

## **COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 13, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Pamela Burton.

### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

#### **1. Roll Call**

The following members were present: Michele Ann Graves, Ron Bates, Jonathan T. Myers, John Mallers, John Ditmars, and Melinda Griesemer.

#### **2. Invocation**

Mrs. Burton gave the invocation.

#### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **4. Approval of 1/13/25 Agenda**

Mrs. Burton noted the following changes to the agenda:

- item D8 – *Drug Free Community – Change in amounts requested*
- add item G6 – *Ordinance 2025-2: Amended Salary Ordinance*
- table item G4 – *Discussion on EDIT Revenue Bonding.*

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Griesemer seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#### **5. Public Comments (limited to 5 minutes per person)**

Joe Gioe, President & CEO of the Indiana Railroad Company, was present to introduce himself to the Council members. He explained he has been in his position since August 2024; their railroad runs from Indianapolis down through Bargersville, then turns toward Bloomington and then goes to Newton, Illinois. They have another line segment that runs from Terre Haute to the Crane Naval Base. He stated he just wanted to learn more about our community and offer himself as a point of contact and to answer any questions or concerns the County might have and be a resource with anything regarding their railroad.

The Council members thanked Mr. Gioe for his time and information.

Mr. Mallers wanted to make a statement highlighting the County's successes in 2024 as a result of the Council working in collaboration with others. They included: reasonable & consistent budget goals, having active budget workshops-which made the adoption process run more smoothly, financial planning for road funding, participating in the Health Indiana First dollars, approval of the Cleargov Budget software for use with the 2026 budget, Max Levy Growth Appeal approved, and the Interlocal Agreement for Opioids.

Ms. Griesmer also wanted to publicly thank Mrs. Burton and Mr. Mallers for both of their hard work last year. She expressed in prior years she felt like the budget process was a little chaotic and is grateful, with Mrs. Burton's leadership, she felt like the budget workshops were very helpful in the 2025 budget process. She acknowledged both of their hard work that was done behind the scenes. She looks forward to continued progress with the 2026 budget adoption.

There were no other public comments.

### **B. Nomination and Election:**

Mrs. Burton stated a few things from their approved Council rules. At the first regular Council meeting of every year, the Council shall elect from its members a President and a Vice President. She then summarized by saying each member on the Council will have an opportunity to nominate a President and then a Vice President. She will

be asking for a roll call vote during this process. Lastly, each member will only be allowed to vote for one nominee. She then asked if there were any questions.

Tiffany Costley, County Attorney, noted once a nomination is given, there needs to be a second.

Mrs. Burton added you can't second your own nomination.

- Council President

Mrs. Burton opened the nominations for Council President.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to nominate Mrs. Burton as Council President. Ms. Griesemer seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Mrs. Burton then closed the nominations for Council President.

With a roll call vote, Mrs. Burton was unanimously voted as Council President.

- Council Vice-President

Mrs. Burton then opened the nominations for Council Vice-President.

Mrs. Burton nominated Mr. Mallers as Council Vice-President. Mr. Ditmars seconded the nomination.

Ms. Griesemer nominated Mrs. Graves as Council Vice-President. Mr. Bates seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Mrs. Burton then closed the nominations for Council Vice-President.

By a roll call vote, Mrs. Graves was voted Council Vice-President 4-3; Mrs. Burton, Mr. Mallers, and Mr. Ditmars all voted nay.

### **C. Board Appointments:**

- Edinburgh Town Economic Development Commission

Mrs. Burton stated they have received one application: John E. Myers. She said Mr. Myers is the current Edinburgh Town Manager and is willing to take this position. He was unable to attend the meeting tonight because Edinburgh has a town council meeting tonight as well.

Mr. Bates made a motion to appoint Mr. John E. Myers to the Edinburgh Town Economic Development Commission. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

- Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Burton stated there were three applicants for this position: (1) Stephen Powell, (2) William Hutson, and (3) Mike Hoffman. She then asked if any of the applicants were present, if they would come to the podium to introduce themselves and share a little information about themselves.

