

HUNTINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA
23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE
G.A.R. ROOM HUNTINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Before the Council meeting there will be a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. People present are welcome to take part. Those desiring not to may either remain outside the GAR room before the meeting or sit quietly in the meeting room.

CALL TO ORDER – This meeting is subject to Indiana Code 36-1-3

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 1:

Comments from Public regarding Agenda Items - limited to 3 minutes per person. Please sign in on the sheet at the back of the room before the meeting is called to order. Comments not related to an Agenda Item, will be heard during New/Old Business and also limited to 3 minutes per person.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

President

Vice President

ITEM 3:

Approval of the County Council minutes from the December 8, 2025, Council Meeting.

The January 26, 2026, meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

ITEM 4:

Mayor Richard Strick - Discussion of Food & Beverage Tax for Huntington County.

ITEM 5:

Purdue Extension programming update from Ed Farris.

ITEM 6:

Sheriff's 2026 Salary Contract presented for Council's approval and signature by Council President.

ITEM 7:

Sheriff Chris Newton is requesting an Additional Appropriation of \$20.00 for the Misdemeanant Fund budget line 1175.12100.00000.0000 - Social Security.

ITEM 8:

Sheriff Newton is also requesting an Additional Appropriation of \$403,647.00 for the LIT Correctional Facility Fund 1233, for the following budget lines:

1233.11033.00000.0380	Jail Inmate Advocate	\$ 46,343.00
1233.11410.00000.0380	Maintenance Worker	\$ 52,791.00
1233.11425.00000.0380	Culinarian	\$ 44,013.00
1233.35100.00000.0380	Utilities	\$ 250,500.00
1233.36200.00000.0380	Service Contracts	\$ 10,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 403,647.00

ITEM 9:

Sheriff Newton is also requesting an Additional Appropriation of \$15,249.00 for the K-9 Fund 4012, for the following budget lines:

4012.21500.00000.0000	Supplies	\$ 4,159.00
4012.31300.00000.0000	Education/Training	\$ 3,000.00
4012.36200.00000.0000	Service Contracts	\$ 6,090.00
4012.44100.00000.0000	Equipment	\$ 2,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 15,249.00

ITEM 10:

Sheriff Newton is also requesting an Appropriation of \$3,000.00 in the 2026 LACE – Sheriff Grant, for the following budget lines:

9693.39500.00000.0000	Subscriptions & Dues	\$ 500.00
9693.44100.00000.0000	Equipment	\$ 2,500.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 3,000.00

ITEM 11:

Sheriff Newton is also requesting an Appropriation of \$120.38 in the 2025 LACE - Sheriff Grant budget line 9690.44100.00000.0000 - Equipment.

ITEM 12:

Sheriff Newton is also requesting an Appropriation of \$1,000.00 in the Heartland REMC Grant budget line 9124.21500.00000.0000 - Supplies.

ITEM 13:

Sheriff Newton is also requesting an Appropriation of \$10,000.00 in the 2026 Huntington County Substance Abuse Response/Sheriff Fund for the following budget lines:

9126.21500.00000.0000	Supplies	\$ 8,000.00
9126.44100.00000.0000	Equipment	\$ 2,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 10,000.00

ITEM 14:

The Commissioners are requesting an Additional Appropriation of \$178,640.00 for the Cumulative Courthouse Fund budget line 1140.34100.00000.0000 - Bond.

ITEM 15:

EMA is requesting an Additional Appropriation of \$4,000.00 for the HMEP FFY 2026 Grant Fund budget line 8337.31300.00000.0000 Education/Training.

ITEM 16:

The Health Department is requesting an Additional Appropriation of \$87,705.00 for the Health First Indiana Fund 1161, for the following budget lines:

1161.11520.00000.0000	Nurse	\$ 64,155.00
1161.12100.00000.0000	Social Security	\$ 4,950.00
1161.12200.00000.0000	Retirement	\$ 9,100.00
1161.31100.00000.0000	Contract Professional	\$ 9,000.00
1161.34510.00000.0000	Unemployment	\$ 500.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 87,705.00

ITEM 17:

The Health Department is also requesting an Appropriation of \$12,114.60 for the Bio Health Terrorism fund budget line 9118.24500.00000.0000 - Operating Supplies.

