

COUNTY COUNCIL

January 8, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Council convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, January 8th, 2026 to consider additional requests in excess of the budget allowed for 2026, and to conduct such other business as may be properly brought before the Council.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Council members present were Roy Wrightsman, President; Thomas Rohr, Vice President; Jack B. Butler; Matt Helderman; James E. Howard; Rick Patton; Mary Alice Gregg; Susan Kramer, Auditor; Leanna Collisi, Deputy Auditor. Also, present were Katie Potter, Matt Romalia, Jason Frazier, Cyndi Todd, Jim Meece, Stacie Amerman, Jessica Lancaster, Mandy Washburn and Donnie Cottrell.
- III. **READING OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular Council Meeting held on December 11th, 2025 and the Year-End Council Meeting held on December 30th, 2025 were presented. Jack B Butler made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Matt Helderman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** There were no additional appropriations requested this month.
- V. **JURY PAY:** The Auditor presented the Parke County Clerk's Certification of jury fees collected for December 2025, and requested \$326.60 be transferred into the Jury Pay Fund, pursuant to IC 33-19-8-8. Rick Patton made the motion to direct the Auditor to transfer the jury fees collected in the amount of \$326.60 from the County Users Fund to the Jury Fee Fund. The motion was seconded by Jack B Butler and unanimously carried.
- VI. **REAPPROPRIATIONS:** There were no reappropriations requested this month.

VII. TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

Transfer Amount:	<u>500.00</u>		
From Account		Account	
Number:	<u>2450-000-0003-5387</u>	Name:	<u>Drug Court Professional Srv</u>
To Account		Account	
Number:	<u>2450-000-0002-5250</u>	Name:	<u>Drug Court - Incentives</u>

VIII. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Election of the 2026 Parke County Council – Officers

Roy Wrightsman – Council President
Tom Rohr – Council Vice President

Jack B Butler made a motion to elect Roy Wrightsman as President of the Council and Tom Rohr as the Vice President of the Council. This was seconded by Matt Helderman and carries unanimously.

2026 Council Appointments

Plan Commission Representative	J. B. Butler	2026
Parke County Redevelopment Commission	John K. Pratt	2026
	Roy Wrightsman	2026
West Central Solid Waste District	Mary Alice Gregg	2026
Thrive West Central Board of Directors	Cameron Martin	2026
Parke County Alcoholic Beverage Commission	Cameron Martin	2026
Parke County Park and Recreation Board	Brodie Burgess	2025-2028
	Pam Adams	2023-2026
Board of Zoning Appeals	Brad Craycraft	2026
Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals	Kim Shorter	2026
	Doug Burgess	2026
Parke County Public Library Board of Directors	Sherri Paxton	6/1/2025 to 5/31/2029
	Rachel Mundell	2/8/2024 to 12/31/2026
Montezuma Public Library Board of Directors	Alisa Wilson	1/1/2026 to 12/31/2027
	Sara Morgan	1/1/2024 to 12/31/2027
911 Advisory and Communications Board	Rick Patton	2026
Emergency Management Advisory Council	Jim Howard	2026
Local Emergency Preparedness Commission	Matt Helderman	2026

Northern Parke Regional Sewer District	Matt Helderman	2025-2026
Courthouse Security	Tom Rohr	2026
Parke County Health Board	Veronica Hill	2025-2028
County Council Attorney	Bob Clutter	2026

Tom Rohr made a motion to approve the above listed 2026 Council appointments. Jim Howard seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

2026 Council Meeting Schedule

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	Deadline for add'l Appropriations
January 8, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	December 19, 2025
February 12, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	January 23, 2026
March 12, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	February 20, 2026
April 9, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	March 20, 2026
May 14, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	April 17, 2026
June 11, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	May 22, 2026
July 9, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	June 19, 2026
August 13, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	July 24, 2026
August 20, 2026	Thursday	9:00AM	Parke County Annex 1	*Tentative Budget Hearing Date

September 10, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	August 21, 2026
October 8, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	September 18, 2026
November 12, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	October 23, 2026
December 10, 2026	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	November 20, 2026

Matt Helderman made a motion to approve the above 2026 Council Meeting schedule. Tom Rohr seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Row Wrightsman presented state guidelines for mileage, lodging and per diem reimbursement that the state utilizes for reference.

Jack B Butler made a motion to maintain the current mileage reimbursement at \$0.44 per mile. This was seconded by Rick Patton and approved unanimously.

Tom Rohr made a motion to increase the current meal per diem rate from \$35 per day to \$41 and to also match the lodging rates of standard rate of \$110 per night, Indianapolis/Carmel area \$133 per night and Lafayette/West Lafayette are \$123 per night utilized by the State of Indiana. Jack B Butler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Redevelopment Commission (RDC): Closed on the ONB building on January 7, 2026. Press release will be completed by Jessica Lancaster at the Council Presidents request. The RDC will meet on January 15th, 2026 to go over details and discuss the build-operate-transfer model that will be utilized for the repairs and remodel of the existing structure and surrounding parking lot area now owned by the RDC.

Courthouse Security Committee: Did not meet.