Mr. Powell was present and stated he has served on this Board for about six or seven years, as an appointment by the County Council. He is a resident of Greenwood (unincorporated area) and is retired from AT&T Indiana. He briefly explained what the Board of Zoning Appeals functions (addressing variances and violations) are and wished to continue to serve on this board.

Mr. Hutson was also present and stated he is a current resident of Franklin, but he is in the process of building a house in Morgantown. He is looking for a way to give back to his community and would like to serve on this board. Mr. Hoffman was also present and stated he has lived in Johnson County since 1994. He owns two residential properties in unincorporated Johnson County. He also had a commercial project he finished at the end of 2024, which he went through the zoning appeal process. He has been in commercial real estate for a long time; he has several years of experience dealing with building and remodeling regulations (mostly in Marion County). He is also the Community Liaison for the White River Township Fire Department. He is just looking for ways to give back and be more involved with the community.

Ms. Griesemer inquired what kind of commitment is expected for this position.

Mr. Powell voiced they meet once a month on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in the Annex Auditorium.

Mr. Bates commented that all three are good applicants and anyone of them would do well in this position; however, he feels like going with the person who has been appointed and is willing to be reappointed is where he would go.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to appoint Mr. Hoffman to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mrs. Burton seconded the motion, which carried 5-2; Mr. Ditmars and Mr. Bates both voted nay.

- Emergency Management Advisory Council (Council Member)

Mrs. Burton made a motion to appoint Mrs. Graves to the Emergency Management Advisory Council. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**D. Routine Matters – Consent Agenda**

*By a single motion, the Board approves the following items, which may include Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions, and Transfers. Any items listed on the consent agenda may be removed by a Council member and moved to the regular agenda.*

Mrs. Graves made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

1. Approval of 12/9/24 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Enhanced Access (#1154-0104) Recorder  
 (a) From: 1154.44000.00000.0104 Office Equipment \$ (1,000.00)  
 To: 1154.36000.00000.0104 Equipment Repair & Maint (new) \$ 1,000.00
3. Mental Health Court 2024 (#9195) Court Services  
 (a) From: 9195.30035.00000.0138 Participant Services \$ (1,000.00)  
 To: 9195.11400.00000.0138 Part Time \$ 1,000.00
4. Drug Court Adult 2025 (#9200) Court Services  
 (a) From: 9200.21600.00000.0131 Operating Supplies \$ (1,000.00)  
 To: 9200.25800.00000.0131 Books \$ 1,000.00
5. Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0127) Emergency Management  
 (a) From: 4300.44100.00000.0127 Misc Equipment \$ (293.88)  
 To: 4300.21600.00000.0127 Operating Supplies \$ 293.88
6. Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0210) Health  
 (a) AA: 4300.31000.00000.0210 Professional Services \$ 6,305.17

7. General Fund (#1001-0139) Unified Courts

(a) AA: 1001.31300.00000.0139	Interpreter Services	\$ 38,552.85
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8. Drug Free Community (#1148)

(a) AA: 1148.34005.00000.0331	Administrative	\$ 26,796.00
(b) AA: 1148.21001.00000.0331	Volunteer Favors	\$ 400.00
(c) AA: 1148.21600.00000.0331	Operating Supplies	\$ <del>200.00</del> 181.83
(d) AA: 1148.31000.00000.0331	Professional Services	\$ <del>160.00</del> -0-
  
9. General Fund (#1001-0144) Fleet \*retro to 12/26/24\*

(a) 1001.11400.00000.0144	Part Time (Mechanic) – request to increase hourly rate from \$22.47 to \$23.59	
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**E. Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions, and Transfers:**