ITEM 18:

Chief Probation Officer Heather Malone is requesting an Appropriation of \$2,732.66 in the 2026 LACE - Probation Grant budget line 9691.21900.00000.0000 - Drug Test Supplies.

ITEM 19:

Heather is also requesting an Appropriation of \$22.20 in the 2023 LACE - Probation Grant budget line 9682.21900.00000.0000 - Drug Test Supplies.

ITEM 20:

Heather is also requesting an Appropriation of \$13,643.00 in the Supplemental Adult Probation fund 2100, for the following budget lines:

2100.11208.00000.9606	Home Detention Salary	\$ 11,196.00
2100.12100.00000.9606	Social Security	\$ 857.00
2100.12200.00000.9606	Retirement	\$ 1,590.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 13,643.00

ITEM 21:

Drug Court Coordinator Erin Wiley is requesting an Appropriation of \$4,000.00 in the 2026 LACE - Drug Court Grant budget line 9692.22600.00000.0000 - Incentives.

ITEM 22:

Drug Court is also requesting a Budget Appropriation totaling \$100,000.00 for the 2026 Drug Court Grant, for the following budget lines:

9604.11111.00000.9614	Drug Court Coordinator	\$ 17,755.00
9604.11347.00000.9614	Drug Court Probation Officer	\$ 29,236.44
9604.12100.00000.9614	Social Security	\$ 7,650.00
9604.12200.00000.9614	Retirement	\$ 14,650.00
9604.12300.00000.9614	Group Insurance	\$ 10,200.00
9604.12000.00000.9614	Overtime	\$ 2,000.56
9604.39500.00000.9614	Subscription/Dues	\$ 1,000.00
9604.36200.00000.9614	Service Contracts - Drug Testing	\$ 2,500.00
9604.21900.00000.9614	Drug Testing Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
9604.31000.00000.9614	Printing	\$ 100.00
9604.21100.00000.9614	Officer Supplies	\$ 200.00
9604.22600.00000.9614	Incentive	\$ 1,000.00
9604.32301.00000.9614	Cell Phone	\$ 708.00
9604.39800.00000.9614	Miscellaneous Services	\$ 10,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 100,000.00

ITEM 23:

Drug Court is also requesting an Appropriation totaling \$6,900.00 for the Drug Court User Fee Fund 2515, for the following budget lines:

2515.12000.00000.0000	Overtime	\$ 500.00
2515.21100.00000.0000	Office Supplies	\$ 500.00
2515.21900.00000.0000	Drug Testing Supplies	\$ 500.00
2515.24500.00000.0000	Operating Supplies (Graduation)	\$ 300.00
2515.22600.00000.0000	Incentives	\$ 500.00
2515.31000.00000.0000	Printing	\$ 100.00
2515.32500.00000.0000	Travel Expenses	\$ 1,000.00
2515.39800.00000.0000	Miscellaneous Services	\$ 500.00
2515.45100.00000.0000	Office Equipment	\$ 3,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 6,900.00

ITEM 24:

Drug Court is also requesting an Appropriation of \$53,000.00 for the Huntington County Substance Abuse Response Grant budget line 9132.11111.00000.0000 - Drug Court Coordinator.