Planning and Zoning Board: Approved two storage units and tabled the luxury storage units until the January 22nd, 2026 meeting to be held at the Extension office.

West Central Solid Waste District (SWD): Did not meet.

Northern Parke Regional Sewer District: SRF grant has been signed for three million. Phase One of the project is set to begin on or around January 27, 2026.

X. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

- **Susan Kramer, Auditor:**

- The Auditor's Cash Flow Statement was submitted for review by the Council Members.

- **Katie Potter, Assessor:**

- PTBOA Hearing will be held Tuesday, January 6th, 2026 at the Parke County Courthouse Jury room.
- Tyler Technologies has completed the 2025 reassessments.
- 2026 Ration Study will begin soon; new construction assessment will start in a couple of weeks.
- DLGF is putting out new cost table for 2026 pay 2027, 23% increase across the board. It is still a market-based system so the increase will not affect assessments.

- **Jim Meece, Commissioner:**

- Jim Meece held a meeting with the Amish elders regarding road damage caused by buggies and horse hooves. Currently the County only charges \$50 per buggy license, it was agreed that the Amish would start paying \$100 per license this year and the potential to increase the fee in later years. Nick Suater will do an ordinance amendment to the increase the fees.
- Jim Meece would like to create a committee to coordinate the 250th Anniversary of the United States celebration on the Parke County Courthouse lawn, Jim Meece has requested up to \$2,000 to put towards the celebration.
- Window inspection fees are too high from Archetura and Arsee Engineering, Jim Meece is requesting permission to pay Matt Stechley up to \$5,000 to inspect and make recommendations based on that inspection.

- **Chris O'Brien, EMA Director:**

- Provided his on-going grant approval list. Roy Wrightsman reminded the Auditor to make sure that the grants are appropriated when they are received.

- **Jason Frazier, Sheriff:**

- Discussed 2025 inmate counts and financials, no report was provided.

- **Nicole Collings, Clerk:**

- Monthly report.

- **Matt Romalia, Highway Superintendent:**

- New leased graders will be on the road in two weeks.
- Two dump-trucks have been delivered and being upfitted.
- Donnie Cottrell with Vomac is in attendance to discuss the potential lease of a 2026 Tri-Axle at a significantly lower cost because the company that originally requested it is no longer in need of the product. It contains a \$10,000 upgraded transmission, \$4,000 upgrade from a 13 L to a 10 L and it offers a 16-foot, 6-inch bed versus the current 14 foot utilized by the County's standard dump truck. This will be paid out of the Highway Departments funds and will replace.
- Highway Department will start selling old vehicles either for parts or scrap depending on the situation of the vehicle.

- **Cyndi Todd, Executive Director**
 - Provided Partnership Parke County 2025 Impact report providing an overview of the 2025 highlights and impact that the program has for Parke County and its residents.
- **Hamilton Center**
 - Nothing to report.
- **Jessica Lancaster, Reporter Parke County Sentinel**
 - Jessica reported that today's Council meeting would be her last official duty for the Sentinel as she has taken full time employment elsewhere. President of the Council Roy Wrightsman took the time to thank Jessica for all the years that she has provided fair and impartial reporting in regards to all of Parke County Units of Government and to let her know that she will be deeply missed by all.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

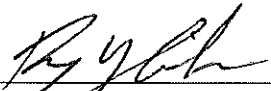
RDC 2026 TIF Annual Spending Plan presented with \$605,000 for Capital Expenditures allowed in Economic Development or Redevelopment plan and an additional \$410,000 allotted for Professional Expense.

Jason Frazier presented his 2026 Compensation Agreement in Lieu of statutory fees between the Sheriff elect, Jason Frazier and the County of Parke. The yearly salary of \$92,000 will remain the same as 2025 because there was no increase to the Prosecutors annual salary. Jack B Butler made a motion to approve the compensation agreement with Jason Frazer as presented. Tom Rohr seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

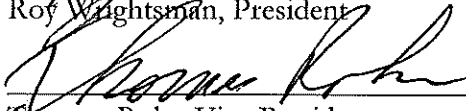
XII. OLD BUSINESS: None presented.

AYE

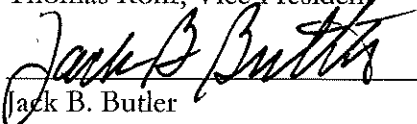
NAY




Roy Wrightsman, President



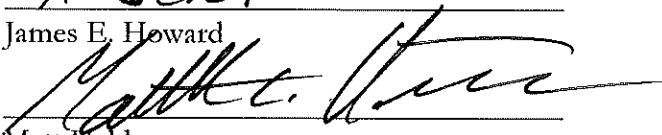
Thomas Rohr, Vice President



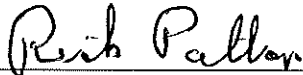
Jack B. Butler




James E. Howard



Matt Helderman

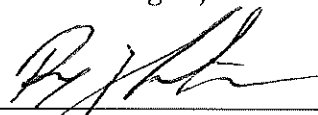


Rick Patton



Mary Alice Gregg

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made by Jack B Butler and seconded by Matt Helderman. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.



Roy Wrightsman, President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor