

**MINUTES**  
**ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**117 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526**  
**October 16, 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, and Darryl J. Riegsecker. Also, present were Patricia A. Pickens County Auditor, Steven Olsen, County Attorney's Office, and Tiara Jackson First Deputy Auditor. Absent was Randy Yohn.

\*\* 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. (YouTube recordings will be available for a period of 90 days.)

**MINUTES:** Approval of the County Council minutes for September 8, 2025, September 9, 2025 morning meeting, September 9, 2025 afternoon meeting, September 10, 2025 morning meeting, September 10, 2025 afternoon meeting, September 11, 2025, September 12, 2025 morning meeting, September 12, 2025 afternoon meeting, and September 18, 2025.

Brandy Chupp confirmed that the minutes reflected the actions of Council on budget items as reiterated by Tom Stump. On motion to approve all of the minutes listed above by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 6 to 0. (pg. 330 - 338)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

COMMISSIONERS: Suzie Weirick spoke about the Amazon Open House.

COUNCIL: Graham spoke about the Amazon Open House as well.

SHERIFF: None

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:**

1. Reappointment of Sherrie Mullet to the Nappanee Library Board – Term Expires: 10/31/2029.

Tom Stump presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Clark to reappoint Sherrie Mullet to the Nappanee Library Board, and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the appointment with a vote of 6 to 0.

On motion made by Clark to rescind Resolution 2024-07, an internal policy on library appointments, and seconded by Riegsecker the Council unanimously carried and approved rescinding the policy with a vote of 6 to 0.

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**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION:**

**A. GENERAL (#1000)**

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$200,000.00 in funds required to renovate the old historic Goshen Courthouse.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council. Steve Olsen answered questions raised by 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 6 to 0.

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B. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$300,000.00 in funds required for independent accounting assistance as it refers to the Treasurer's Office reconciliation of bank accounts.

Jeff Taylor presented this request and answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve only \$175,000.00 of the funds made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the reduced amount with a vote of 6 to 0.

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C. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$600,000.00 in funds required for the County's self-insurance expenses.

Jeff Taylor presented this request and answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 6 to 0.

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D. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Planning & Development (132) requested \$265,430.00 to replace Energov with Opengov for all permitting.

Mae Kratzer presented this request and answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 6 to 0.

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E. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$475,000.00 for preliminary engineering & associated costs for Bridge 232 replacement on CR 11 over Yellow Creek.

Kyle Wagner presented this request and answered questions raised by 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 6 to 0.

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F. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$550,000.00 for preliminary engineering & associated costs for Bridge 143 replacement on CR 3 over Baugo Creek, south of CR 26.

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 6 to 0.

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G. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$650,000.00 for preliminary engineering & associated costs for Bridge 347 replacement on CR 44 over Stony Creek, east of SR 13.

Kyle Wagner presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 6 to 0 vote.

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H. CUMULATIVE BRIDGE (#1135)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$450,000.00 for preliminary engineering & associated costs for Bridge 136 superstructure rehabilitation on CR 1 over Baugo Creek.

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 6 to 0 vote.

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I. CUMULATIVE BRIDGE (#1135)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$625,000.00 for preliminary engineering & associated costs for Bridge 402 superstructure rehabilitation on Indiana Ave. over Rock Run Creek, north of Wilden Ave.

Kyle Wagner presented this request and answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 6 to 0 vote.

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J. MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY (#1176)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$60,000.00 for traffic counters and associated equipment.

Kyle Wagner presented this request and answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 6 to 0 vote.

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K. MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY (#1176)

1. Highway Department (980) requested \$176,000.00 to purchase a new John Deere 6140M tractor.

Kyle Wagner presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 6 to 0 vote.

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L. SOUTH BENTON TIF (#4505)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$250,000.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> payment towards supporting Bridge 332 construction.

Mae Kratzer 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 6 to 0 vote.

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M. MIDDLEBURY SE TIF (#4509)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$400,000.00 to cover costs associated with the extension of Middlebury utilities along CR 20.

Mae Kratzer presented this request and answered questions and concerns raised by the Council. Rick Gentle (Redevelopment Commission) spoke about his stance. Natasha Weisbach (Redevelopment Coordinator) also spoke.

On motion to approve, contingent upon approval by all parties of the Interlocal Agreement Funding Water and Sewer Main Extension, made by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, President Stump called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski - Yes, Clark - No, Graham - Yes, Hess - Yes, Riegsecker - Yes, and Stump - Yes. With a vote of 5 to 1 the motion passed.

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N. MIDDLEBURY EAST TIF (#4510)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$500,000.00 as the Town of Middlebury requests support for engineering design of their wastewater treatment plant.

Mae Kratzer and Suzie Weirick (County Commissioner) presented this request and answered questions and concerns raised by the Council. Rick Gentle (Redevelopment Commission) spoke in favor of the appropriation and project. Natasha Weisbach (Redevelopment Coordinator) provided additional background on the project. Pam Keyser (Middlebury) raised concerns about increased utility expenses. Glenn Null (Goshen) spoke in favor of the project.

