the version approved by the State. The State did not approve the $1,200 originally budgeted for office equipment. The approved changes reallocate these funds within the existing budget without requesting any new money. The following line transfers were requested:

Transfer Request- Juvenile Comm Corr 2- Community Corrections Budget- 9131

From: 9131.387.4000.11	Office Equipment	$1,000
To: 9131.387.3000.22	Printing	$1,000
From: 9131.387.4000.11	Office Equipment	$200
To: 9131.387.3000.23	Misc. Services	$200

From: 9131.387.2000.20	Incentives	$837.50
To: 9131.387.3000.23	Travel/Training	$837.50

A motion to approve the line transfers for fund 9131 to match the State-approved budget was made by Jim Hamby and seconded by Monty Gregory. The motion passed unanimously.

RE: SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Auditor Norris stated it was discovered today during payroll processing that the Jail Treatment Coordinator position for the Community Corrections Grant Fund (9148) was inadvertently omitted from the 2026 Salary and Wage Ordinance. This position was included in the budget but was missed on the ordinance because it was funded under a different grant in the previous year, which was not renewed. The request is to add the Jail Treatment Coordinator position to the salary ordinance for fund 9148 with a pay range of $15.00 to $17.17 per hour. A motion to approve the amendment to the salary ordinance as requested was made by Monty Gregory. The motion was seconded by Sheri Bowling and passed unanimously.

RE: WHEEL TAX REVENUE

Mary Smith asked Auditor Norris when the County would receive the first wheel tax revenue. Auditor Norris confirmed that the County would begin receiving revenue from the tax in February, as collections are remitted one month in arrears. The Council discussed the uncertainty of the total revenue for the first year, noting that an estimate based on state-provided data was included in the budget.

Ms. Smith asked if there was a plan as to which roads would benefit from the wheel tax revenue. The Council clarified that the Commissioners are responsible for determining which road projects the funds will be used for, typically based on recommendations from a consultant and the highway superintendent. Council members noted that the funds are restricted and can only be used for road construction, reconstruction, or preservation of roads, the funds cannot be used for salaries. The Council acknowledged public interest in how the money will be spent and the importance of having a clear plan; Monty Gregory suggested that signage could be placed along the roadway if a road improvement was funded by the wheel tax, as he has seen in other counties, which would provide transparency.

RE: ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Albright noted that the Courthouse will be closed on Monday, January 19th, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Monty Gregory and seconded by Jim Hamby. All in favor, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM. The next regular meeting of the Martin County Council is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Warren D. Albright	Monty Gregory
Jim Hamby	Sheri Bowling
Gerald D. Montgomery	Jim Woody
Jordan Berry	

ATTEST: ______________________

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor