

JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

June 10, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

Tina Ellis, Gene Rudicel, Mandy Creech, and Dave Cheatham were present. Tina Ellis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dave Cheatham followed the Pledge of Allegiance with prayer.

Dave C. made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The Treasurer reports that the interest earned from German American was \$54,821.55 and that she transferred the total of \$54,821.55 to Trust Indiana. The interest earned for May in Trust Indiana was \$62,563.55. The total in Trust Indiana is currently \$19,528,814.81.

Andy Judd is asking for the council members' approval to fill the JDAI Coordinator position. Tina asks Andy if another Probation Officer would change their profile set by the State. Andy explains that currently he has six probation officers, and this position would bring him to seven. The JDAI position would not cause a bump in pay for the Chief Probation officer. Andy explains it isn't his intent to get himself a raise and that he is attempting to help a group of kids.

Mike and Jerry arrived at the meeting at 6.10 so Tina is trying to catch them up.

Tina says that they will be making a part-time position into a full-time position and that they are not creating a new payline. The part-time position will remain an open position and Andy has no intent on filling that position. There is a three-and-a-half-year commitment that will fund the JDAI position. Tina said that the part-time position will be open and funded for 2026 but in the 2027 budget that part time position will go away. Jerry and Dave C. express their concerns about not adding any new positions outside of budget. Tina reiterates that this isn't adding a position, the position is already in the budget and is being funded by the grant. Dave C. asks about the new position that was in the Parks 2025 budget and Tina said that it was a mistake and should not have been funded. Judge Bright, attending via zoom, also gives her assurance that the part time position would not get filled. Mike made a motion to approve the request for the JDAI Coordinator. Gene seconded the motion with stipulation that if the grant money stops, the county will not pick up that position, and that the courts have assured the council that the part time position will not be filled. Gene states that if the courts can absorb the JDAI position into their budget (without using taxpayer money) if the grant is no longer funded, the council is good with that. Andy said that if they choose to keep the position, he will use Probation User Fees to fund it. Vote passed 5-1, Dave C. declined the motion.

Andy is asking the council to approve a new grant funded position. This position would be funded by the JPAR grant and would be an Adult Probation officer. This position would have a small case load and would work with people that had been using opiates. The one caveat that would be added is it would involve kids in one way or another. A child that lives in the home or a child that has been removed by DCS. The probation office currently has nine kids that do not have any parents all because of overdose and these teenagers really struggle. JPAR is for adults but the tie in is to try to help both. We work on the parents to try and help the kids. Andy said that the probation office has several people that are sober over a year old right now and the drug

testing two or three days a week gets expensive for the probation office. The JPAR grant is only for one year and will be at no cost to the county, but it is creating a new position. Mike said that this one gives him a little more pause because it is creating a new position and he doesn't feel as confident about renewing it. Tina said that the only reason she was onboard with the JDAI position is because it was an open position. Tina says that she knows that denying the position is leaving money on the table, but the council has denied other departments any new positions. Andy said that he will not be leaving money on the table, and that he will get back with the people at JPAR and figure out a way to use that money and accomplish those goals.

Human Resources submitted an invoice from Purple Cyber Solutions for payment. The county had an incident where email was compromised, and our cyber insurance carrier suggested a forensic deep dive into emails to make sure the exposure had been limited. This was approved in an emergency meeting with the county attorney and the commissioners. The invoice is \$4,250.00 and the commissioners were not sure where to pay it from. Mike made a motion to pay \$4250.00 from the Riverboat fund. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

HR also discusses an invoice received from the Department of Labor. The council members received an email with a breakdown per department and HR's best guess of where to pay this from. Dave C. asks if progress is being made in reducing the amount of this activity. HR said that efforts are being made to reduce these hours. Dave C. made a motion to pay for the first category (prosecutor, maintenance, park, animal control, extension, human resources, circuit probation, assessor, auditor, treasurer, area plan) from Rainy Day. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Mike made a motion to pay for the second category (highway) from Safety LIT. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Gene made a motion to pay the third category from Safety LIT, Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Jerry said to let the public know that we must pay for this, we have no choice. The total for all three categories is \$228,689.03. Tina asked HR if this was the finalized number and HR said no, but it will not exceed this amount. Dave C. made a motion to amend the original motion to say, not to exceed \$228,689.03. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The Department of Labor said the county originally owed over \$2 million dollars. The documentation provided to them has dropped that figure to \$228,689.03.

