

## JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

July 8, 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.

Jerry made a motion to approve prior minutes; Dave C. seconded the motion. Passed by a vote of six. Dave W. abstained from the vote because he was not present at the June meeting.

The treasurer reports that the interest from German American for the month of June is \$40,455.88. She has transferred this earned interest into Trust Indiana. The interest earned in the Trust Indiana account for June is \$68873.78. The treasurer has also transferred \$5,000,000 into the Trust Indiana account. The total in the Trust Indiana account is currently \$24,709,072.07 and is at 4.2% interest.

The treasurer discusses items that she had put in her capital spending plan. Council asked if she had been to the commissioners and explained that she did not need to come to the council if she had discussed it with the commissioners already.

The assessor is asking for additional appropriations of \$1000.00 into the repair and maintenance account line (30802) in his Sales Disclosure Fund. He has had unexpected auto repairs, and this account line is going to run short for the remainder of the year. Mike made a motion to appropriate \$1000 to account line 30802, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Whitney Koelling with Administrative Resources Association (ARA) is working closely with JRAC as their grant writing and administrative program. There is an opportunity for an Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) Grant that is designed to assist low-to-modern income families with home repairs. The grant requires a ten percent match from the county, which will be around \$55,000. Whitney is asking for the match to be funded from the Opioid settlement money. Tina Ellis said the way that she reads the ordinance, the money in the Opioid restricted fund can only be used for treatment related programs. Judge Bright said that this would likely fall under care that there are best practices as defined or required by open litigation as defined in Indiana Code 4-6-15-1-2. The council president says that the ordinance created for the Opioid Restricted Fund says that the money does not need appropriated by the county council, so ultimately the decision is not up to the council; it is up to the commissioners.

Dave C. presents a resolution to honor the people in Jennings County for overall patriotism and all the hard work to show and display that patriotism. Sheriff Freeman called Dave C. and asked about recognizing the tremendous display of flags and patriotic expression in Jennings County. Sheriff Freeman said that this began when a stranger drove through Jennings County and made a post on Facebook saying that it was wonderful to drive through a county and see all the flags and to feel so patriotic. Eric Kelly, current president of Kiwanis Club in North Vernon. Eric says that the money raised in putting these flags up goes back into the community for the kids. Tom

Moore, Terry Sargent, and Bill Ludwig are also members of the Kiwanis and attended the meeting.

The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas Jennings County, Indiana, in recent years has exhibited a high degree of patriotism by displaying a significantly high number of American flags during various holidays during the year, and whereas the love of God, family, and country are essential values of patriotic culture expressed by displaying the American flag, and whereas the following groups and programs, namely, *The Avenue of* flags administered through the Jennings County Community Foundation, and the efforts by the North Club working with local businesses display flags and whereas individual veterans, local residents, *Vernon Kiwanis* and other patriotic individuals and groups, exhibit patriotism of flying their own flags, and by doing other various activities. Therefore, being resolved by the Jennings County Council, that all those who contribute to the outstanding degree of patriotism in Jennings County in various ways, but especially in the display of the American flag shall be recognized and commended for these efforts with the passage of this resolution.

Dave C. made a motion to approve the above resolution, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

An invoice presented for approval from Green Sign Company for the new sign at the fairgrounds. Nothing is needed by the council because the commissioners included this in the bond.

Council and Reedy will meet on July 16 to go over Senate Bill One and discuss how that will affect Jennings County.

Dave W. made a motion to pay \$2,922.00 to Reedy Financial for an invoice for the preparation of Senate Bill One. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

There is an outstanding invoice due for \$3,950.00 to FPBH for work completed at the Probation Office that needs to be paid. Dave W. made a motion to pay out of Safety LIT, Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dave W. made a motion to pay an invoice for \$2500.00 to FPBH for a survey that was completed. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Dave W. said that this invoice should be paid from the Recycle Center Fund.

The county council committed to the coalition study and there is a remaining balance due to JNRU. Dave W. made a motion to pay \$2,250.00 from the Riverboat Fund, Gene seconded the motion. Passed by a vote of 6. Mike abstained from the vote.

Gene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Mandy seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Sarah Abel, Auditor

*Sarah J. Abel*

Tina Ellis, President

*Tina M. Ellis Pres*

Gene Rudicel

Mike Gerth, Vice President

*Mike Gerth*

Jerry Lamb

*David G. Cheatham*

Dave Cheatham

Dave Woodall

*Mandy Creech*

Mandy Creech

*Dave Woodall*