

MINUTES
ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
117 N. 2nd St. Room 104, Goshen, IN 46526
January 16, 2025

The meeting of the Elkhart County Council was called to order by Sheriff Jeff Siegel 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, Tiara Jackson First Deputy Auditor, and Steven Olsen, County Attorney's Office.

** 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 Web-Ex.

***** ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025*****

Auditor Patricia A. Pickens assumed the Chair and opened the floor for nominations for Council President.

On motion made to nominate Thomas W. Stump for Council President by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the nomination with a 7 to 0 vote.

On motion made by Hess and seconded by Riegsecker to close the nominations for Council President, and Elect Thomas W. Stump, the Council unanimously carried with a 7 to 0 vote and approved the request to close the nominations and elect Thomas W. Stump as President.

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Newly Elected President Thomas W. Stump assumed the chair and asked for nominations for Vice President. On motion made by Riegsecker to nominate David L. Hess for Vice President and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried with a vote of 7 to 0 and approved the nomination of David L. Hess for Council Vice President.

On motion made by Riegsecker to close the nominations for Council Vice President, and Elect David L. Hess, the Council unanimously carried with a 7 to 0 vote and approved the request to close the nominations and elect David L. Hess as Vice President.

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**Consideration and Approval of 2025 Additional Department Appointments.

On motion made to approve 2025 Additional Department Appointments as presented made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the appointments with a vote of 7 to 0.

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On motion made to approve 2025 Budget Department Assignments as presented by Riegsecker and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved the appointments with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 14)

MINUTES: Approval of CC Meeting Minutes: December 19, 2024.

On motion made to approve the December 19th, 2024, minutes by Hess and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the minutes as presented with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 12)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMISSIONERS: None
COUNCIL: None
SHERIFF: None

Auditor:

Patricia A. Pickens

(a). Consideration and Approval of Encumbrance Ordinance CC-2025-01

Auditor Pickens explained the details of the Encumbrance Ordinance to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Hess and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved Ordinance CC-2025-01 with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 15)

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

(a). Consideration and Approval of 2 Re-appointments to PTABOA. One (1) Year Term. Expires 12/31/2025.

Hess gave a brief explanation of the PTABOA board and the requirements of the appointments.

On motion made to Re-appoint Mike Settles and Jerry Weaver to the PTABOA for a term of one (1) year made by Graham seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 16, 17)

HUMAN RESOURCES:

CCPC-

(a). Consideration and Approval of Memorandum of Understanding.

Audie Hostetler, Assistant Human Resources Director explained the Memorandum of Understanding between the CCPC and Council. Going forward CCPC requests will be heard by the full Council as part of the budget hearing process.

On motion made to approve the Memorandum of Understanding by Graham and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Memorandum of Understanding.
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(b). Consideration and Approval of Ordinance CC-2025-03 An Ordinance Amending the 2025 Elkhart County Salary Ordinance (Sheriff).

On motion made to approve Ordinance CC-2025-03 An Ordinance Amending the 2025 Elkhart County Salary Ordinance made by Graham and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved the Ordinance Amending the 2025 Elkhart County Salary Ordinance.
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ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$100,000.00 for accounting and legal fees.

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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B. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested \$313,093.17 to upgrade the County fiber network to provide redundant fiber to the courthouses.

Jeff Taylor 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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C. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Emergency Management (137) requested \$7,863.00 for donated funds.

Jennifer Tobey presented this to 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 7 to 0.

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D. EDIT (#1112)

1. Elkhart County Highway (980) requested \$150,000.00 for funds for engineering services for Bridge 193.

Tim Jackson presented this to 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 7 to 0.

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E. EDIT (#1112)

1. Highway (980) requested \$150,000.00 for funds for Engineering services for Bridge 253.

Tim Jackson presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve 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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F. CUMULATIVE BRIDGE (#1135)

1. Highway (980) requested \$100,000 supplemental engineering services for Bridge 385.

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 7 to 0.

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G. DRUG FREE COMMUNITY (#1148)

1. Auditor (980) requested \$149,913 for annual allocations to area agencies who have submitted qualified applications. Criminal Justice (\$50,875.00), Prevention (\$40,000.00), Treatment (\$53,038), and Administration (\$6,000).