Sherri, with the county highway, reports that they will not need additional funding for the O&M/Brownstown project. Sherri is asking for an additional \$300,000 for paving. The paving that should have happened last year did not happen until this year, so additional money is needed. Tina asks if this is above the \$1 million given to them at the end of the year last year, and Sherri responded yes. Mike made a motion to transfer \$300,000 from fund 1112 to fund 1173. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Max Marcoux from the sheriff's department is asking the council for approval to apply for a grant. The grant requires a 25% match from the county. The first deadline for the grant is June 18th, and this is why Max is seeing the council before the commissioners. The grant is through COPS (Community Oriented Policing) and is a School Violence Protection Program. The first deadline for the grant is June 18th. This program is an Active Shooter Alert. Notification will go to everyone that has the app. The quote provided to the council is for ten years and the cost is \$101,040.00. The second quote is for new radios. The current radios are eight years old, and the School Resource Officers do not have good reception on them. The cost for the radios is

\$215,382.00. Max spoke to the school administration, and they are willing to pay \$10,000 towards the 25% match. The counties match total will be \$69,105.10, and it possibly could be spread out over three years. The Auditor asks if the match money can possibly be paid out of the misdemeanor fund and Cody said that he thought there were stipulations on that fund. Tina suggests asking the sheriff about the misdemeanor fund.

The council signed the additional appropriation ordinance that was approved in the last meeting.

Mandy made a motion to appoint Chasity Gerkin to the Animal Control Board, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Chasity spoke to Judge Bright to make sure that there would not be any conflict of interest with her being a probation officer and the mayor's wife.

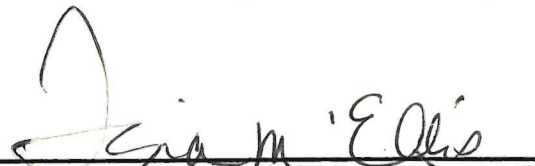
Mike made a motion to pay an invoice for Reedy Financial in the amount of \$1,340.00 for bond disclosure, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

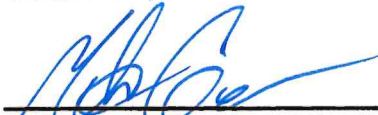
Gene made a motion to pay an invoice to Hall Heating in the amount of \$2,329.92 from the cumulative courthouse fund. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

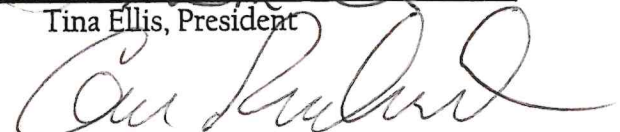
Mike made a motion to pay an invoice to Barnes and Thornburg in the amount of \$2,075.50. This invoice was to be paid from the same fund as the last bill. Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.


At 7:15 pm, Gene made a motion to adjourn, Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

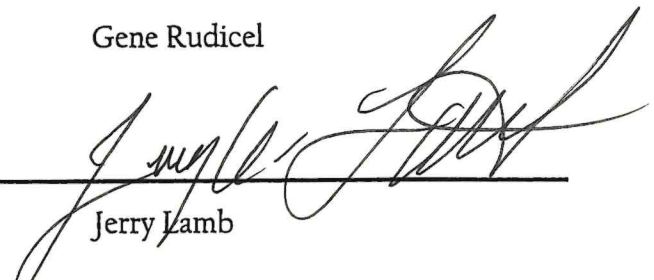

Sarah Abel, Auditor


Tina Ellis, President


Mike Gerth, Vice President


Gene Rudicel


Dave Cheatham


Jerry Lamb


Mandy Creech

Dave Woodall