1. Innkeepers Tax Collections (#7304)

Ken Kosky, Executive Director of the Johnson County CVT, was present to request their first quarterly appropriation of funds. He expressed he has been working on their 2024 annual statistics, noting all of their numbers are up; hotel revenue is up 7.2%, and their free media has doubled. Due to the lengthy agenda tonight, he suggested he would send the Council members the 2024 annual report once it is completed.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(1a) AA: 7304.31601.00000.1127	Operating Expenses	\$ 322,731.25
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2. County Health (#1159) Health

Betsy Swearingen, Director, was present to request an additional appropriation to pay for the remodel of the old Health Department building in order to move the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) from the Prosecutor’s Office building into that area to start the first type of collaboration in the State of Indiana to morphos CAC along with ASSIST. They would do some physical exams and forensic interviews within the county so that children and sexual assault victims don’t have to travel up to the St. Vincent/Peyton Manning hospital or out to another place in Avon. This would keep them local and make it better for our police and responders. This would better serve the citizens of Johnson County, noting other counties would be able to utilize this space as well. However, certain renovations need to be made in order for this CAC to be certified.

Mrs. Graves inquired what is CAC.

Mrs. Swearingen explained the CAC is the Child Advocacy Center. It is currently housed in the Prosecutor’s Office building. It used to be fully run by ASSIST, but it has slowly transitioned out. The Prosecutor has asked for the CAC to be relocated because it is really a conflict of interest for it to be located there. The CAC needs its own separate private location to better serve the citizens. She then explained they are currently paying around \$5,600 a month in rent on the old Health Department Building. If they are able to relocate the CAC to this facility and sublease it, they could reduce the amount of the rent they still owe as part of their contract. Their hope is that ASSIST will take over the County’s lease when it expires in May 2026.

Mr. Mallers asked what ASSIST is.

Mrs. Swearingen explained they are a local agency that partners with our judicial system. They offer services for any type of trauma-based events such as counseling. They are a non-for-profit organization and are funded by State grants.

Discussion was held regarding this request, including who has oversight of the CAC and ASSIST, as well as how the financial aspect will work regarding the subleasing. Mrs. Costley also added some information regarding the request and the requirements for creating a certified CAC location.

Commissioner Ron West was present via zoom and commented that by spending \$43,950 for renovations in order to get this building subleased, the County would be saving over \$100,000+ in rent because someone else would be paying it. Additionally, this program provides a great service for our citizens, especially our children.

Mr. Bates called for the question.

Mrs. Burton asked if there were any other questions or concerns regarding this request.

Brief discussion was held regarding a prior situation dealing with ASSIST.

Mr. Ditmars asked if the terms of the sublease would be a push and if there would be a net residual due to the County. He assumed they would also be paying both the rent and all utilities.

Commissioner Kevin Walls was also present to help answer any questions the Council members may have. He answered the sublease would be a push; however, they can't move forward with a contract (or memorandum of understanding) for the sublease until the appropriation for the renovations are approved.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 5-2 by a roll call vote; Mr. Mallers and Ms. Griesemer both voted nay.

(2a) AA: 1159.36001.00000.0210      *Building Repair & Maint*      \$    43,950.00

3. 93.354 Crisis CoAgSchool 21-22 (#8247) Health \*retro to 12/12/24\*

Mrs. Swearingen was also present to transfer funds to cover wages for the 1/9/25 and part of the 1/23/25 payroll (for the time worked in 2024). She noted this position would be moving to fund #1161 Local Public Health Services, effective 1/1/25.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(3a) From: 8247.14200.00000.0210      *Fica-Social Security*      \$    (1,999.00)  
From: 8247.14300.00000.0210      *PERF*      \$        (247.00)  
To: 8247.13335.00000.0210      *School Liaison Coordinator*      \$       2,246.00

(3b) 8247.13335.00000.0210 – *School Liaison Coordinator – annual salary increase (5% annual increase) from \$46,205 to \$48,516 {max bi-weekly salary of 1,866} \*retro to 12/26/24\**

4. Opioid Restricted Fund (#1237-0122) Board of Commissioners

Ms. Griesemer, as the Council Representative for the Joint Opioid Board, gave a brief overview of the meeting that was held a few weeks ago, which reviewed applicants for funding programs related to infant care within our community.

