

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY INDIANA
APRIL 21, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

The Huntington County Council met in regular session on the 21st day of April 2025 in the G.A.R. Room, at the Huntington County Courthouse, Huntington, Indiana, at 7:00 P.M.

Council Members Present: Kendall Mickley, Terry Miller, Shane Bickel, Keith Eller, John Stoeckley, and Brian Warpup. Jamie Hotchkiss was absent.

Council President Kendall Mickley called the meeting to order. Keith Eller gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1: An opportunity for Public Comment has was offered; however, no one chose to speak.

ITEM 2: President Mickley asked for approval of the County Council minutes from the March 24, 2025 meeting. Terry Miller made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Warpup seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ITEM 3: Auditor Jill Landrum presented a request from Courthouse Security for a Transfer of Appropriation of \$479.00 from their County General budget line 1000.31300.00000.9607 - Education, to 1000.36101.00000.9607 - Repair/Maintenance.

Shane Bickel made a motion to approve the Transfer of Appropriation. Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ITEM 4: EMA Director Robert Jeffers and Deputy Director Thomas Fuller presented a request for a Transfer of Appropriation of \$232.00 from Fund 1152 - Emergency Planning Right to Know budget line 1152.31300.00000.0000 - Education/Training, to 1152.44110.00000.0000 - Misc Equipment.

Brian Warpup made a motion to approve the Transfer of Appropriation. Keith Eller seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ITEM 5: Chief Probation Officer Heather Malone requested a Transfers of Appropriation totaling \$126.74 in the department's County General budget, as follows:

FROM: 1000.12000.00000.0274 - Overtime	\$	126.74
TO: 1000.32500.00000.0274 - Travel Expense	\$	15.47
1000.33600.00000.0274 - Mileage Reimbursement	\$	111.27

Terry Miller made a motion to approve the Transfer of Appropriation. John Stoeckley seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ITEM 6: Heather also presented a request for a Transfer of Appropriation of \$2,246.00 from the 2024/2025 JDAI Fund budget line 9661.21411.00000.9653 - Food, to 9661.32500.00000.9653 - Travel Expenses, to pay for expenses related to an upcoming conference.

John Stoeckley made a motion to approve the Transfer of Appropriation. Shane Bickel seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Heather also invited Council members to attend the Drug Court graduation on May 7th in the Superior Court Room at 4pm. They will have four graduates.

- ITEM 7: Mark Wickersham appeared before Council to present Form SB-1/PP - Statement of Benefits Personal Property submitted by Doc's Crane & Rigging, Inc. for consideration of tax abatement. The Tax Abatement Advisory Committee met previously on April 10, 2025, to discuss the request. The committee gave Doc's Crane & Rigging, Inc. a favorable recommendation for a 5-yr abatement for Logistical Distribution Equipment with Year 1 (2025 payable 2026) getting 100%, Year 2 at 100%; Year 3 at 80%; Year 4 at 60%; and Year 5 at 50%.

Keith Eller made a motion to approve the tax abatement for Doc's Crane & Rigging, Inc. as presented, along with Resolution 2025-04-21 - Resolution to Approve Statement of Benefits. John Stoeckley seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Mark also provided a printed copy of, and gave a brief overview of, the **Huntington County Electrical Infrastructure** booklet.

