

HARRISON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

Minutes of the Harrison County Council meeting held on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. local time, in the Commissioners' and Council Room of the Harrison County Government Center located in Corydon, Indiana.

Present:	Jake Blackman, Council Member	Tad Whitis, Council Attorney
	Sherry Brown, Council Member	Sara Burdick, County Auditor
	Jennie Capelle, Council Member	Chad Shireman, County Administrator
	Richard Gerdon, Council Member	
	Joe Kellum, Council Member	
	Kyle Nix, Council Member	

County auditor Sara Burdick welcomed all in attendance and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Auditor Burdick called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and noted that six members of the council were present. Councilwoman Castetter was absent.

Sara Burdick asked for nominations for chairman of the county council. Councilman Blackman made a motion to appoint Councilman Kyle Nix for chairman of the council. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 1 abstention. Councilman Nix abstained.

Chairman Nix asked for nominations for vice-chairman of the county council. Councilman Gerdon made a motion to appoint Councilman Jake Blackman for vice-chairman of the council. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 1 abstention. Councilman Blackman abstained.

Chairman Nix asked for a motion to hire the council's attorney. Councilman Blackman made a motion to hire Tad Whitis for a three-month contract starting January 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2026. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

EMA director Mike Kurz came before the council with an additional appropriation request in the amount of \$62,154.00 for equipment in the dispatch budget in the LIT public safety-county share fund. Mr. Kurz said this was needed to enhance dispatcher training and the dispatch center facilities. Plans include creating a dedicated training center that can also serve as a backup PSAP area as needed.

County engineer Kevin Russel came before the council with two additional appropriation requests out of the cumulative bridge fund. The first request was in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the construction project on bridge #43. The second request was in the amount of \$600,000.00 for construction projects on bridge #37 and bridge #75. Mr. Russel noted that sealed bids are scheduled to be opened at the upcoming commissioner meeting on January 20, 2026. Those low bid amounts will be reported at the next council meeting prior to approval of additional appropriation requests.

County sheriff Nick Smith was present to discuss the need for five new patrol vehicles and a truck for the evidence technician. Dodge Durango's were selected as the patrol vehicles and a Ram 2500 truck was selected for the evidence tech. The total request for vehicles was in the amount of \$256,000.00 and the cost of upfits totaled \$75,000.00. Both requests were made out of the county share of riverboat fund.

County administrator Chad Shireman presented two additional appropriations for the council's consideration. The first request was in the amount of \$100,000.00 for Blue River Services. Mr. Shireman

explained that this is the local match portion of the 5311-transportation grant. The funding had already been approved but was omitted from the 2026 budget in error. The second request was in the amount of \$9,000.00 for the community drug free program. Both requests were being made out of the county share of riverboat fund.

Chairman Nix read additional appropriation requests for riverboat infrastructure totaling \$30,881.43 and riverboat revenue sharing totaling \$573,512.32.

Administrator Shireman presented the remaining additional appropriation requests to be voted on at the next council meeting, covering the Harrison County veteran's treatment court 2026 grant fund requests totaling \$23,500.00.

Chairman Nix said that the next order of business was additional appropriations advertised to be voted on at tonight's meeting. Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$28,000.00 for proactive maintenance in the maintenance department budget in the county general fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$76,800.00 for contractual services in the cumulative bridge fund. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Capelle made a motion to approve additional appropriations as follows: \$13,678.00 for director, \$11,537.00 for volunteer coordinator, \$1,929.00 for FICA, and \$3,581.00 for PERF in the CASA budget in the CASA/Turner family fund. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the Annual Budget;

NOW THEREFORE: Sec. 1 Be it ordained by the County Council of Harrison County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums are hereby appropriated out of the funds named for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u>		
1000-40400-000-0160 Proactive Maintenance	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
<u>CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND</u>		
1135-31600-000-0530 Contractual Services	\$ 76,800.00	\$ 76,800.00
TOTAL CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND	\$ 76,800.00	\$ 76,800.00
<u>CASA/TURNER FAMILY FUND</u>		
9142-11116-000-0290 Director	\$ 13,678.00	\$ 13,678.00
9142-11214-000-0290 Volunteer Coordinator	\$ 11,537.00	\$ 11,537.00
9142-12100-000-0290 FICA-CASA	\$ 1,929.00	\$ 1,929.00
9142-12200-000-0290 PERF-CASA	\$ 3,581.00	\$ 3,581.00
TOTAL CASA/TURNER FAMILY FUND	\$ 30,725.00	\$ 30,725.00

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF JANURAY, 2026

Chairman Nix said the next order of business would be transfer of funds for the council's consideration. Councilman Gerdon made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$144.11 from office supplies to contractual services-other in the circuit court clerk budget in the county general fund. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$50,118.00 from head mechanic to garage mechanic in the motor vehicle highway fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve transfer requests as follows: \$246,656.29 from property tax reduction to Lanesville Community School, \$580,786.83 from property tax reduction to North Harrison Community School, and \$1,172,556.88 from property tax reduction to South Harrison Community School. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve transfer requests as follows: \$95,165.02 from miscellaneous education purposes to Lanesville Community School, \$208,880.45 from miscellaneous education purposes to North Harrison Community School, and \$383,005.93 from miscellaneous education purposes to South Harrison Community School. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 54

WHEREAS, certain extraordinary emergencies have developed since the adoption of the existing annual budget, so that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the Annual Budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, to meet such extraordinary emergencies:

