

## JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

May 12, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

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

Jerry made a motion to approve prior meeting minutes; Gene seconded the motion.

The Treasurer's report was supplied in the packet to the council. President Ellis presented the Treasurers report. In April, the total monthly interest earned was \$90,875.57. Year-to-date interest is \$353,872.56. The average interest rate was 3.6379%.

Next, Director Tracy Jones comes before the council to present the newly purchased ambulance. We are pleased to announce the delivery and the placing of the new Lifeline ambulance in service. Tracy requested a recess so that the council could go outside to view the ambulance with the newest features.

Upon returning, Andrew Wiley EMT explained that it was worth the three-year wait from Hoosier Fire Equipment due to the ambulance being on back order. This ambulance replaces aging frontline equipment. The oldest unit is from 2015. Typically, EMS agencies replace front-line units every five to ten years. Currently, EMS has five ambulances in service. Only one doesn't have a power lift. When an ambulance is removed from frontline service after five years or around 200,000 miles, it can then be assigned reserve status for another two- five years. Due to the age of the other units, this was a necessary purchase. We have a great truck warranty, and we have an option of local service or to take it to Indianapolis.

Andrew continued with some of the features on the new ambulance including durability, safety, patient-care efficiency and long-term value. The ambulance also has a distinctive wrapped cover featuring multiple ribbon colors associated with cancer awareness.

Next, President Ellis explained that due to outgoing members previously on the finance committee, a new committee is needed. The finance committee also works with our financial advisors related to budget. The finance committee recommendations are Gene R, Dave W. and Dave C. The budget process begins in June, and the finance committee will need to meet with Reedy.

Dave C. discussed the Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforce and the possibility of collaborating with the city. Formally it would be a contract and informally it would be an understanding. The decision is needed by October. A meeting with Reedy to discuss the opt in or out of authority with the city is to be discussed with the finance committee. Dave W. believes that the council needs to have an attorney present during discussions. The city has a committee comprised of the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer and City Attorney. Brad Bender, Vernon Mayor, made an inquiry to President Ellis as to if a decision was made regarding MUST. It was explained that this will be discussed after the primary election.

A motion was made by Dave C. to adjourn. Dave W. seconded. Unanimous.

*Sarah Abel*

---

Sarah Abel, Auditor

*Tina M. Ellis*

---

Tina Ellis, President

*Mike Gerth*

---

Mike Gerth, Vice President

*Gene Rudicel*

---

Gene Rudicel

*David G. Cheatham*

---

Dave Cheatham

Jerry Lamb

*Dave Woodall*

---

Mandy Creech

Dave Woodall