

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

March 2, 2026

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in a regular session on Monday, March 2, 2026, in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Council Members attending were Warren D. Albright, Monty Gregory, Jim Hamby, Sheri Bowling, Gerald D. Montgomery, Jim Woody, and Jordan Berry. Also attending was Auditor Michelle Norris.

President Albright called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 6:30 pm.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Albright asked if members had a chance to review the minutes of the last meeting. Monty Gregory moved to approve the minutes from February 2, 2026. The motion was seconded by Jim Woody. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

RE: BODY-WORN CAMERA GRANT APPLICATION AND MATCH (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT)

Auditor Michelle Norris reported on the Small, Rural, Tribal Body-Worn Camera Program grant, noting Chief Deputy Keith Keller could not be in attendance, but he had presented to the Board of Commissioners at a special session the prior Monday and received their approval to proceed. The grant is a one-to-one match program for agencies with fifty or fewer full-time sworn personnel and rural agencies; the Sheriff's Department qualifies. Discussion indicated the total estimated program cost is approximately \$39,000–\$40,000 over a five-year lease, for fifteen cameras to cover thirteen officers, the Sheriff, and one reserve deputy. Jim Hamby stated his concern is that they have four reserve officers, and if a reserve officer gets called out to assist, the officer will not go to the security center first to get the camera. The Council decided they wanted to approve up to twenty cameras to cover all the officers.

Monty Gregory stated the lease includes maintenance and replacement (e.g., water damage) and upgrade provisions within two years if a newer version becomes available. Auditor Norris proposed payment from Public Safety LIT Fund 1170, which has a balance of over \$1,000,000. Payment could be split over five years at approximately \$5,000 per year or paid in full. A motion was made by Monty Gregory to approve the Sheriff's Department to apply for the body-worn camera grant and authorize a county match for up to twenty cameras, with funding from Public Safety LIT Fund 1170; seconded by Gerald Montgomery. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

RE: 2026 SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Auditor Norris presented two ordinance corrections. First, the original salary and wage ordinance for the Jail erroneously listed "Correction Officer 4" twice; the second will be corrected to "Correction Officer 5" for clarity. Second, Community Corrections Director Danielle Murphy requested aligning the part-time Juvenile Diversion Case Manager pay range to match the grant approval at \$22–\$28 per hour (previously listed as \$20–\$25). The position is part-time and not eligible for insurance; the grant fully covers the pay range. A motion was made by Jordan Berry to approve both ordinance corrections as presented, seconded by Jim Hamby. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

RE: AMBULANCE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Auditor Norris stated she advertised to restore portions of the ambulance budget removed at the prior meeting, due to the withdrawal of the ambulance bid and the need to reinstate essential operational lines. Council discussion reviewed current expenditures, including EMS billing having spent approximately \$5,700 year-to-date and the need for more than the previously considered \$4,200 to continue monthly obligations; fuel balances were discussed with approximately \$3,500 used year-to-date. The Council agreed to reinstate only

specified ambulance operational lines, while leaving some non-critical lines reduced pending further monitoring. After discussion, a motion was made by Monty Gregory to approve the following additional appropriations in the ambulance budget:

Ambulance Service Fund- Fund 4002

Vehicle Maintenance	\$10,000
Dues and Subscriptions	\$2,325
Telephone	\$2,325
Liability & Work Comp	\$18,750
Hospital & Director Sponsor	\$6,750
EMS Billing	\$10,000
Heart Monitor Lease	\$12,375
Intercept Fees	\$1,875

The ambulance additional appropriations were seconded by Jim Hamby. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

RE: VOTING EQUIPMENT BATTERIES AND SOFTWARE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Clerk Julie Fithian reported voting equipment purchased in 2017 requires new batteries due to age, and one computer’s election software is outdated. A motion was made by Jim Woody to approve the additional appropriation in the Voting System Fund, seconded by Sheri Bowling. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

Cumulative Voting System- Fund 1143

Voting Machine Lease	\$5,036
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RE: REASSESSMENT FUND APPROPRIATION FOR PLAT MAP UPDATE

Auditor Norris presented a request from the Assessor’s Office for a plat map update, which includes the purchase of new printers necessary for mapping functions. A motion was made by Monty Gregory to approve the additional appropriation from the Reassessment Fund (Fund 1224) for Plat Map Update in the amount of \$10,436, seconded by Jordan Berry. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

Reassessment- Fund 1224

Plat Map Update	\$10,436
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RE: EDIT FUND STRUCTURAL CLEANUP

Auditor Norris notified the Council of forthcoming administrative changes affecting the EDIT fund. Currently, compensatory program expenditures for multiple departments and ambulance salaries are commingled in the same department structure, forcing payroll staff to wait for all departments’ vouchers before completing ambulance payroll. To improve efficiency and provide clarification, Auditor Norris will advertise the creation of separate departmental structures within the EDIT fund, assigning ambulance to its own department. This change aims to streamline payroll processing for Teresa Wininger in the Auditor’s Office and improve controls. The Council expressed support for the cleanup. No motion required at this time; action to be presented next meeting.

RE: EMS OVERTIME REPORTING AND SHERIFF’S COMMISSARY REPORT

Jim Hamby requested regular EMS reporting, with particular attention to overtime justification. Auditor Norris noted the Council should also receive a quarterly Sheriff’s Commissary report. Auditor Norris indicated requests have been communicated and will be reiterated by email prior to the next meeting.

RE: WHEEL TAX REVENUE UPDATE AND STATE COLLECTION DISCUSSION

Auditor Norris reported unexpectedly low wheel tax receipts: approximately \$78 received in the first month (commercial vehicles due January 1) and approximately \$600 in the second month. Council members discussed expectations given the number of commercial vehicles in the county and potential delays in remittance and state collection holds (possible ninety-day lag). Auditor Norris will consult the BMV and state contacts (including Purdue-

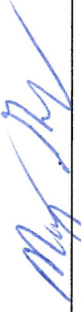
related Wheel Tax resources) to clarify remittance timing, classification reporting (commercial vs. non-commercial), and any state collection fees or percentages withheld. The Council acknowledged prior discussion of a modest state collection fee and requested follow-up data, including counts and classifications of registered vehicles if available.

RE: AJOURNMENT

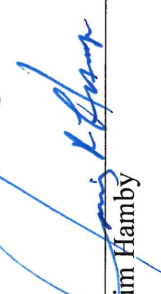
With no further business, a motion was made by Jim Hamby to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jordan Berry. All in favor, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next regular meeting of the Martin County Council is scheduled for April 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Martin County Courthouse.



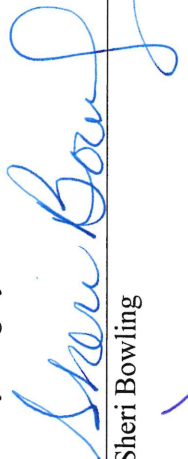
Warren D. Albright



Monty Gregory



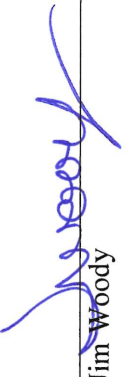
Jim Hamby



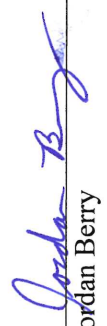
Sheri Bowling



Gerald D. Montgomery



Jim Woody



Jordan Berry

ATTEST: 

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor