

COMMISSIONER'S REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY MAY 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Brian Baird at 10:00 a.m. Kevin Walls and Ron West were present.

INVOCATION

Mr. West gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Baird led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN - STRAWBERRIES ON THE SQUARE EVENT ON MAY 23, 2025

Mr. Walls moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

FRANKLIN AMERICAN LEGION POST 205 - FIELD OF CROSSES AND MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

John Beardsley, with the Franklin American Legion Post 205, was present to request approval for Franklin American Legion Post 205 Field of Crosses and Memorial Day Event on Monday, May 26, 2025. Mr. Beardsley requested a power supply at the northeast corner of the courthouse for their amplifier.

Mr. Baird stated there needs to be some discussion regarding this because they are not allowing use of the courthouse lawn. Tiffany Costley, County Attorney, replied that all the modifications to our agreements for 2025 have restricted the use of the lawn, but allow use of the hard surfaces. Mr. Baird stated that as far as the crosses are concerned, that is not an issue. Mrs. Costley replied correct; it is just the people on the lawn that are restricted.

Mr. Beardsley requested a special exception be made for this, noting this ceremony has been held on the courthouse lawn for 50 years and all of the monuments are there representing the various wars they have been involved in; he feels like the veterans are due this honor. Mr. West asked if they needed to be on the lawn for this ceremony, or just the crosses on the lawn and the ceremony on the hard surfaces. Mr. Beardsley responded that many of the people that attend the ceremony are elderly and sit under the shade trees on both sides of the lawn. Mr. Baird stated they can't stop people from sitting on the lawn; however, they want the band involved to be on hard surfaces and not on the lawn. Mr. Beardsley stated that several of the members are elderly and would need to be in the shade as well. Mr. Baird expressed they could bring a tent to put up for them to have shade.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Walls stated he appreciates what the American Legion does and the many veterans who gave their lives to preserve that. He wanted to thank all of those who have given their lives for this country; he then thanked Mr. Beardsley and all the people who have given their lives for this.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Board of Commissioners

1. Approval of Annual Agreements

- a. WIC – Lease Agreement with Valle Vista, LLC. – 65 Airport Parkway, Suite 120, Greenwood, Indiana**
- b. CVS Health Addendum of Benefit Plan Summary V1 dated May 6, 2025**
- c. Highway – Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement with Seacat Landscaping, Inc.**

Tracy Smith, WIC Coordinator, was present via zoom for the WIC lease agreement request. Mr. Walls commented this has been a long and difficult process for them to finally reach an agreement. He also wanted to thank Taylor Webster, Assistant County Attorney, for all of her hard work on this.

Mr. West moved to approve the above three requests as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. **Approval to Apply for Grants**
Animal Shelter – Petfinder Foundation Grants
 - a. **Wag Wine Grant**
 - b. **Pet Bed Grant**
 - c. **Kong Toy Grant**
 - d. **Cat Entertainment Grant**
 - e. **Dog Enrichment Grant**

Cari Klotzsche, Director, was present in the audience to answer any questions regarding these requests.

Mr. West moved to approve the above requests as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. **Approval of Indemnifying Agreement with the City of Franklin Board of Public Works and Safety for the City's Westside Sewer Interceptor Project**

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Support Letter for Jefferson Street Health Center's Application to the Health Resources and Services Administration**

Elizabeth Swearingen, Director of Health Department, and Paul Smith, Vice President of Physician Services at Johnson Memorial Health, were both present to request approval of a Support Letter for Jefferson Street Health Center's Application to the Health Resources and Service Administration to become a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike. Mrs. Swearingen stated she sits on the board with Mr. Smith and this request is to bring a healthcare center to Johnson Memorial. Mr. Smith explained this is a project to increase primary and behavioral access to underserved populations throughout the community. It also allows access to the National Health Service Corps so that they can continue to recruit and retain physicians that are difficult to find. They are asking for a letter of support from the Johnson County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. **Resolution on Violation Appeal for SWP-259-24 and Building Permit 34516**

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. **Acceptance of Quote and Award of Contract Pursuant to IC 36-1-12-5 for Johnson County Fairground Fence Project**

Mr. Walls moved to approve Smith Equipment Services (Outback Fence). Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. **Acceptance of Quote and Award of Contract Pursuant to IC 36-1-12-5 for Juvenile Detention Center Fire Panel Project**

Mr. Walls moved to approve Koorsen Fire & Security. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. Ratification of Regional Chief Elected Officials Agreement Region 5

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Employee Handbook Change

Mrs. Costley stated this is for Fleet. The procedure is already in place it is just being added to the Employee Handbook.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Appointment of Board Members:

a. Nineveh Fire Protection District (1) – Term Expires 12/31/2027

Mr. Walls moved to approve Christy Howe to the Nineveh Fire Protection District. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Johnson County Redevelopment Authority (3) – Terms Expire 5/12/2028

Mr. Walls moved to appoint all three of the Commissioners to the Johnson County Redevelopment Authority for right now until they get a handle on things and everything set up. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Animal Shelter

1. Ordinance 2025-O-9: An Ordinance Amending Title 15 of the Johnson County Code of Ordinances – *First Reading*

Mrs. Klotzsche was present to request approval for the first reading of Ordinance 2025-O-9: An Ordinance Amending Title 15 of the Johnson County Code of Ordinances. She stated the amendment will increase some of their adoption fees. She stated that currently the shelter is losing money with every animal they adopt because it costs more in their spay and neuter fees than they charge in adoption fees. The increase will not cover the entire cost, but it would help, noting if they charged a fee to cover the entire cost, no one would adopt.

Brief discussion was held regarding the adoption costs and rates. Mrs. Klotzsche commented that people or businesses will often sponsor dogs or cats for adoption. She noted that their current adoption rate is at 19%, which is up from last year's rate of 7%.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Approval to Attend Prairie States Animal Welfare Conference, June 1, 2025 – June 3, 2025, in Bloomington, Illinois

Next, Mrs. Klotzsche was also present for this request to attend the Prairie States Animal Welfare Conference, June 1-3, 2025, in Bloomington, Illinois.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. "Pit Stop" Campaign

Lastly, Mrs. Klotzsche was present to discuss the "Pit Stop" campaign, which will be used to help increase their adoption rate. She noted there will be flyers with information about the Animal Shelter distributed throughout the community.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

A. Claims

Mr. West moved to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Public Comment – (limited to 5 minutes per person, please)

Mr. Baird commented someone drove through the entrance of the Juvenile Detention Center, which caused a lot of damage, but could have also caused injuries to others. He doesn't understand why people think it is okay to disregard rules and procedures. He just asked for prayers for the people that put the rules in place and also for the people that disregard them.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Brian Baird



Kevin Walls



Ron West

Attest:

Elizabeth A. Alvey
Auditor

