

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
May 21, 2026

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Council President, Tom Stump at 4:00 p.m., in Room 104 of the County Administrative Building, Goshen, Indiana. Members present were Council President Tom Stump, Randy Yohn, Steven Clark, Adam Bujalski, Douglas Graham, and Darryl Riegsecker. Also, present was Tiara Jackson, County Auditor, and Steven Olsen, County Attorney's Office. Absent were Council Vice President Dave Hess and Desiree Culbreath-Rogers, County 1st 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. (YouTube recordings will be available for a period of 90 days.)

MINUTES: Approval of CC Minutes for April 16, 2026.

On motion to approve made by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 6 to 0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMISSIONERS: None

COUNCIL: Doug Graham thanked Brandy for rearranging the agenda to keep all of the departments together so that the meeting could run more smoothly. Doug Graham also discussed the timing for receiving materials for the Council meeting. Lastly, he thanked the Highway Department for doing such a great job on a recent project.

SHERIFF: None

ELKHART CONVENTION & VISITOR'S BUREAU PRESENTATION:

Jon Hunsberger gave a short presentation about the latest Area Guide and pamphlet he provided for Elkhart County tourism. He spoke about the Quilt Gardens' flowers and tours as well as eleven new experiences offered through different counties in the area.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL (#1000)

1. Auditor's Office (983) requested \$7,172.50 for ongoing arbitrage services related to tax exempt bonds.

Tiara Jackson 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 6 to 0.

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B. MIDDLEBURY SE TIF (#4509)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$10,100.00 to cover 25% of Water Model Update Study (between 2 TIFs).

Mae Hope presented this request and answered questions for the Council.

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

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C. MIDDLEBURY EAST TIF (#4510)

1. Planning & Development (980) requested \$10,100.00 to cover 25% of Water Model Update Study (between 2 TIFs).

Mae Hope presented this request and answered questions for the Council.

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

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D. PUBLIC DEFENDER SUPPLEMENTAL (#1200)

1. Public Defender (980) requested \$37,509.78 in funds for an employee requesting to move from full-time to part-time position.

Jeffrey Majerek presented this request and answered questions for the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the President called for a Roll Call Vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski – Yes, Clark – No, Graham – Yes, Hess – Absent, Yohn – Yes, Riegsecker – Yes, and Stump – Yes. With a vote of 5 to 1, the request was approved.

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E. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (#1122)

1. Community Corrections (980) requested \$92,475.00 to appropriate approved CTP cash transfer into accounts to cover expenditures.

Helen Calvin presented this request and answered questions for the Council.

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

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F. PARK AND RECREATION CAPITAL (#1178)

1. Parks & Recreation (980) requested \$150,000.00 in funds to be appropriated for Capital Non-Reverting for general park construction & building maintenance.

Ronda DeCaire 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 6 to 0.

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G. PARK AND RECREATION CAPITAL (#1178)

1. Parks & Recreation (980) requested \$20,000.00 in funds to be appropriated for Capital Non-Reverting for museum repairs.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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H. PARK AND RECREATION (#1219)

1. Parks & Recreation (320) requested \$2,500.00 in funds to cover staff wages in the part-time account to assist with 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 vote of 6 to 0.

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I. PARK AND RECREATION (#1219)

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

Ronda DeCaire presented this request and answered questions 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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J. LOBLEY DONATION (#1159)

1. Health/CHN (983) requested \$4,379.00 to appropriate donated funds from the Freida May Lobley Fund held at the Community Foundations for Inoculations & Immunizations.

Melanie Sizemore 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 6 to 0.

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K. TOBACCO PREVENTION & CESSATION (#9104)

1. Health Dept. (981) requested \$175,000.00 in funds to strengthen existing partnerships & foster new collaborations with Elkhart County school districts.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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L. LANDFILL OPERATING FUND (#1194)

1. Commissioners/Landfill (338) requested \$350,000.00 to transfer to #4803 for these 4 agencies: Center for Community Justice, Council on Aging, CAPS, & Bashor Home.

Brad Rogers presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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M. SPECIAL PROJECTS (#4803)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$350,000.00 in funds for Center for Community Justice, Council on Aging, CAPS, & Bashor Home.

Brad Rogers presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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N. LIT – SPECIAL PURPOSE (#1114)

1. Sheriff's Office (105) requested \$347,951.00 to appropriate money to upgrade records management system to coincide with 911 PSCC System.

Jeff Siegel 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 6 to 0.

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O. LIT – SPECIAL PURPOSE (#1114)

1. Sheriff's Office (105) requested \$1,000,000.00 to appropriate money for inmate food.

Jeff Siegel presented this request and answered questions 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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P. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$300,000.00 in funds for preliminary engineering design, ROW acquisition, construction inspection, & associated costs for Bridge 407 superstructure rehabilitation on Cottage Ave.