ITEM 25:

Drug Court is also requesting an Appropriation totaling \$10,050.00 for the 2026 Problem Solving Grant Fund 9712, for the following budget lines:

9712.22600.00000.0000	Incentives	\$ 1,500.00
9712.21900.00000.0000	Drug Testing Supplies	\$ 1,250.00
9712.24500.00000.0000	Operating Supplies	\$ 500.00
9712.39800.00000.0000	Miscellaneous Services	\$ 2,800.00
9712.32500.00000.0000	Travel Expenses	\$ 2,500.00
9712.36200.00000.0000	Service Contracts - Drug Testing	\$ 1,500.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 10,050.00

ITEM 26:

Superior Court Judge Jennifer Newton is also requesting an Appropriation of \$3,500.00 for the 2025/2026 Court Interpreter Grant budget line 9702.31800.00000.0000 - Interpreter.

ITEM 27:

Community Corrections Director Leslie Rentschler is requesting a Budget Appropriation totaling \$172,905.00 for the 2026 Pretrial Service Grant Fund 9721, for the following budget lines:

9721.11111.00000.0000	Coordinator	\$ 52,015.00
9721.11116.00000.0000	Pretrial Assistant Coordinator	\$ 39,140.00
9721.12100.00000.0000	Social Security	\$ 7,652.52
9721.12200.00000.0000	Retirement	\$ 14,204.68
9721.12300.00000.0000	Group Insurance	\$ 28,142.80
9721.21900.00000.0000	Drug Testing Supplies	\$ 500.00
9721.32500.00000.0000	Travel Expenses	\$ 2,250.00
9721.36200.00000.0000	Service Contracts	\$ 29,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 172,905.00

ITEM 28:

Leslie is also requesting an Appropriation totaling \$321,231.00 for the CY 2026 Community Corrections Grant Fund for Community Supervision, for the following budget lines:

9316.11000.00000.9614	Director	\$ 75,548.28
9316.11005.00000.9614	Assistant Director	\$ 62,129.60
9316.11108.00000.9614	Field Officer	\$ 38,161.12
9316.11111.00000.9614	Coordinator	\$ 46,059.00
9316.11515.00000.9614	Financial Data Analyst	\$ 58,656.00
9316.13020.00000.9614	Office Manager	\$ 40,677.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 321,231.00

ITEM 29:

Leslie is also requesting an Appropriation totaling \$214,320.00 for the CY 2026 Community Corrections Grant Fund for Work Release, for the following budget lines:

9316.11111.00000.9634	Coordinator	\$ 46,059.00
9316.11174.00000.9634	Residential Living Supervisor	\$ 58,916.00
9316.11176.00000.9634	Living Unit Coordinator	\$ 42,848.00
9316.11239.00000.9634	Transition Team Manager	\$ 48,193.60
9316.21500.00000.9634	Supplies	\$ 8,303.40
9316.35100.00000.9634	Utilities	\$ 10,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 214,320.00

ITEM 30:

Leslie is also requesting an Appropriation totaling \$1,035,594.49 for the CY 2026 Community Corrections Project Income Fund 1122, for the following budget lines:

1122.11120.00000.9614	Part-time	\$ 203,174.40
1122.11176.00000.9614	Living Unit Coordinator	\$ 214,240.00
1122.11108.00000.9614	Field Officer	\$ 5,499.38
1122.11239.00000.9614	Transition Team Manager	\$ 96,387.20
1122.11336.00000.9614	Surveillance Officer	\$ 33,206.16
1122.11900.00000.9614	Longevity	\$ 5,400.00
1122.12000.00000.9614	Overtime	\$ 34,000.00
1122.12100.00000.9614	Social Security	\$ 86,135.05
1122.12200.00000.9614	Retirement	\$ 119,105.93
1122.12300.00000.9614	Group Insurance	\$ 37,000.00
1122.12600.00000.9614	Holiday Pay	\$ 32,000.00
1122.21100.00000.9614	Office Supplies	\$ 2,500.00
1122.21900.00000.9614	Drug Testing Supplies	\$ 2,000.00
1122.31000.00000.9614	Printing	\$ 4,300.00
1122.31315.00000.9614	Education Material & Programs	\$ 1,500.00
1122.32300.00000.9614	Telephone	\$ 3,000.00
1122.32500.00000.9614	Travel Expenses	\$ 6,000.00
1122.34300.00000.9614	Worker's Compensation	\$ 20,719.55