- ITEM 8: There was discussion on proposed changes for the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance, including adding Certification Pay to a Highway Equipment Operator III; changing a part-time custodian to a full-time position; changing the Courthouse/Annex Facility Manager/Building Inspector to a full-time Building Inspector; changing the O'Donnell Center Facility Manager to a County Maintenance Director; and increasing the wage for the General Maintenance Worker position. Also added to the agenda was discussion regarding an hourly rate of pay for a Deputy Clerk Supervisor position in the Clerk's office; and an increase to the Sheriff's 2025 pay.
- ITEM 9: Keith Eller made a motion to open the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance. Brian Warpup seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
- ITEM 10: Brian Warpup made a motion to amend the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance to reflect certification pay for a Highway Equipment Operator III. This is not an additional position, it is to award certification pay of \$44.00 bi-weekly, effective 03/30/2025 for an employee that completed the certification for signs. Keith Eller seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.
- ITEM 11: Terry Miller made a motion to amend the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance by changing the Courthouse & Annex Facility Manager (1000.11450.00000.0161)/Building Inspector (1000.11010.00000.0079) to a full-time Building Inspector. This position will be paid from payline 1000.11010.00000.0079 with an hourly rate of pay of \$26.94, effective 04/27/25. The position also qualifies for Certification pay of \$1000 to be paid from budget line 1000.12650.00000.0079. Brian Warpup seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.
- ITEM 12: Keith Eller made a motion to amend the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance by changing the part-time Cleaning Crew (custodian) position (1000.11120.00000.0161) to a full-time position (1000.11455.00000.0161), effective 04/27/2025, with a rate of pay of \$19.75/hour. John Stoeckley seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.
- ITEM 13: Shane Bickel made a motion to amend the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance by changing the O'Donnell Center's Facility Manager (1000.11450.00000.9620) to the County Maintenance Director (Acct #11448), effective 04/27/2025 with an annual pay of \$87,500 to be paid from 1000.11448.00000.9620. Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ITEM 14: Keith Eller made a motion to amend the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance by increasing the rate of pay for the General Maintenance Worker position (payline 1000.11410.00000.9620) from \$21.61/hr. to \$25.00/hr. MAX PAY, effective 04/27/25. Brian Warpup seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ITEM 15: Shane Bickel made a motion to add a second General Maintenance Worker position (Acct #11410) for 2026. (This matter does not change the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance.) Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Brian Warpup made a motion to amend the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance by adding a rate of pay of \$22.37/hour for a current Deputy Clerk to be designated as a Deputy Clerk Supervisor. Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Shane Bickel made a motion to increase the Sheriff's 2025 Salary to \$128,459.10. This is 70% of a Full-time Prosecutors wage which is established by the Indiana Supreme Court Office of Judicial Administration. The Sheriff's salary will be paid from the Public Safety LIT budget line 1170.11100.00000.0005. This percentage will be used in future years, as well. Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ITEM 16: Terry Miller made a motion to close the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance. Brian Warpup seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ITEM 17: Council discussed the projected COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) for 2026, and there was a consensus that departments should budget for a 3% incentive/wage increase when submitting 2026 Budget requests. There is no guarantee that it will be adopted, but departments are encouraged to keep their budget requests flat.

ITEM 18: NEW/OLD BUSINESS: There was no new or old business discussed.

ITEM 19: REPORTS & ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES for 2025:

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE - Terry Miller & Brian Warpup - The last meeting was postponed and a new meeting date is TBD.

SOLID WASTE - Brian Warpup reported that they are putting a full-time employee at the West Park recycling location. They are also planning to have a stationary spot inside.

3-A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - John Stoeckley reported that the next meeting will be in June.

JOB CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - Keith Eller, John Stoeckley, & Brian Warpup - Business was discussed earlier in the Council meeting. They have another meeting scheduled in June.

LOCAL ANTI-DRUG COALITION EFFORT (L.A.C.E.)/EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM - Shane Bickel reported that they had a Roundtable meeting earlier in the day and 18 people attended. A representative from a newer counseling service called Renovate spoke to the group.

LIME CITY DEVELOPMENT - Terry Miller - previously covered.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Keith Eller - Nothing to report.

PLAN COMMISSION - Terry Miller reported that they have two general business zoning cases. Also, there is a possibility that Markle will get a Dollar General.

C.E.D.I.T. ADVISORY - Jamie Hotchkiss was absent. No report given.

HCUED - Kendall Mickley reported that there have been 6 projects already in 2025 totaling about \$25 million in investments. There has been \$840 million in investments in the 18 years that Mark Wickersham has been on staff, which Kendall noted our appreciation to Mark. There are currently three buildings available, (old Bendix, one on Sabine, and one in Markle). Also, there are seven (7) prospects looking at Riverfork West.

ABCD (Above & Beyond the Call of Duty) - Keith Eller - Nothing to report.

TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW - John Stoeckley - Business was discussed earlier in the Council meeting.

WHARMM - Jamie Hotchkiss was absent. No report given. Terry Miller will be attending the next meeting.

COMMISSIONERS HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Keith Eller - Nothing to report.

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL - Jamie Hotchkiss was absent - No report given.

HCPSD COMMITTEE - Kendall Mickley - Nothing to report.

INTERNAL CONTROLS COMMITTEE - Kendall Mickley & Jill Landrum - Nothing to report.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (RDC) - Terry Miller & John Stoeckley - There was a meeting on April 7th, and the 2024 TIF Management Report was shared with committee members. They also discussed the possibility of Residential TIF.

MARKLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC) - Brian Warpup - Nothing to report.

ITEM 20: Keith Eller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Stoeckley seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF MAY 2025:

KENDALL MICKLEY

KEITH ELLER

TERRY MILLER

JOHN STOECKLEY

SHANE BICKEL

BRIAN WARPUP

JAMIE HOTCHKISS

ATTEST: _____
JILL M. LANDRUM, AUDITOR