Tim Jackson presented this request and answered questions 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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Q. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$400,000.00 in funds for ROW acquisition, DNR In-Lieu Fee Mitigation, & associated costs for the replacement of Bridge 385 on CR 18/E. Hively Ave.

Tim Jackson presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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R. MAJOR BRIDGE (#1171)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$100,000.00 in funds for a Northern Elkhart County Regional Corridor Study & associated costs.

Tim Jackson presented this request and answered questions 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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S. MAJOR BRIDGE (#1171)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$250,000.00 in funds for the 2026 Deck Sealing Program for purposes of sealing concrete bridge decks for 10 bridges.

Tim Jackson 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 6 to 0.

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T. MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY - RESTRICTED (#1173)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$2,000,000.00 in funds to be used for road paving, chip seal, construction, & associated costs.

Tim Jackson presented this request and answered questions by the Council.

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

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U. MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY (#1176)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$1,500,000.00 in funds for construction & associated costs for the replacement of Bridge 347 on CR 44 over Stony Creek, east of CR 13.

Tim Jackson presented this request and decided to table this request for now.

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

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V. ROAD MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION (#4901)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$750,000.00 in funds to be used for road paving, chip seal, construction, & associated costs.

Tim Jackson presented this request to the Council.

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

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W. ROAD MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION (#4901)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$100,000.00 in funds to be used for dust control & road salt.

Tim Jackson 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 vote of 6 to 0.

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X. COMMUNITY CROSSINGS STATE MATCH (#9138)

1. Highway Dept. (980) requested \$1,000,000.00 in funds received from INDOT for the 2026-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant. This request is to appropriate funds for paving.

Tim Jackson 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 6 to 0.

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Total Appropriations Approved: \$8,962,287.28

REDUCTION REQUESTS:

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

1. Planning Dept. (980) requested a reduction in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 as the bid came in lower than expected – Highway is returning a portion of the funds.

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 this request with a vote of 6 to 0.

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Total Approved Reductions: - \$ 3,000,000.00

TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION: None

TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION: (Available in the Auditor's office)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chris Stager and David Damerow presented the following items:

1. Approval of Declaratory Resolution CC-2026-10: for Tax Phase-In for certain real estate improvements, personal property, & occupancy of a vacant building (LT Development (USA) LLC).

Jeff Long, Executive Director of LT Development presented this request and answered questions by the Council. Steven Olsen presented the terms of the Declaratory Resolution.

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Clark, the President called for a Roll Call Vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski – Yes, Clark – Yes, Graham – No, Hess – Absent, Riegsecker – Yes, Yohn – Yes, and Stump – Yes. With a vote of 5 in favor and 1 opposed, the request was approved.

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2. Approval of Declaratory Resolution CC-2026-11: for Tax Phase-In for certain personal property (DynaComp LLC).

Chris Kintzele of DynaComp presented this request and answered questions by the Council. Steven Olsen presented the terms of the Declaratory Resolution.

On motion to approve made by Bujalski and seconded by Riegsecker, the President called for a Roll Call Vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski – Yes, Clark – No, Graham – No, Hess – Absent, Riegsecker – Yes, Yohn – Yes, and Stump – Yes. With a vote of 4 in favor and 2 opposed, the request was approved.

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3. Approval of Declaratory Resolution CC-2026-12: for Tax Phase-In for certain real estate improvements (Champagne Metals, L.L.C.).

Darren Hayes of Champagne Metals presented this request and answered questions by the Council. Steven Olsen presented the terms of the Declaratory Resolution.

On motion to approve made by Clark and seconded by Yohn, the President called for a Roll Call Vote. The Councilmembers votes are as follows: Bujalski – Yes, Clark – Yes, Graham – Abstained, Hess – Absent, Riegsecker – Yes, Yohn – Yes, and Stump – Yes. With a vote of 5 in favor and 1 abstention, the request was approved.

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4. Approval of Declaratory Resolution CC-2026-13: for Tax Phase-In for certain real estate improvements & personal property (Not Wood, Inc.).

Representatives from Not Wood, Inc. were not present.

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

Steven Olsen presented the following items:

5. Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Paving of County Road 40 with the City of Goshen.

On motion to approve this request 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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6. Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Paving of County Road 17 with the City of Goshen.

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

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7. Approval of Interlocal Agreement Funding Water Modeling Update Project.

On motion to approve this request 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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8. Approval of CC-2026-14: Ordinance Establishing the Surplus User Fee Fund for the Elkhart County Treasurer's Office. (Fund #2540)

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

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9. Approval of CC-2026-15: Ordinance Establishing the Solar Economic Development Fund for the Elkhart County Commissioners Office. (Fund #4934)

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

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AUDIENCE ITEMS: Christian Smith, Goshen, spoke.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Tiara Jackson
Elkhart County Auditor