

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
July 17, 2025

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Council President, Thomas W. Stump at 4:00 p.m., in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Members present were Council President Thomas W. Stump, Council Vice President David L. Hess, Adam M Bujalski, Steven E. Clark, Douglas S. Graham, Darryl J. Riegsecker, and Randall D. Yohn. Also, present were Patricia A. Pickens County Auditor, Steven Olsen, County Attorney's Office, and Tiara Jackson First Deputy Auditor.

** This meeting commenced pursuant to public notice under the Indiana open door law. This meeting was made available for the public and press to attend in-person and virtually in remote real-time observation via YouTube.

MINUTES: Approval of CC Meeting Minutes: June 19, 2025.

On motion to approve the June 19, 2025, minutes by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 7 to 0.
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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMISSIONERS: None

COUNCIL: Randy Yohn spoke about status of courthouse, Steve Clark spoke about some updates on the SB-1 Bill, and Adam Bujalski spoke about the 4-H Fair.

SHERIFF: None

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$16,000.00 for additional funds required for consulting agreement with RJL Solutions.

Jeff Taylor and Suzanne Weirick presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Yohn and seconded by Hess, President Stump called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski -No, Clark - No, Graham - No, Hess -Yes, Riegsecker -No, Yohn -Yes, and Stump - Yes. With a vote of 3 to 4 the motion failed.

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B. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Information Technology (141) requested \$78,900.00 for support services & maintenance contract for WAN.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council and stated that he would like to withdraw this request.

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C. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Information Technology (141) requested \$150,494.56 for Microsoft server license per Audit Gap with 3-year software assurance.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

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D. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Information Technology (141) requested \$21,017.40 for internet cabinet, fiber contract, & service for WAN, and telephone network connection service for the new courthouse.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

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E. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Information Technology (141) requested \$75,000.00 in funds for on-the-shelf hardware replacements for network gear.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

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F. SALES DISCLOSURE (#1131)

1. Assessor's Office (980) requested \$17,000.00 for funds to purchase a different copier.

Cathy Searcy presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

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G. PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT – PROJECT INCOME (#1140)

1. Community Corrections (614) requested \$.01 to transfer remaining cash balance to the current PI Account 1122.980.

Helen Calvin presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

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H. MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY (#1176)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$279,959.40 in funds received from the City of Elkhart for joint project on CR 6 between CR 9 & CR 11.

Kyle Wagner presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.

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I. PARK & RECREATION DONATIONS (#1219)

1. Park & Recreation Department (320) requested \$2,500.00 to cover staff wages in part-time account to assist w/operations at the Elkhart County Historical Museum.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

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J. PARK & RECREATION DONATIONS (#1219)

1. Park & Recreation Department (320) requested \$5,100.00 to cover staff wages in part-time account to assist w/operations at the Six Span Landing.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

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K. CR 6 & CR 17 IMPROVEMENT TIF (#4511)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$125,000.00 for final design & bid documents needed to bid Lily Creek Greenway.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Hess and seconded by Bujalski, President Stump called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski - Yes, Clark - No, Graham - No, Hess - Yes, Riegsecker - No, Yohn - Yes, and Stump - No. With a vote of 3 to 4 the motion failed.

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L. 2022 LR BOND CONSTRUCTION FUND (#4625)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$.95 to appropriate remaining funds in this account so they can be used for the courthouse.

No one presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council

unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0.
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M. JCC PROJECT INCOME (#4924)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (980) requested \$38,097.00 from the Supplemental Fund that coincides w/initial grant setup for FY26 Grant.
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N. JCC PROJECT INCOME (#4924)

2. Elkhart County Judiciary (980) requested \$1,500.00 from the Supplemental Fund that coincides w/initial grant setup for FY26 Grant.
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O. JCC PROJECT INCOME (#4924)

3. Elkhart County Judiciary (980) requested \$58,188.00 from the Supplemental Fund that coincides w/initial grant setup for FY26 Grant.

Ross Maxwell presented requests M, N, and O to the Council.

