

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street
Boonville, Indiana
May 6, 2025
6:00 PM

The Warrick County Council met in regular session at the Warrick County Courthouse, 107 W. Locust Street, Boonville, Indiana.

Council Attorney Rhett Gonterman and Administrator Krystal Powless were in attendance.

Auditor Michael Dietsch, Chief Deputy Barbi Shelton, and Recording Secretary Kristine Georges attended and recorded the minutes.

The public could view the meeting via Warrick County Government YouTube channel at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOK8y7IXcLpK9le8WV4pr9w?view_as=subscriber

Council President Brad Overton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council members present in person: Ron Bacon, Patricia Brooks, Rob Dimmett, Brad Overton, Richard Reid, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine.

TABLED ITEMS
HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Overton stated that the following was requested to be tabled:

Public Health Services	1161.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$449,238.64
------------------------	---------------------	----------------------	--------------

Councilman Brad Overton made the motion to table. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the April 1, 2025 Regular Session meeting were presented. Councilman Richmond had a clarification on the motion for the Health Department, Local Health Maintenance - Legal Services approval on the second page. He added \$26,909.21 to the motion made by Ron Bacon to make it more clear. There were also several Council members that were listed as Commissioners instead of Council members on page three. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve the minutes with the corrections. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Overton read the following into the minutes:

Health	1159.31400.000.0000	Communication	\$5,000.00
--------	---------------------	---------------	------------

Ms. Juli Shade, the contracted Health Administrator, and Health Officer Dr. Kailyn Kahre were present for the Health Department. They would like this to be tabled so they can look into it further. Councilman Chris Whetstine made the motion to table. Councilwoman Patricia Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

SUPERIOR COURT 1 BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Overton read the following into the minutes:

Adult Probation	Superior	2002.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$20,000.00
-----------------	----------	---------------------	-----------	-------------

Judge Krista Weiberg was present to speak to the request. They are needing some things for the office and courtroom. They want to purchase new juror chairs and replace a refrigerator that has gone out. The money will come out of their Probation User Fee funds. Council Administrator Krystal Powless said that there is plenty of money in the fund. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**STORM WATER BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

President Overton read the following into the minutes:

Storm Water Management	1197.44500.000.0000	Storm Water Projects	\$150,239.00
	1197.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$4,296.00

Ms. Powless stated that a letter was submitted to the Council explaining the request from Storm Water Director Steve Sherwood. Councilman Richmond asked where money from last year would go if it were not encumbered. There was a brief explanation. Ms. Powless then reviewed some of the request details. The projects are Storm Water projects, from the Storm Water funds, coming from the cash line to the Storm Water Project line. He has approximately \$200,000.00 in unappropriated cash. There were no more questions or comments. Councilman Ron Bacon made the motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**EMA BUSINESS
UPDATE - DISCUSSION**

Emergency Management Director Matt Goebel presented. Council received an informational handout. Mr. Goebel reviewed money that has come in through grants, and saving the County money. He also discussed the programs they have been involved with including a weather spotter training, Stop the Bleed trainings, and other community outreaches. He talked about their disaster preparedness, updates to equipment, and various certifications as well as upcoming grants they are working on. Mr. Goebel then went over all the assessments they have done involving the different weather events that impacted the area and the aiding of residents that were affected. He also gave different totals in damages. Mr. Goebel was also thankful for all the partnerships they have established that has been a great help to Warrick County and contributed to their success.

Councilwoman Patricia Brooks asked about reinstatement of the CERT Program. She thought it was very successful and had gone through the training. Mr. Goebel said he is on the safety committee for the National CERT Conference being held in Indianapolis. That program is something that they are working on to bring back. President Overton thanked him for all the information.

**OHIO TOWNSHIP FIRE BUSINESS
UPDATE- DISCUSSION**

Ohio Township Fire Chief Scott Foreman and Deputy Chief Jeremy Baxter were present for the discussion. Chief Foreman had a handout for the Council members. They touched on various items including runs, response times, trainings, and public education. He also went over the goals for next year. They also want to implement an inspection program.

Deputy Chief Baxter then spoke to ASHER and the three-piece initiative for an active shooter event. He went over their partners in the initiative and the three pieces. First is getting kits into the classrooms, second is training, and third is integrative response between the fire department and law enforcement.

This is all made possible in part because of the Council's help with the PSLIT funding and support.

Councilman Richmond asked what ASHER stands for. He was told it is Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response.

Councilman Whetstine asked how many firefighters there are full time. Chief Foreman said that they have seventeen (17) full time firefighters with five (5) per shift. There are also about thirty-three (33) volunteers. They are not all active at the same time. NFPA is their regulatory organization. They don't currently meet the guidelines and are understaffed. Chief Foreman reviewed the recommended numbers for population and responses.