1122.34510.00000.9614	Unemployment	\$ 4,926.82
1122.36200.00000.9614	Service Contracts	\$ 110,500.00
1122.44400.00000.9614	Data Process Equipment	\$ 14,000.00
		TOTAL: \$ 1,035,594.49

ITEM 31:

Leslie is also requesting an Appropriation totaling \$45,547.45 for the CY 2026 Community Coordinator Grant Fund 9320, for the following budget lines:

9320.11120.00000.0000	Part-time	\$ 42,620.89
9320.12100.00000.0000	Social Security	\$ 2,500.00
9320.34300.00000.0000	Workers Comp	\$ 318.23
9320.34510.00000.0000	Unemployment	\$ 108.33
		TOTAL: \$ 45,547.45

ITEM 32:

Leslie is also requesting an Appropriation of \$54,000.00 for the Supplemental Public Defender Grant budget line 9730.36200.00000.0000 - Service Contract.

ITEM 33:

Director of County Facilities Phil Hibbert is requesting an Appropriation of \$38,584.00 for the Wabash River Corridor Grant Fund 9510 budget line 9510.36200.00000.0000.

ITEM 34:

Highway Superintendent Bridgett Burkhart is requesting an Appropriation of \$1,282,410.75 for the 2025-1 Community Crossing Matching Grant (CCMG) Fund for budget line 9145.36200.00000.0000.

ITEM 35: ENCUMBRANCES for County Council Approval:

ARPA (American Rescue Plan) ENCUMBRANCE:

8950.36200.00000.0000 - Service Contracts - DLZ Indiana Contract #2466404290	\$ 8,500.00
TOTAL: \$ 8,500.00	

COMMISSIONER ENCUMBRANCES:

1112.35400.00000.0000 - CEDIT - Project 4 - Project Warren	\$ 30,000.00
1112.35400.00000.0000 - CEDIT - Project 4 - Project Jim	\$ 35,000.00
1112.35400.00000.0000 - CEDIT - Project 4 - VS Engineering - Huffman Drain	\$ 7,540.50
1112.35401.00000.0000 - CEDIT - Project 6 - Project D.B.	\$ 25,000.00
1112.35401.00000.0000 - CEDIT - Project 6 - OCRA Grant	\$ 60,000.00
1112.35401.00000.0000 - CEDIT - Project 6 - Veteran's Service - Assistance	\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL: \$ 160,540.50	

HIGHWAY ENCUMBRANCES:

1176.24102.00000.0533 - Small Tools & Supplies - Amazon	\$ 799.99
1176.35130.00000.0533 - Vehicle & Equipment Repair - Truland Equipment	\$ 5,067.33
TOTAL: \$ 5,867.32	

JAIL ENCUMBRANCES:

1233.33520.00000.0380 - JAIL LIT - Meals for Prisoners - Gordon Food Service	\$ 4,113.59
1233.33520.00000.0380 - JAIL LIT - Meals for Prisoners - Gordon Food Service	\$ 390.06
TOTAL: \$ 4,503.65	

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ENCUMBRANCES:

9317.21900.00000.9613 - Drug Test Supplies - Redwood Toxicology	\$ 3,492.96
9317.36200.00000.9613 - Services Contracts - Redwood Toxicology	\$ 566.14
9317.36200.00000.9613 - Services Contracts - Sentinel	\$ 2,562.70
9317.36200.00000.9613 - Services Contracts - Treasurer of Huntington County	\$ 483.00
9317.36200.00000.9613 - Services Contracts - Total Court Services	\$ 2,190.00
9317.36200.00000.9613 - Services Contracts - Geosatis Inc.	\$ 198.16
TOTAL: \$ 9,492.96	

9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Amazon	\$(17.15)
9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Amazon	\$ 1,933.09
9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Amazon	\$ 67.64