Mr. Walls was also present to request the following appropriations in order to award the following agencies funding for their programs.

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mrs. Graves seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(4a) AA: 1237.32025.00000.0122      *Infants in Bloom*      \$    55,000.00

<i>(4b) AA: 1237.32026.00000.0122</i>	<i>RISE Recovery Coalition</i>	<i>\$ 50,000.00</i>
<i>(4c) AA: 1237.32027.00000.0122</i>	<i>Upstream Prevention, Inc</i>	<i>\$ 50,000.00</i>
<i>(4d) AA: 1237.32028.00000.0122</i>	<i>Riley Children's Foundation</i>	<i>\$ 50,000.00</i>

Mr. Walls noted a few things: (1) the agencies would be reporting on how they spend this money, and (2) when more money is received, they will go through a similar process.

5. Food & Beverage (#1157-0103) Treasurer \*retro to 12/26/24\*

Kim Hamilton, Treasurer, was present to request an additional appropriation to pay for an increase in salary due to a correction to the title and job description that were previously approved by the Council. She noted this request was started by the prior Treasurer and she is just trying to get it over the finish line.

Brief discussion was held regarding changing the salary of this position at this time, instead of waiting for the 2026 budget. Mrs. Graves noted this was the first request asking for additional monies, all prior requests involved correcting the job title and getting it to WIS for review of the job classification. Further discussion was held regarding previous meeting discussions as well.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion. With a roll-call vote, the motion failed 3-4; Mr. Ditmars, Mr. Mallers, Mrs. Burton, and Ms. Griesemer all voted nay.

<i>(5a) AA: 1157.11223.00000.0103</i>	<i>Bookkeeper-Deputy Treasurer</i>	<i>\$ -3,517.00</i>
<i>(5b) <del>1157.11223.00000.0103</del></i>	<i><del>Bookkeeper-Deputy Treasurer</del></i>	<i><del>increase annual salary from \$49,721 to \$53,238</del></i>
	<i>{max bi-weekly pay of \$2,047.62}</i>	

A recall vote for this item (E5), was done immediately following the vote on item E6.

Mrs. Hamilton and her Chief Deputy Treasurer, Kelly Fritz, both appeared before the Council for the re-vote on their request, which they amended to the following:

From: 1157.11400.00000.0103	Part Time	\$ (3,517.00)
To: 1157.11223.00000.0103	Bookkeeper-Deputy Treasurer	\$ 3,517.00
<i>1157.11223.00000.0103 – Bookkeeper-Deputy Treasurer – increase annual salary from \$49,721 to \$53,238</i>		
<i>{max bi-weekly pay of \$2,047.62}</i>		

Ms. Griesemer made a motion to approve the amended request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 4-3; Mr. Ditmars, Mrs. Burton, and Mr. Mallers all voted nay.

6. General Fund (#1001-0122) Board of Commissioners

Commissioner West was present via zoom to ask for a few salary changes. He first made a few comments about the prior salary request being denied and noted there is some bias, as far as he was concerned, on which departments (example: public safety, prosecutor, and courts) seem to get salary increases approved and other departments don't.

Mr. West explained one of their positions has already been approved a title change and has also been reclassified by WIS. Additionally, with the change of personnel with the County Attorney and Assistant County Attorney, they are requesting a transfer of funds from the Supp-Assistant County Attorney, which is no longer needed, and would result in no money being requested from the County.

Mr. Mallers voiced that last year at budget time, the Council adhered to a 5% raise for the employees. The Commissioners found a state statute that allowed them to circumvent that for the County Attorney and Assistant County Attorney positions. The Council agreed to that. Now, it looks like the request is to transfer some of that money that was initially earmarked for the attorneys to be used in a different way. He stated he understands the

request that is being made and agrees the position of the County Administrator deserves the salary increase, he just feels this change needs to be done during the budget process at this point.

