

## JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

November 18, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

Tina Ellis, Dave Woodall, Mike Gerth, Gene Rudicel, Jerry Lamb, and Dave Cheatham were present. Tina Ellis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dave Cheatham followed the Pledge of Allegiance with prayer.

Jerry Lamb made a motion to approve prior minutes, Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Nicci with Human Resources explains to the council that the PHI Stat Flight fee for 2026 increased to \$60.00 per employee. The county pays half of the \$60.00 fee for each employee. Nicci told council that it is in the budget to pay for the increase. No action needed.

The Treasurer, Tina reports that the interest earned for October in Trust Indiana was \$87,511.05. The interest earned in the German American checking account was \$15,725.77. The interest from German American was moved to the Trust Indiana account. The balance in the Trust Indiana account is \$25,090,501.25.

Terry Fergason, member of the Sons of Union Veterans Camp # 223, is here to update the council on the Civil War Monument that the council had approved in 2017. Changes had to be made to the monument due to funding. The monument that will be placed on the courthouse lawn will cost approximately \$11,230.00 and will be purchased from Shaw Monuments. The members are counting on fundraisers to come up with the remaining amount needed. The council told Terry that the county would be willing to donate the labor to help save costs.

Tracy Jones with EMS tells the council that some of her salary lines are going to be short because the budgeted amount is for an 80 hour pay week and most of her employees get 86 regular hours. Tracy said that she has it in her budget to transfer and isn't asking for additional appropriations. Tracy says that she has been very budget conscious this year. Gene made a motion to allow Tracy to move a total of \$28,000.00 from account lines 21002, 22801, 20304, and 20500 to cover the short salary lines. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sherri Maschino with the county highway is asking for an additional appropriation of \$140,000.00 for employee benefits. Council asked why the amount wasn't budgeted correctly and Sherri said that the invoices for November and December of 2024 were not paid until 2025. Dave W. made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, Gene seconded the request, passed unanimously.

Derek with USI explains to the council the much-needed repairs for Bridge 188. The center is failing on this bridge, and the repairs need to be made to keep this bridge open. The county is asking council for approval to apply for Federal Aid. The Federal Aid, if approved, would cover 80 percent of the repairs. The county would be responsible for the other 20 percent. The Federal Aid that the county is applying for is for Bridge 188 and Bridge 65. Derek explains to the council that more than likely Federal Aid will only pick one of bridges, not both. If the county receives

the Federal Aid for bridge 188, the counties' portion of the project will be \$3,229,600.00. Dave W. made a motion to sign the commitment letter for the federal aid, Gene R. seconded the motion, passes 5-1. Mike Gerth was opposed.

CSL was awarded \$1,000,000 for blight cleanup by Lily as part of the last round of READI Funding. In August of 2024, the council made a verbal commitment to a 1:1 match. READI is giving the county \$250,000 credit for the roads. The first payment of \$250,000 is expected by January 2026. There will be additional payments of \$250,000 made in 2027 and 2028. Mike G. made a motion to pay \$250,000 out of the Rainy-Day fund, Dave C. seconded the motion. Passed on a vote of 5, Dave W. abstained from voting.

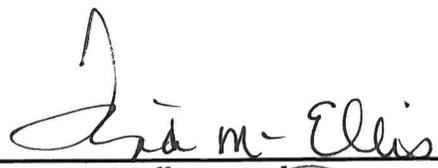
Mike made a motion to sign the additional appropriation ordinance that was approved in the October meeting. Dave W. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

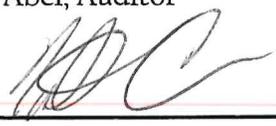
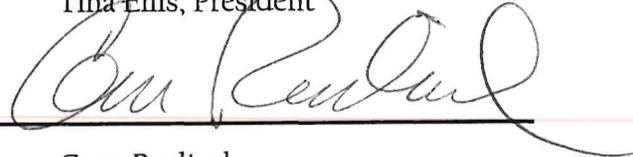
Mike Gerth has resigned from the TIF Board, effect immediately. Dave W. motioned to appoint Gene R. to the TIF Board, Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

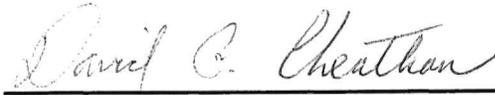
The Council members elected to have Reedy Financial to complete the 2026 Salary Ordinance. Dave W. mentions that the Auditor's salary ordinance is easier to read but the council has already approved Reedy Financial to complete it. The council will vote on the 2026 Salary Ordinance in the December meeting.

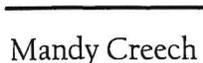
The auditor had spoke to Reedy concerning some issues with appropriations. Tina Ellis mentions that they need to have a meeting with the auditor and Reedy to look over these issues.

Gene made a motion to adjourn, Mike 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