9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Amazon	\$ 93.98
9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Snyder Food Services	\$ 321.82
9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Snyder Food Services	\$ 72.00
9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Snyder Food Services	\$ 122.00
9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Amazon	\$ 98.02
9317.21500.00000.9633 - Supplies - Redwood Toxicology	\$ 55.54
9317.21100.00000.9633 - Office Supplies - The Desk & Copy Stop	\$ 1,178.83
9317.21100.00000.9633 - Office Supplies - The Desk & Copy Stop	\$ 2,476.82
9317.36200.00000.9633 - Service Contracts - Treasurer of Huntington	\$ 9,517.00
TOTAL:	\$ 15,919.59
9674.11111.0000.0000 - Coordinator - Julie Monce	\$ 1,579.20
9674.11116.0000.0000 - Pretrial Assistant Coordinator	\$ 1,314.19
9674.12100.0000.0000 - Social Security	\$ 238.61
9674.12200.0000.0000 - Retirement	\$ 442.88
9674.36200.0000.0000 - Service Contracts - Whitehurst Law Office	\$ 206.00
9674.36200.0000.0000 - Service Contracts - Lynn Law Office	\$ 618.00
TOTAL:	\$ 4,398.88

ITEM 36: Discussion of Amendment to 2026 Wage & Salary Ordinance

Amend the annual pay of the Probation Officer paid from budget line 1000.11341.00000.0274 to be \$66,250.63 (\$33.97/hour), due to the officer's years of experience on the Judicial pay scale.

Add an hourly rate of pay of \$33.68/hr for the Dispatch Director of Operations (Temporary) to be paid out of budget line 1222.11002.00000.0000 effective 01/13/2026, until a new Director of Dispatch is hired.

ITEM 37: Open the 2026 Wage & Salary Ordinance

ITEM 38: Vote on amendments to the 2026 Wage & Salary Ordinance

ITEM 39: Close the 2026 Wage & Salary Ordinance

ITEM 40: NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM 41: REPORTS & ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES:

2025 Appointments listed below - Need to appoint members for 2026

- COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE - Terry Miller & Brian Warpup
- SOLID WASTE - Brian Warpup
- 3-A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - John Stoeckley
- JOB CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - Keith Eller, John Stoeckley, & Brian Warpup
- LOCAL ANTI-DRUG COALITION EFFORT (L.A.C.E.)/EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM - Shane Bickel
- LIME CITY DEVELOPMENT - Terry Miller
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Keith Eller
- PLAN COMMISSION - Terry Miller
- C.E.D.I.T. ADVISORY - Jamie Hotchkiss
- HCUED - Kendall Mickley
- ABCD (Above & Beyond the Call of Duty) - Keith Eller
- TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW - John Stoeckley
- WHARMM - Jamie Hotchkiss
- COMMISSIONERS HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Keith Eller
- EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL - Jamie Hotchkiss
- HCPSD COMMITTEE - Kendall Mickley
- INTERNAL CONTROLS COMMITTEE - Kendall Mickley & Jill Landrum
- REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (RDC) - Terry Miller & John Stoeckley
- MARKLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC) - Brian Warpup

ITEM 42: ADJOURNMENT

Accommodation Notice:

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations for participation in meetings must request accommodations at least 3 business days prior to the scheduled meeting. Contact the ADA Coordinator, Stefanie Barrioz at (260) 355-2329 or email at stefanie.barrioz@huntington.in.us.

Council Members	Term	District
Kendall Mickley, President	01/01/2023 - 12/31/2026	District 2
Terry Miller, VP	01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028	At Large
Shane Bickel	01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028	At Large
Jamie Hotchkiss	01/01/2025 - 12/31/2028	At Large
Keith Eller	01/01/2023 - 12/31/2026	District 3
John Stoeckley	01/01/2023 - 12/31/2026	District 1
Brian Warpup	01/01/2023 - 12/31/2026	District 4