Mrs. Graves noted for clarification there were a few exceptions on the 5% raises, stating there were a few positions in the courts and in the public safety departments that got more than this.

Mr. Myers commented that he doesn't agree with the across the board raises; straight percentages because there are some things that need to be factored.

Mrs. Burton agreed there is some bias to the positions that protect the people of this County and they do get higher priority over administrative positions. It has always been this way and would probably always be this way.

Ms. Griesemer noted there is a difference in pay and there should be, based on the type of environment they work in.

Mr. Ditmars doesn't like to put names with positions. They need to proceed with setting salaries for the position to be more disciplined.

Mrs. Graves commented when she referred to the council being biased to some departments, such as public safety, she was referring to their requests outside of budget time getting more attention and positive votes, than other departments.

Mr. Walls and Commissioner Brian Baird were also both present for this request.

Mr. Baird stated he agreed with what was being said about Law Enforcement, but feels like Deputy Prosecutors and Adult Probation Officers are not at the same level; he, as a Commissioner, is in as much danger as those positions are. He then stated, in reference to the request being made tonight, is to transfer monies, which have already been appropriated, to be moved to the positions that are helping them with human resources (HR) duties so the Commissioners don't have to hire an HR company at this time. They have contracted with WIS to do an HR audit and these two positions (Assistant County Attorney and County Administrator) are handling these duties during this process. The money is being used for the same intent it was initially approved for. The request is not for a raise.

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Graves seconded the motion, which carried 4-3 by a roll-call vote; Mrs. Burton, Mr. Mallers, and Mr. Ditmars all voted nay.

<i>(6a) From: 1001.12902.00000.0122</i>	<i>Supp-Asst County Attorney</i>	<i>\$ (10,000.00)</i>
<i>To: 1001.11013.00000.0122</i>	<i>Assistant County Attorney</i>	<i>\$ 4,186.00</i>
<i>To: 1001.12830.00000.0122</i>	<i>County Administrator</i>	<i>\$ 5,814.00</i>

*(6b) 1001.11013.00000.0122 – Assistant County Attorney – increase annual salary from \$83,725 to \$87,911  
{max bi-weekly pay of \$3,381.19} \*retro to 1/2/25\**

*(6c) 1001.12830.00000.0122 – County Administrator – increase annual salary from \$ 78,643 to \$84,457  
{max bi-weekly pay of \$3,248.35} \*retro to 12/26/24\**

At the conclusion of this vote, Mrs. Graves made a motion for a recall vote on item E5, given it is the same request and the Treasurer shouldn't be penalized by being a new presenter, given the presentation just given by the Commissioners. Mr. Bates seconded the motion.

Mrs. Graves stated she would suggest that Ms. Griesemer take into consideration that this was the newly elected Treasurer's first time speaking and feels if she presented using similar words as the Commissioners, then maybe her request would have passed also.

Ms. Griesemer replied Mrs. Hamilton did a great job presenting. Her vote changed because the Treasurer's request was for new money and the Commissioners' request was transferring funds already appropriated.

Mrs. Graves then stated if the Treasurer was given the opportunity to move funds from another line instead of requesting new money, similar to the Commissioners request, this should be considered on a recall vote. She feels like this should be an option given to the newly elected Treasurer.

The motion for the recall vote on item E5 carried 4-3; Mrs. Burton, Mr. Ditmars, and Mr. Mallers all voted nay.

7. Comm Corr CTP (#1123) Court Services

8. County Alcohol & Drug (#2502) Court Services \*retro to 12/12/24\*

Steve Kermode, Assistant Director, was present to request the following reductions and additional appropriations. He explained these requests are being made due to the cash flow in fund #1123, which is a fee account. He is requesting moving these funds to another fee account (fund #2502).