Jess Koscher from the Elkhart County Drug Free Partnership presented this request to the Council.

Councilmen Clark asked for clarification on the criminal justice portion. Koscher gave an explanation of how those funds are to be spent.

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

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H. EMERGENCY PLANNING RIGHT TO KNOW (#1152)

1. LEPC (EMA) requested \$55,611.44 FOR LEPC 2025 budget.

Jennifer Tobey presented this request to the Council.

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

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I. CHN (#1159)

1. Health Department (982) requested \$4,920.00 to appropriate donations for 2025.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion made to approve 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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J. CHN-LOBLEY (#1159)

1. Health Department (983) requested \$3,969.00 to appropriate donations for 2025.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

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

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K. LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE (#1168)

1. Health Department (983) requested \$5,707.00 to appropriate donations for 2025.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

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

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L. PARK & RECREATION NON-REVERTING (#1178)

1. Park & Recreation (980) requested \$171,052.00 for funds to renovate the DeFries Garden Homestead.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

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

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M. OPIOID-RESTRICTED (#1237)

1. Commissioners (980) requested \$500,000 for the Elkhart County Crisis Stabilization Center Agreement with Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, Inc.

Brad Rogers presented this request to the Council.

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

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~~N. NORTHWEST GATEWAY TIF (#4504)~~

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- ~~1. Planning (980) requested \$600.00 for Highway to assist with paving.~~

Mae Kraetzer withdrew appropriation and will bring it back next month.

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

1. Planning (980) requested \$593,883.24 for funds to cover our last Reliance Road payment, demolition for blighted homes within the TIF area, assist highway with a 50% match for a mower purchase, and remaining funds will assist Highway with paving projects within the TIF area.

Mae Kraetzer 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 7 to 0 vote.

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P. SR 13 INTERCHANGE TIF (#4514)

2. Planning (980) requested \$70,000.00, (\$20,000.00) for Baker Tilly to conduct a rate study for providing sewer to the south side of the SR 13 MBI TIF and (\$50,000.00) for engineering consultants to (1) update the preliminary Engineering report (2) produce an asset maintenance plan (3) apply SLFRF for MBI SR 13 TIF south sewer project.

Mae Kraetzer 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 7 to 0 vote.

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Q. PARK RECREATION (#4909)

2. Park & Recreation (980) requested \$192,000 for the renovation project of DeFries House and the DeFries Gardens.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

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

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R PARK RECREATION (#4909)

1. Park Recreation (980) requested \$77,524.00 to setup funding for the Elkhart County Community Foundation DeFries Garden endowment for payroll of 2 part-time employees and continued maintenance of the DeFries Gardens.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

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

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S. PARK & RECREATION (#4909)

1. Park & Recreation (980) requested \$165,000.00 for special County Park projects, special events, and programs.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

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

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T. WIC (#8101)

1. Health Department (982) requested \$2,339.54 to appropriate donated funds for use in 2025.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

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

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U. DENTAL PROGRAM INCOME (8178)

1. Health Department (614) requested \$666,803.00 to setup the 2025 budget for the Dental program

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Clark and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 39)

V. DENTAL (#8178)

1. Health Department (982) requested \$1,206.00 to appropriate donated funds for 2025.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Clark and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 40)

W. 81.128 EECBG (#8198)

1. Buildings & Grounds (140) requested \$80,000.00 to replace two boilers in the Goshen courthouse and four furnace/air conditioners as Work Release.

Jeff Taylor presented this request to the Council.

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

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X. FY24 SHSP CYBERSECURITY (#8200)

1. Emergency Management (980) requested \$52,650.00 for cybersecurity software for the IT Department.

Jennifer Tobey presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Graham and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 42)

Y. FY25 HEMPLP LEPC (#8201)

1. Emergency Management/LEPC (980) requested \$12,000.00 to host a Hazwopper course and facilitate a functional exercise with a Tier 2 facility as required annually.