On motion to approve requests M, N, and O made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.
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P. INDIANA TOBACCO PREVENTION & CESSATION (#9104)

1. Health Department (980) requested \$173,249.00 to strengthen existing partnerships & foster new collaborations w/Elkhart County School Districts.
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Q. INDIANA TOBACCO PREVENTION & CESSATION (#9104)

1. Health Department (980) requested \$1,751.00 to strengthen existing partnerships & foster new collaborations w/Elkhart County School Districts.

Andrew Bylsma presented requests P and Q to the Council.

Cindy Haijeck Goshen, raised an inquiry on P & Q, but did not object.

On motion to approve requests P and Q made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.
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R. JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVE (#9160)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested \$3,130.00 for initial grant setup for FY26 JDAI Grant.
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S. JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVE (#9160)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested \$76,870.00 for initial grant setup for FY26 JDAI Grant.

Ross Maxwell presented requests R and S to the Council.

On motion to approve requests R and S made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

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T. JUVENILE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT (#9161)

- 1. Elkhart County Judiciary (980) requested \$.06 as the grantor overpaid .06 in the last grant cycle.

Ross Maxwell presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Riesecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

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U. JUVENILE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT (#9161)

- 1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested \$151,802.00 for initial grant setup for the FY26 JCC Grant.

Ross Maxwell presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote.

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Total Appropriations Approved: \$1,055,659.38

REDUCTION REQUESTS:

V. JDAI GRANT (#9113)

- 1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested a reduction in the amount of \$6,500.00 to correct how the carry-forward was applied at the end of 2025.

Total Reductions: -\$0.00

Auditor Pickens presented the reductions to Council and stated that the Judiciary Department requested that this request be withdrawn.

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TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

W. INDIANA TOBACCO PREVENTION & CESSATION (#9104)

Health Department (981)

From: 44535 Data Hardware

\$800.00

To: 43200 Printing

\$800.00

Total:

\$800.00

X. JDAI GRANT (#9113)

Elkhart County Judiciary (981)

From: 43110 Sustenance	\$250.00
43050 Data Processing Services	\$850.00
43140 Telephone	\$515.27
To: 42310 Food	\$250.00
42350 Program Supplies	\$1,365.27
	<u>\$1,615.27</u>

TOTAL TRANSFERS \$2415.27

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved these requests with a 7 to 0 vote.

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TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

(Available in the Auditor's office)

OTHER BUSINESS:

David Damerow, Economic Development Corporation:

Consideration for Approval of CF-1 Forms (Hearings):

1. Smoker Craft, Inc. CC-2021-19 & 22 RE
Smoker Craft, Inc. CC-2021-19 & 22 PP

David Damerow presented evidence regarding Smoker Craft, Inc.'s real estate investment, personal property investment, employee counts, and employee wages. Smoker Craft exceeded the real property and personal property investment thresholds, but is below the employee count threshold for this year.

Doug Smoker, President and CEO of Smoker Craft, Inc., spoke. Doug Smoker acknowledged that the employee count is short of the goal for this last year but the average over the last three years is above the goal number. Doug Smoker attributed the current decrease to (1) the marine industry took a 50% hit in sale of marine products and the market was down substantially; (2) tariffs play a part due to 25% of their business being in Canada; and (3) other economic situations that effected the industry outside of Smoker Craft's control.

Riegsecker made a motion, as to both CC-2021-19 & 22 RE and CC-2021-19 & 22 PP, to find that Smoker Craft, Inc. has made reasonable efforts to substantially comply with the statement of benefits and that any failure to substantially comply was caused by factors beyond the control of Smoker Craft, Inc. Clark seconded the motion. President Stump called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski -Yes, Clark -Yes, Graham - No, Hess -Yes, Riegsecker -Yes, Yohn -Yes, and Stump -Yes. With a vote of 6 to 1 the motion passed.

2. SteelHarbor, LLC CC-2022-04 RE
SteelHarbor, LLC CC-2022-04 PP

David Damerow presented evidence regarding Steel Harbor's real estate investment, personal property investment, employee counts, and employee wages. Steel Harbor exceeded the real property and personal property investment thresholds, but is substantially below the employee count threshold for the last two years, including this year.