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(7a) Reduction: 1123.11437.00000.0220	Supp-Prob Off/Quality Assur Dir	\$ (10,000.00)
(7b) Reduction: 1123.11453.00000.0220	Supp-Asst Director	\$ (10,000.00)
(7c) Reduction: 1123.14200.00000.0220	Fica-Social Security	\$ (1,530.00)
(7d) Reduction: 1123.14300.00000.0220	PERF	\$ (2,240.00)

(8a) AA: 2502.11437.00000.0332	Supp-Prob Off/Quality Assur Dir	\$ 10,000.00
(8b) AA: 2502.11453.00000.0332	Supp-Asst Director	\$ 10,000.00
(8c) AA: 2502.14200.00000.0332	Fica-Social Security	\$ 1,530.00
(8d) AA: 2502.14300.00000.0332	PERF	\$ 2,240.00

9. General Fund (#1001-0105) Sheriff

Duane Burgess, Sheriff, was present to first request two title changes. He noted there would be no change in salary for these two positions. {note: these title changes got missed at budget time, and reflect the actual job the person is doing}

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the title changes as requested. Mr. Bates seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

(9a) 1001.11398.00000.0105 – Personnel Clerk – change title to Sheriff's Clerk (2)  
(9b) 1001.12800.00000.0105 – Computer Administrator – change title to IT-System Administrator

Secondly, Sheriff Burgess was present to request a new position as a Training Officer. He explained this would be a sworn position, matching the Jail Sergeant position. It will be paid from his Commissary Fund for the first year, reimbursing the General Fund quarterly for wages, benefits, and clothing allowance (billed by the Auditor's office). He will be requesting this position be moved to the General Fund in the 2026 budget.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(9c) AA: 1001.11573.00000.0105 – Training Officer (new) \$ 63,525.00  
(9d) 1001.11573.00000.0105 – Training Officer – annual salary of \$63,525.00 {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,443.27}

10. LIT Correctional/Rehab Facilit (#1233-0124) Sheriff/Jail

Sheriff Burgess was also present to request three title changes in this budget, noting there would be no salary changes requested. {note: these title changes got missed at budget time, and reflect the actual job the person is doing}





(12c) AA: 2509.11718.00000.0286      Legal Assistant/Paralegal (14)      \$      3,847.00  
 (12d) 2509.11718.00000.0286 – Legal Assistant/Paralegal (14) – annual salary of \$50,000 {max bi-weekly pay of \$1,923.07}

(12e) From: 2509.11548.00000.0286      Supp-VA Grant (2)      \$      (7,820.00)  
           To: 2509.11236.00000.0286      Supp-VA Grant (1)      \$      7,820.00  
 (12f) 2509.11548.00000.0286 – Supp-VA Grant (2) – decrease annual salary from \$24,402 to \$16,582 {max bi-weekly pay of \$637.77}  
 (12g) 2509.11236.00000.0286 – Supp-VA Grant (1) – increase annual salary from \$17,092 to \$24,912 {max bi-weekly pay of \$958.15}

**F. Other Business**

1. Approval of Ordinance 2025-01: An Ordinance Regarding an Additional Appropriation by Amity Fire Protection District [Fund #8603 – Special Fire General Fund \$67,500; Fund #8691 – Special Cumulative Fire Fund \$20,000]

Heath Brant, Amity Fire Board Member, and Janet Alexander, Fiscal Clerk, were both present for this request. Mr. Brant explained they are in need for new Air Packs for their fire fighters; all of their Air Packs are at the end of life, so they need appropriate monies to make these purchases.

Mr. Ditmars inquired why these weren't included in their 2025 budget.

Mrs. Alexander replied, they did actually include these in their budget with a payment plan of \$25,000 but when they went out looking for loans, they realized they would be in a better position using their existing cash reserves for this purchase. She noted they were originally saving cash in anticipation of buying a new fire truck; however, they were able to get their fire truck and their tanker truck fixed at a significantly lower cost so they can utilize those savings elsewhere.