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the County Council of Harrison County, Indiana, that for the expenses of said Municipal Corporation the following items are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u>		
1000-39701-000-0001 Contractual Services-Other	\$ 144.11	\$ 144.11
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 144.11	\$ 144.11
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND</u>		
1176-11218-000-0533 Mechanic	\$ 50,118.00	\$ 50,118.00
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 50,118.00	\$ 50,118.00
<u>COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND</u>		
1191-30115-000-0503 Lanesville Community School	\$ 246,656.29	\$ 246,656.29
1191-31609-000-0503 N. Harrison Community School	\$ 580,786.83	\$ 580,786.83
1191-31705-000-0503 S. Harrison Community School	\$ 1,172,556.88	\$ 1,172,556.88
1191-30115-000-0510 Lanesville Community School	\$ 95,165.62	\$ 95,165.62
1191-31609-000-0510 N. Harrison Community School	\$ 208,880.45	\$ 208,880.45
1191-31705-000-0510 S. Harrison Community School	\$ 383,005.93	\$ 383,005.93
TOTAL COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND	\$ 2,687,052.00	\$ 2,687,052.00

Sec. 2. **WHEREAS**, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have un-obligated balances which will not be needed for the purpose for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced the following amounts:

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u>		
1000-21100-000-0001 Office Supplies-Clerk	\$ 144.11	\$ 144.11
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 144.11	\$ 144.11
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND</u>		
1176-11318-000-0530 Head Mechanic	\$ 50,118.00	\$ 50,118.00
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 50,118.00	\$ 50,118.00
<u>COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND</u>		
1191-31006-000-0503 Property Tax Reduction	\$ 246,656.29	\$ 246,656.29
1191-31006-000-0503 Property Tax Reduction	\$ 580,786.83	\$ 580,786.83
1191-31006-000-0503 Property Tax Reduction	\$ 1,172,556.88	\$ 1,172,556.88
1191-30410-000-0510 Misc. Education Purposes	\$ 95,165.62	\$ 95,165.62
1191-30410-000-0510 Misc. Education Purposes	\$ 208,880.45	\$ 208,880.45
1191-30410-000-0510 Misc. Education Purposes	\$ 383,005.93	\$ 383,005.93
TOTAL COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND	\$ 2,687,052.00	\$ 2,687,052.00

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

Chairman Nix presented a resolution pertaining to salaries, wages, and benefits for Harrison County employees. The resolution requires employees to give written notice if they wish to discuss these topics with the council, allowing the department head or elected official to be present at the meeting to express concerns or support for any requests being made. This aims to ensure proper communication and transparency in salary discussions moving forward. Councilman Blackman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-01. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

An amended salary ordinance was provided to correct the part-time school resource officer pay rate, changing it to match the same tiered structure based on years-of-service that is currently being used for the full-time patrol officers. Councilwoman Capelle made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Sheriff Nick Smith came before the council to request that the council research whether or not it was possible to look back at the last two years for the part-time school resource officer to ensure the pay was in accordance with salary ordinances approved at that time.

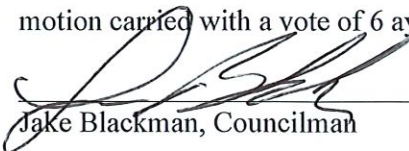
Chairman Nix read the proposed council board appointments for 2026 as follows: Kyle Nix for a one-year term on the 4-H Council, Jake Blackman for a one-year term on the County Extension Board, Jeff Byerly for a one-year term on the Alcohol Beverage Board, Sherry Brown for a one-year term on the Alternative Education Center Board, Dave Sanders for a one-year term on the Economic Development Board, Rusty Crosier, who was nominated by the county commissioners, for a one-year term on the Economic Development Board, Joe Kellum for a one-year term on the Economic Development Board, Kyle Nix for a one-year term on the Economic Development Board, David Lett for a one-year term on the Emergency Management Board, Sherry Brown for a one-year term on the Family and Education Board, Doug Zeidler

for a four-year term on the Library Board, Joe Kellum for a one-year term on the Lifelong Learning Board, Jake Blackman for a one-year term on the Plan Commission Board, Patricia Badger-Byrd for a one-year term on the Property Tax Board of Appeals, Steven Day for a one-year term on the River Hills Board, Richard Gerdon for a one-year term on the Solid Waste Board, Holli Castetter for a one-year term on the Regional Development Commission Board, and Joe Kellum for a one-year term on the Regional Development Commission Board. Councilwoman Brown made a motion to approve the board nominations as presented. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

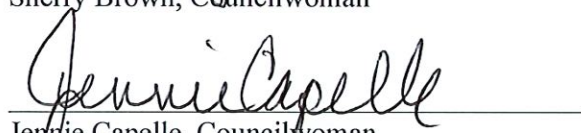
Councilwoman Capelle made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the county clerk monthly report for December. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilwoman Brown made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the county treasurer monthly report for December. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

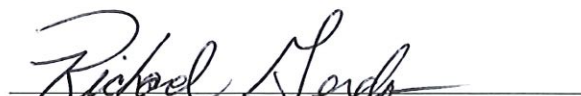
Councilman Blackman made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.


Jake Blackman, Councilman


Sherry Brown, Councilwoman


Jennie Capelle, Councilwoman

- Abstained -
Holli Castetter, Councilwoman


Richard Gerdon, Councilman

- Absent -
Joe Kellum, Councilman


Kyle Mix, Councilman

ATTEST: 
Sara Burdick, County Auditor