Councilman Reid commended them for their current response times.

Chief Foreman also had a brief discussion with Councilman Whetstine on responses to medical runs in collaboration with EMS and the Sheriff's Office.

HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS

President Overton read the following into the record:

8A. Additional Appropriation Reimbursement property reassessment			
*Property Reassessment	1224.32200.000.0000	Postage	\$380.00

President Overton said that this amount was refunded by the vendor that was used to mail assessments in 2024 and they are requesting the amount be reimbursed back to the line item that paid the invoice.

8B. Salary Ordinance Handbook policy			
Dispatch Resignation Dispatcher	pay out		\$8,521.79
Resignation Dispatcher	pay out		\$1,498.36
Jail Maintenance resignation	pay out		\$13,449.41

There was no more discussion. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL BUSINESS
BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE & LETTER TO OFFICE HOLDERS

Administrator Powless presented the Budget Meeting schedule and asked if there were any conflicts. No one had any conflicts. With the new senate bill, she said they may want to discuss what might be put in the letter to the office holders. She will be taking a class on what is coming up, but not until June. They may be looking at \$500,000.00 to a \$1,000,000.00 loss from property taxes for the 2026 budget. President Overton said that he thought that the number could mean a freeze in hiring and possibly not filling open positions. Councilman Whetstine also agreed on the hiring freeze. Ms. Powless will tentatively put in the letters that there will be no hiring and also explain the issues and that they may need to freeze or even cut budgets. There was continued discussion that the 4% growth quotient doesn't cover the reduction. Councilman Brooks said as a former Office Holder, she would rather know up front there will be less money. Ms. Powless will put something together for President Overton and the Council Attorney to review and then share with the rest of the Council. This is also a reclassification year for positions. Ms. Powless thought they could close it or possibly review it if the Department Head can fund from their own budgets; otherwise, they will need to wait. Councilman Whetstine was in favor of them at least presenting a plan. There was then a discussion among the Council about property taxes and the push to raise income taxes as well as the other changes that will come from the passage of Senate Bill 1 and the new business exemptions.

OTHER BUSINESS
REGULAR SESSION MEETING CHANGE

Administrator Powless requested moving the July 1, 2025 Regular Session meeting to July 8, 2025. Consensus was given. The time will remain the same.

OTHER BUSINESS
PUBLIC STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT BRAD OVERTON

President Overton read the following statement:

After much thought and consideration, I am leaving the Republican Party. I have not supported the MAGA wing of the Republican Party, and it is my firm conclusion that MAGA has taken over the GOP. The actions and rhetoric of this administration and the Republican Party do not align with the principles and beliefs that I uphold. I can no longer support the Republican Party because the Republican Party involves the following:

- Weakening our military forces/alliances,*
- Eliminating and reducing Federal agencies and programs,*
- Promoting the acquisition of sovereign countries and territories,*
- Deporting people without due process,*
- Undermining marginalized groups of people,*
- Eliminating policies that promote equality*

I will end my comments with a quote from Liz Cheney, "Elected officials, who believe their own political survival is more important than anything else, threaten the survival of our republic, no matter what they tell themselves to justify their cowardice."

Honorably yours,

Brad Overton

ADJOURNMENT

The next Warrick County Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room. President Brad Overton made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Brad Overton

Brad Overton, President

Patricia A. Brooks

Patricia Brooks

Rick Reid

Richard Reid

Chris Whetstone

Chris Whetstine

Ron Bacon

Ron Bacon, Vice President

Robert Dimmett

Robert Dimmett

Greg Richmond

Greg Richmond

ATTEST:

Michael J. Dietsch

Michael J. Dietsch, Auditor

Warrick County, IN

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kristine Georges, Official Recording Secretary

ORIGINAL

Sec. 1 Be it ordained (resolved) by the Warrick County Council, Warrick County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the proposed specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

FUND	APPROPRIATION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Public Health Services	1161.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$449,238.64	Table
Health	1159.31400.000.0000	Communication	\$5,000.00	Table
Property Reassessment	1224.32200.000.0000	Postage	\$380.00	380.00
Storm Water Manage	1197.44500.000.0000	Storm Water Projects	\$150,239.00	150,239.00
	1197.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$4,296.00	4,296.00
Adult Prob Superiors	2002.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$20,000.00	20,000

Taxpayers appearing in the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the State Board of Tax Commissioners. The Board will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action.

Adopted this 6 day of May, 2025.

AYE

Ron Bacon

Robert Dimmett

Greg Richmond

Chris Whetstone

Patricia A. Brooks

Rick Reid

Brad Overton

NAY

ATTEST: Mike Dietsch - Auditor Warrick County