Jennifer Tobey presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Clark and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 43)

Z. LOCAL GRANT HEALTHY BABIES (#9122)

1. Health Department (980) requested \$51,382.00 to setup budget for the Healthy Babies for 2025.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Bujalski and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 44)

AA. LOCAL HEALTHY BABIES (#9122)

1. Health Department (982) requested \$930.00 to appropriate donated funds for 2025.

Melanie Sizemore presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Yohn and seconded by Bujalski, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 45)

BB. STATE PROBATION HEA GRANT (#9126)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested \$131,250.00 to setup the grant budget for 2025.

Ross Maxwell presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Clark and seconded by Graham, the Council unanimously

carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 46)

CC. COURT RECIDIVISM REDUCTION GRANT (#9131)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested \$91,357.00 to setup the grant budget for 2025.

Ross Maxwell presented this request to the Council.

On motion 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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DD. PROBLEM SOLVING COURT GRANT (#9135)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested \$91,028.00 to setup the grant budget for 2025.

Ross Maxwell presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Clark and seconded by Hess, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 48)

EE. PRETRIAL GRANT (#9152)

1. Elkhart County Judiciary (981) requested \$60,000 to setup the grant budget for 2025.

Ross Maxwell presented this request to the Council.

On motion 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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FF. ADULT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT (#9157)

1. Community Corrections (980) requested \$1,305,23.00 to setup the grant budget for 2025.

Helen Clavin presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Clark and seconded by Yohn, the Council unanimously carried and approve this request with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 50)

GG. FACILITATOR TRAINING PROGRAM GRANT (#9169)

1. Community Corrections (980) requested \$7,510.00 to setup grant budget for 2025.

Helen Calvin presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Yohn and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously

carried and approved this request with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 51)

HH. CFEC DEFRIES RENOVATION (#9170)

1. Park & Recreation (980) requested \$100,000 for renovation of the DeFries House and the DeFries Gardens.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

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

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II. CFEC PARKS CEO RETREAT UNSOL (#9171)

1. Park & Recreation (980) requested \$5,000.00 to appropriate unsolicited grant funds for 2025.

Ronda DeCaire presented this request to the Council.

On motion made by Riegsecker and seconded by Clark, the Council unanimously carried and approved this request.

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REDUCTION EXPLANATIONS:

A. GENERAL FUND (#1000)

1. Commissioners (130) requested a reduction of -\$313,093.17 to reduce the project as funds were previously paid out of ARP. This corresponds with an additional appropriation for the County fiber network.

Auditor Pickens presented this to Council

On motion made by Clark and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved this reduction request.

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TRANSFER REQUESTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION: NONE

TRANSFER REQUESTS NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION:

(Available in the Auditor's office)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Steven Olsen:

- (a). Consideration and Approval of CC-2025-02 Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Establishing the Health Start Initiative Grant Fund (8202) for the Elkhart County Health Department.

Steven Olsen explained the details of this Ordinance to the Council.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved Ordinance CC-2025-02 with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 55)

- (b). Request Consideration and Approval of CC-2025-04 Ordinance of the Elkhart County Council Establishing the Tobacco Prevention ECDFP Grant Fund (9168) for the Elkhart County Emergency Health Department.

Steven Olsen explained the details of this Ordinance to the Council.

On motion made to approve by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved Ordinance CC-2025-04 with a 7 to 0 vote. (pg. 56)

- (c). Request Consideration and Confirmation of Support of CO 2021-16C an Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Establishing the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund.

On motion to approve made by Graham and seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and confirmed support of CO 2021-16C with a vote of 7 to 0. (pg. 57)

AUDIENCE ITEMS:

Taxpayer Dora Miller (Middlebury) spoke on the Middlebury Public Library and presented 524 copies of signatures from taxpayers in Middlebury, York, and Jefferson Townships associated with a petition presented to the Middlebury Library Board.

Taxpayer Cindi Hajicek (Goshen) mentioned that at last month's Middlebury Library board meeting Patrons presented a Resolution and asked the board for a roll call vote to be heard at their meeting on January 16, 2025. Hajicek presented a copy of the Resolution to the Council for the record.

Taxpayer Pam Keyser (Middlebury) spoke about her concerns with the bond for the Treasurer of the Middlebury Public Library.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion to adjourn made by Graham seconded by Riegsecker, the Council unanimously carried and approved the adjournment of the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Patricia A. Pickens
Elkhart County Auditor