

KNOX COUNTY COUNCIL

111 North 7th Street, Vincennes, IN 47591

October 13, 2026 Minutes for Knox County Indiana County Council

Call to Order

A meeting of The Knox County Council was held on October 13, 2026 at Vincennes City Hall at 203 Vigo St. It began at 5:00 p.m. and was presided over by President Mike Morris.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included Rich Chattin, Mary Crismore, Jon Hillenbrand, Kevin Meyer, Mike Morris, Dan Reitmeyer, and Jay Yochum. Also, present, Auditor Lisa Clark/Benock and Auditor First Deputy Julie Lancaster. Counsel Drew Porter not present.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Moved by Jon Hillenbrand and seconded by Kevin Meyer to approve the agenda with the addition of i. Tim Smith Vincennes Township Fire under new business. Motion passes 7-0

Review of Minutes of Prior Meetings (September 8, 2026 and September 2026 Budget Hearing)

Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Mary Crismore to approve the September 13, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion passes 7-0 Motion: Moved by Rich Chatting and seconded by Mary Crismore to approve the September 2026 Budget Hearing minutes with motions. Motion passes 7-0

Appointments

a. Knox County Visitor & Tourism Commission (additional appointment) – Janice Barniak Executive Director Vincennes/Knox County Visitors and Tourism Bureau asking for council to approve appointment of Lois Adams to the Knox County Visitor and Tourism Commission. Motion: Moved by Jay Yochum and seconded by Kevin Meyer to approve appointment of Lois Adams to the Knox County Visitor and Tourism Commission. Motion passes 7-0

New Business

a. Resolution 2026-11: Preliminary Resolution for the Creation of an ERA for Edwardsport Solar Park LLC (EDP project) – Andrew Magner with EDP Renewables NA LLC discussed the project. Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Jon Hillenbrand to move forward with Preliminary Resolution for an ERA for Edwardsport Solar Park LLC. Motion passes 7-0

b. Resolution 2026-12: Preliminary Resolution for the Creation of an ERA for Unser Solar, LLC (Samsung Project) – Beth Morales, Land Use Planner and Tenley Drescher-Rhoades, Counsel with Foegre, Drinken, Biddle and Reath, LLP discussed the project. Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Dan Reitmeyer to move forward with Preliminary Resolution for an ERA for Unser Solar LLC. Motion passes 7-0

c. Knox County Sheriff Department – Sheriff Vantlin from Commissary
i. Federal Transport Officer - purchasing tactical equipment for SWAT Team $33,360
ii. Q3 Commissary Report Review - Council review Q3 Commissary Report.
iii. Employee Stipend - $2000 per employee Sheriff and Jail Motion: Moved by Jay Yochum and seconded by Kevin Meyer to the Commissary requests from Sheriff Vantlin. Motion passes 7-0
Sheriff Vantlin a request to reconsider the uniform line in the general fund 1000-105 County Sheriff budget. Motion: Moved by Jay Yochum to reinstate the uniform allowance for 2027 budget. No motion lack of second.

d. Adoption of the Knox County 2027 Budget – Knox County Financial Advisor Ben Roeger the budget is balanced. Rich Chattin anticipating moving forward purchasing new equipment for the Knox County Highway and medical insurance with family plans being more affordable major plans moving forward. Motion: Moved by Jon Hillenbrand and seconded by Jay Yochum to approve the Knox County 2027 Budget. Motion passes 7-0

e. Town of Monroe City Budget Approval – Motion: Moved by Jon Hillenbrand and seconded by Rich Chattin to approve Town of Monroe City Budget. Motion passes 7-0

f. Non-Binding Review of Budgets – Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Jon Hillenbrand to approve the Non-Binding Reviews of Budgets for: Vincennes Township Fire, South Vigo Township Fire, Vigo Central Community Fire, Johnson Township Community Fire and Knox County Solid Waste Management District. Motion passes 7-0

g. Knox County Housing Authority Presentation – David Shelton – presented a check $12,457.38 for lieu of tax payment from the Knox County Housing Authority. Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Mary Crismore to receive the presented check. Motion passes 7-0

