JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
July 14, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Annex Building

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

Dave C. made a motion to approve prior meeting minutes; Dave W. seconded the motion. Dave W. made a motion to approve minutes from the joint session, Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The treasurer reported that she has transferred $31,143.88 to Trust Indiana from German American, $74,190.15 in interest was earned. The balance is $21,846,663.95. The treasurer reports that she has transferred $3 million. The current rate is 3.6388.

Austin Everman attended the commissioner meeting and received approval for two new jail transport vehicles. The commissioners approved one vehicle purchased from the 2024 Go Bond, and instructed Austin to attend the council meeting to get funding for the second vehicle. The second vehicle is a 2027 Chrysler Pacifica. The cost for this is $39,861.00. Austin explains that the jail has not had new vehicles for some time and that they have broken down with offenders inside. The two new vehicles will replace the two old ones with insurance. Dave W. made a motion to approve the request, Gene R. seconded the request, passed unanimously.

Rebekah introduces Christopher Vogel as Regional Operations Leader. Christopher will be covering for Rebekah while she is on maternity leave. Christopher said that he is excited to work with the elected officials.

Charlie St. John is asking for approval for a new tractor with boom mower. The tractor is a 2023 (brand new) New Holland. Charlie says the price is $104,000.00. With another dealer the same tractor is $197,000.00. Dave W. says his only concern is that the equipment line will be overspent. Dave W. says that they really do not need to spend any more money out of the LRS fund. Dave C. made a motion to pay $104,000 out of fund 1169. Dave W. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dave W. discusses an updated resolution for the Sheriff's Commissary. The council would like to allow spending only what the state recommends and anything beyond that, the sheriff would need to ask council for permission to spend additional money. Dave W. asks council if they would like to vote on the resolution or present it to the sheriff's department and discuss it. Dave W. said he wants to be transparent with them and not catch them off guard. Gene R. reads the recession of county council resolution 2022-1. Dave W. makes a motion to table until they speak with the sheriff's department, Gene R. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

An invoice for $12,250.00 was presented to council for payment. The invoice is for USI, and it is for ADA compliance. The council asked for more details on the invoice. The total invoice is $49,000.00 and is for 2026-2028 ADA/Title VI Plan Updates. If the county isn't in compliance, it can lose grant funding. Dave W. made a motion to pay out of Safety Lit. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Another invoice is presented for payment. The total is for $2,126.00 for flooring on the restrooms upstairs at the annex. Dave W. made a motion to pay Madison Floors and More $2126.00 out of the general fund. Gene R. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tina reads an email from the State Comptroller's office that explains that the county will not be affected by the gas holiday.

Tina presents an invoice from Dave O'Mara for $494,724.13 for the Community Crossings project. Dave W. made a motion to pay out of Cedit. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously. 1176.41101.0531 is the fund and account to pay the invoice from.

Gene R. made a motion to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. Jerry seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sarah Abel

Sarah Abel, Auditor

Tina M-Ellis

Tina Ellis, President

Mike Gerth, Vice President

Gene Rudicel

Gene Rudicel

David G. Cheatham

Dave Cheatham

Jerry Lamb

Mandy Creech

Dave Woodall

Dave Woodall