On motion to deny made by Clark and seconded by Bujalski, President Stump called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski - Yes, Clark - Yes, Graham - Yes, Hess - No, Riegsecker - No, and Stump - No. With a vote of 3 to 3 the motion failed and will be tabled for now. On motion to table this item for now by Bujalski and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved the request to table with a vote of 6 to 0. Clark and Riegsecker recommend a split of 25% (County) and 75% (Middlebury) in order to get approved.

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O. SR 13 INTERCHANGE TIF (#4514)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$1,000,000.00 as the Town of Middlebury requests support for engineering design of their wastewater treatment plant.

Mae Kratzer presented this request to the Council.

On motion to table made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, President Stump called for a roll call vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski - Yes, Clark - Yes, Graham - Yes, Hess - Yes, Riegsecker - Yes, and Stump - No. With a vote of 5 to 1 the motion passed that it be tabled for now.

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P. 2022 LR BOND CONSTRUCTION FUND (#4625)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$60,000.00 in funds to appropriate LR Bond funds for new courthouse expenses.

Jeff Taylor presented this request and answered questions raised by the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 6 to 0 vote.

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**Total Appropriations Approved: \$4,936,430.00**

**REDUCTION REQUESTS:**

Q. GENERAL (#1000)

- 1 Planning & Development (132) requested a reduction in the amount of \$20,000.00 due to GIS Coordinator being vacant.

Auditor Pickens 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 6 to 0.

**Total Reductions: -\$20,000.00**

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**TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:**

R. HEALTH EDUCATION (#1159)

1. Health Department (340)

From: 43835 Training Programs	\$3,000.00
44515 Office Furniture & Fixtures	\$1,611.00
To: 42195 Other Operating Supplies	<u>\$4,611.00</u>
<b>Total #D</b>	<b>\$4,611.00</b>

S. WIC (#8101)

1. Health Department (612)

From: 41310 Group Insurance	\$1,020.00
To: 42180 Medical Supplies	<u>\$1,020.00</u>
<b>Total #E</b>	<b>\$1,020.00</b>

**Total Overall Transfers: \$5,631.00**

Tom Stump presented this request to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved these requests with a 6 to 0 vote.

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**TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:**

(Available in the Auditor's office)

**OTHER BUSINESS:** (Note for the record that Darryl Riegsecker left the meeting at 5:30 pm.)

Steve Olsen presented the Consideration of Joint Resolution with the Elkhart County Commissioners to approve the Interlocal Agreement Funding Water and Sewer Main Extension - CC-2025-20.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Hess, President Stump called for a roll call vote.

The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski - Yes, Clark - Yes, Graham - Yes, Hess -Yes, and Stump -Yes. With a vote of 5 to 0 the motion passed.

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**AUDIENCE ITEMS:** Glenn Null, Goshen, spoke.

**2026 2<sup>ND</sup> BUDGET READING & ADOPTION:**

**1. Second Reading & Adoption of the Elkhart County 2026 Budget**

- a. First Deputy Auditor, Tiara Jackson, read the Notice to Taxpayers, Budget Form No. 3 for Elkhart County.
- b. Auditor, Patty Pickens, read levies & tax rates from the 17-line Statement.

**2. Second Reading & Adoption of the Nappanee Public Library Binding Review**

- a. First Deputy Auditor Jackson read the Notice to Taxpayers, Budget Form 3 for Nappanee Public Library.
- b. Auditor Pickens read levies & tax rates.

**3. 2025 Salary Ordinance**

- a. County Attorney, Steven Olsen, presented Salary Ordinance CC-2025-17.
- b. Council President Stump asked for a motion/second to approve the 2026 Salary Ordinance CC-2025-17 as presented. On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved CC-2025-17 with a vote of 5 to 0.  
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**4. 2025 Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund Ordinance**

- a. Steven Olsen read the Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund Ordinance CC-2025-18.
- b. President Stump asked for a motion/second to approve the Recorder's Records Perpetuation Fund Ordinance CC-2025-18 as presented. On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved CC-2025-18 with a vote of 5 to 0.  
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**5. 2026 Elkhart County Budget Ordinance**

- a. President Stump asked for a motion/second to adopt the 2026 Elkhart County Budget Ordinance CC-2025-19 as presented. On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved CC-2025-19 with a vote of 5 to 0.  
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- b. President Stump asked for a motion/second to adopt the 2026 Nappanee Public Library Budget Ordinance CC-2025-21 as presented. On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved CC-2025-21 with a vote of 5 to 0.  
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**6. Elkhart County 2026 Meeting Schedule:**

- a. President Stump asked for discussion on the 2026 Elkhart County Council Meeting Schedule.

- b. President Stump asked for a motion/second to adopt the 2026 Elkhart County Meeting Schedule as presented. On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the 2026 schedule with a vote of 5 to 0. (pg. 363)

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Clark and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Patricia A. Pickens  
Elkhart County Auditor