h. Ordinance 2026-3: Amending Knox County Supplemental Compensation Policies – Longevity Pay and Employee Incentives: 5-9 years $250; 10-14 years $300; 15-19 years $600 and 20+years $1,000. – Motion: Moved by Jon Hillenbrand and seconded by Kevin Meyer to approve Ordinance 2026-3 amending longevity pay and employee incentives. Motion passes 7-0

i. Vincennes Township Fire Chief Tim Smith – Request to purchase van and equipment for the fire dive team. Tim Smith presented a deal breakdown for a 2027 Ram Promaster EV Cargo Van from Lou Fusz final price $49,767.25 with additional equipment price $41,250.00 estimate from Gerry's Automotive LLC. Totaling $91,017.25. Council approved the request for purchase to come out of fund 1170 Public Safety LIT – County Share. Motion passes 7-0 Please note: Additional Appropriation for request to be advertised and presented at the November 13th Meeting.

Appropriations and Transfers

Commissioners – President TJ Brink additional appropriation request for fund 1112 EDIT: $18,300.00 for Knox County Chamber of Commerce E-gift card sponsorship $20,000.00 for 2026. Motion: Moved by Jon Hillenbrand and seconded by Dan Reitmeyer to approve additional request of $18,300 needed in that line for Chamber of Commerce e-gift card request. Motion passes 7-0

Sheriff – Sheriff Doug Vantlin – Additional Appropriation request for fund 1130 Prisoner Reimbursement for Incarceration (DOC Housing): $60,690.00 for Electricity and $209,100.00 for Medical Care. Motion:

Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Mary Crismore to approve additional request of $60,690.00 for equipment and $209,100.00 Medical Care. Motion passes 7-0

Knox County Highway – Additional Appropriation request for fund 1135 Cumulative Bridge – Bridge 243 – Mays Rd $14,040.73 reimbursed from INDOT. Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Dan Reitmeyer to approve additional appropriation request total $14,040.73. Motion passes 7-0. Additional Appropriation request for fund 1169 Local Road and Street for $1,200 other contractual services. Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Dan Reitmeyer to approve additional request for $1200.00. Motion passes 7-0

County Council – additional appropriation request for fund 1186-Rainy Day for $17,500.00 a stipend for Area Plan Director Colt Michaels $15,000 and Tiffiney Jones $2,500 for the extra time used for the solar projects throughout the year. Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Jay Yochum. Motion passes 7-0

Courthouse Maintenance – 1000-131 transfer request $6,000.00 from KC Animal Control Service to Maint Asst-Jail/CC – Dobson line. Transfer request $2,500.00 from Repairs line to Maint. Asst. Jail/Comm Corr-Dobson for comp hours pay out. Transfer request $3,000.00 from Repairs line to Gas Utility line for balance. Motion: Moved by Rich Chattin and seconded by Jon Hillenbrand to approve transfer request for $6,000.00, $2,500.00 and $3,000.00. Motion passes 7-0

Circuit Court – Transfer request $4,100 from Legal Services to Equipment/Furniture for new speakers for courtroom. Motion: Moved by Dan Reitmeyer and seconded by Jon Hillenbrand to approve transfer request for $4,100.00. Motion passes 7-0

Prosecutor – transfer request $113.09 from fund 2504 expenditures line to fund 1000-108 all supplies to cover balance. Motion: Rich Chattin and seconded by Jon Hillenbrand to approve transfer request for $113.09. Motion passes 7-0

Employment & Request to Fill Positions -

Old Business –

Announcements/Council Reports –

Kevin Meyer – no report

Dan Reitmeyer – no report

Jon Hillenbrand – Drug Court graduation October 21st at 2:00 pm in Circuit Court

Mike Morris – no report

Mary Crismore – no report

Rich Chattin – Soil and Water send their thanks for the money budgeted for projects. He reported that the 7th grade Wabash River event successful.

Jay Yochum – Steen Township 4-7 Wheatland Saturday October 17th

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting

Tuesday November 10th, 2026 at 5:00 pm at Vincennes City Hall – 203 Vigo St.

Adjournment

adjourn at 5:00 pm Motion: Moved by Jon Hillenbrand seconded by Kevin Meyer. Motion 7-0

Julie Lancaster, First Deputy — 11-10-2026

Secretary
Lisa Clark/Benock
Knox County Auditor — Date of Approval

Mike Morris — 11-10-2026

President Mike Morris
Knox County Council — Date of Approval