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-01 as presented. Mrs. Graves seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

2. Johnson County Public Library – Updates and Brief Overview of Facility Planning for the White River Branch

Lisa Litner, Director was present to give a brief overview of what happened with the library during the year 2024. She also gave an update on the White River Branch Renovation and Expansion. The feasibility study is complete and they are staying at the current location. The improvements will include: safety & accessibility improvements, expansion of the children's department, additional study/meeting rooms, and quiet reading room for adults. She noted the library bond needed will be tax-rate neutral.

The Council members thanked Mrs. Litner for her information.

**G. Old & New Business**

1. Agreement with Sheriff to Reimburse General Fund for Training Officer Position from Commissary Funds

Mrs. Burton stated this was discussed earlier in the agenda.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

2. Approval of 2025-2026 Interlocal Mosquito Control Services Contract

Mrs. Swearingen was also present to request approval of the 2025-2026 Interlocal Mosquito Control Services Contract between the Johnson County Health Department and the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion

County, the Division of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health. This will allow them to spray in the unincorporated areas that don't have a mosquito control program in place.

Mrs. Graves made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

3. Council Liaison List

Mrs. Burton suggested the Council members review the list and if they wanted to make any changes to email the other Council members and then they would revisit this at their February meeting. She strongly encourages everyone to reach out to their liaisons.

Mrs. Graves made a motion to table the request until next month to give everyone time to review and maybe make some changes that are better fits for the County. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

4. Discussion of EDIT Revenue Bonding

This item was removed from the agenda.

5. Update Regarding Outside Counsel for Council in 2025

Mrs. Burton stated, with her research, there was only one person interested in this position. She stated she would email this person's information to the other members for their review and would wait for some feedback on this.

6. Approval of Ordinance 2025-2: Amended Salary Ordinance

Shena Johnson, Court Administrator, was present to amend the 2024 Salary Ordinance, especially pertaining to the specialization pay that was approved at the February 2024 Council meeting. She explained there seemed to be some confusion regarding the request and the paperwork submitted to the Auditor's Office and how it got processed. This amendment will resolve that confusion, noting the employees have already been paid.

Mrs. Burton commented she had previously spoken with both Mrs. Johnson and the Auditor's Office and she sees both sides and understands how the confusion came about.

Mr. Ditmars also agrees there was some confusion on the intent versus standard practice. Moving forward, he hopes when things get approved it needs to be clear, so it gets processed accordingly.

Mrs. Graves made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Mrs. Burton wanted to thank Mr. Mallers for his service as Council Vice-President in 2024. She also wanted to thank all of the Council members for electing her as the Council President again in 2025. She is truly honored for their trust and support and will pledge to remain as transparent and fair as possible, while managing the taxpayers' dollars and making the decisions in the best interest of this community. However, she feels it is important to address something candidly. Prior to the election of President, there were instances where many individuals in high political positions were making calls to influence the decision of the President of this board. Those actions almost made her to not accept the nomination, but despite those challenges she decided to accept because she enjoys serving this community and she is passionate about it. Lastly, she wanted to apologize that tonight's journey has gotten off to such a rocky start; hopefully moving forward things will be a lot smoother. She promised that she is committed to doing everything she can do to represent the taxpayers with integrity, fairness, and accountability.

**H. Adjournment** – *Next regular meeting February 10, 2025*

There being no further business, Mr. Bates moved to adjourn. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

January 13, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

  
Pamela Burton, Council President

  
Michele Ann Graves, Council Vice-President

*absent*  
Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member

  
Melinda Griesemer, Council Member

  
John Mellers, Council Member

  
John Ditmars, Council Member

  
Ron Bates, Council Member

Attest:   
Elizabeth A. Avey, Johnson County Auditor