Kelly Wolsey, Controller of SteelHarbor, LLC, spoke and acknowledged that the employee count for the last two years did not meet the goal. Wolsey noted that (1) SteelHarbor launched when the marine industry declined; (2) several acquisitions that were anticipated and necessary to meet the goal did not come to fruition but they are looking at another acquisition for their facility; and (3) Steel Harbor, LLC would like additional time to comply with the employment numbers.

Clark made a motion, as to both CC-2022-04 RE and CC-2022-04 PP for the 2025 pay 2026 property taxes only, to find that SteelHarbor, LLC has not made reasonable efforts to substantially comply with the statement of benefits and the failure to substantially comply was not caused by factors beyond their control. Graham seconded the motion. President Stump called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski -Yes, Clark -Yes, Graham - Yes, Hess -Yes, Riegsecker -Yes, Yohn -Yes, and Stump -Yes. With a vote of 7 to 0 the motion passed to establish that Steel Harbor, LLC does not qualify for the real estate or personal property tax abatements for the 2025 pay 2026 property taxes only. Steel Harbor, LLC may apply next year if they believe they have met the legal standard.

3. General R.V. Center, Inc. CC-2020-09 RE
General R.V. Center, Inc. CC-2020-09 PP

David Damerow presented evidence regarding General R. V. Center, Inc.'s real estate investment, personal property investment, employee counts, and employee wages. General R.V. Center, Inc. exceeded the real property investment thresholds, but is below the thresholds in personal property investments and employee count for this year.

Paul Dover, General Manager of General R.V. Center, Inc., acknowledged the employee counts and salaries did not meet the thresholds for this year and identified that they were working at about 65% capacity.

Graham made a motion, as to both CC-2020-09 RE and CC-2020-09 PP for the 2025 pay 2026 property taxes only, to find that General R.V. Center, Inc. has not made reasonable efforts to substantially comply with the statement of benefits and the failure to substantially comply was not caused by factors beyond their control. Riegsecker seconded the motion. President Stump called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski -Yes, Clark -Yes, Graham - Yes, Hess -Yes, Riegsecker -Yes, Yohn -Yes, and Stump -Yes. With a vote of 7 to 0 the motion passed to establish that General R.V. Center, Inc. does not qualify for the real estate or personal property tax abatements for the 2025 pay 2026 property taxes only. General R.V. Center, Inc. may apply next year if they believe they have met the legal standard.

4. DYNAMIC METALS, LLC CC-2017-13 PP

This request was tabled last month. David Damerow stated that Chris Stager now requests approval of compliance concluding his further review of the information after the last meeting. On motion made by Clark to now find DYNAMIC METALS, LLC substantially compliant, seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved that motion with a vote of 7 to 0.

5. Furrion, LLC CC-2015-14 RE
Furrion, LLC F/K/A Way Interglobal Network, LLC. CC-2021-14 PP
(Separate locations)

David Damerow presented evidence regarding Furrion LLC's real estate investment, personal property investment, employee counts, and employee wages.

Joe Salsbury, Senior Director of Tax of Furrion, LLC, acknowledged that at the CC-2015-14 location real property is below threshold but exceed threshold in employee counts and employee wages. On the CC-2021-14 property Salsbury acknowledged RV volumes are down but have exceeded investment goals at the building, exceeded total wage goals at that building but short on employee count goals. They did hire 10 new employees last year and are making progress.

Graham made a motion to adopt a Resolution of the Waiver of Non-Compliance and find that Furrion, LLC has made reasonable efforts to substantially comply with the statement of benefits for both CC-2015-14 RE and CC-2021-14 PP due to exceeding headcount goals and wage requirements at the CC-2015-14 real estate location, and for exceeding wage requirements and investment goals at the CC-2021-14 personal property location. Bujalski seconded the motion. The Council unanimously carried and approved that motion with a vote of 7 to 0.

AUDIENCE ITEMS:

- Pam Keyser, Middlebury, spoke.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Graham seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:43 pm.

Patricia A. Pickens
Elkhart County Auditor