



CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL
CLARK COUNTY, INDIANA
Regular Meeting of October 14, 2025

Roll call showed members present and absent as follows:

Present:

Councilperson Williams-Hampton
Councilperson Grooms
Councilperson Lenfert
Councilperson Doherty
Councilperson Fox
Councilperson Snelling Jr.
Councilperson Blevins

Absent:

1. Open Meeting-

Councilperson Lenfert opened the Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting at 6:02pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Invocation

Those in attendance remained standing for the invocation.

4. Proof of Publication

Council Attorney Max McCrite confirmed proof of publication.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Protection District, Monroe Township Fire Protection District, Utica Township Fire District, New Washington Fire Protection District, Clark County Solid Waste Management District)

****Clark County's budget adoption was moved to October 20, 2025.**

Councilperson Lenfert presented the ordinances for the 2026 Budget Adoption for the Binding Units as follows:

Ordinance 20-2025 Charlestown Fire Additional Appropriations (included in error but amended later)

Ordinance 21-2025 Flood Control Budget

Ordinance 22-2025 Charlestown Fire Budget

Ordinance 23-2025 Tri-Township Fire Budget

Ordinance 24-2025 Monroe Township Fire Budget

Ordinance 25-2025 Utica Township Fire Budget

Ordinance 26-2025 New Washington Fire Budget

Ordinance 27-2025 Solid Waste Budget

Moved By Councilperson Fox

Seconded By Councilperson Grooms

Motion to approve the Budget Ordinance as listed above.

Carried (7 to 0)

a.d Request for additional appropriations in County General

1000-30051-031 Contract Services \$1,440.00

This will be used to pay for legal services provided to the council in relation to the landfill.

Moved By Councilperson Fox

Seconded By Councilperson Teah Williams-Hampton

Motion to approve the Request for additional appropriations in County General as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

b. Reuben Cummings on behalf of Charlestown Fire and Utica Township Fire District

b.a Charlestown Fire's request for additional appropriation in their Cumulative Fire Fund

Charlestown Fire-Cumulative Fire Fund \$225,000.00

This was previously included with budget adoption in error. Councilperson Lenfert stated that action would need to be taken on this again.

Reuben Cummings stated that this additional appropriation would be used for a down payment on a truck.

Moved By Councilperson Fox

Seconded By Councilperson Doherty

Motion to approve the Ordinance 20-2025, Charlestown Fire's request for additional appropriation in their Cumulative Fire Fund as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

b.b Request for Max Levy appeal

1. Maximum Levy appeal due to assessed value growth for Charlestown Fire in the amount of 228,317.
2. Maximum Levy appeal due to assessed value growth for Utica Fire in the amount of 15,661.

Councilperson Blevins questioned whether this would result in increased property taxes. Reuben Cummings explained that this would result in a 0.0189 increase in tax rate for Charlestown Fire and a 0.0078 increase in tax rate for Utica Fire Protection. He explained that both districts have seen significant growth. As this growth occurs, tax rates drop, and units do not see increased revenue. Max levy appeals will not be available in future years due to SB-1. If the

council approves this, it is not a guaranteed increase. The DLGF must approve the appeal.

Councilperson Blevins stated that he got into politics to help people and reduce property taxes. He stated that he cannot with a clear conscience vote to increase property taxes.

Councilperson Grooms stated that he would hate to vote against a district trying to provide safe fire protection.

Moved By Councilperson Grooms

Seconded By Councilperson Lenfert

Motion to approve the Request for Max Levy appeal as requested for Charlestown Fire and Utica Fire.

Councilperson Lenfert stated that the increased growth does not result in increased revenue for these districts. He believes these districts need this funding to provide adequate fire protection and public safety.

Councilperson Grooms reminded the council that this appeal still must be approved by the DLGF.

Councilperson Snelling stated that it is easy to formulate an opinion until you are on the council. He stated that if there is a lot of growth, safety must be able to be provided to the community.

Councilperson Blevins asked if analysis has been done. He stated he is 100% for safety, but he has trouble with raising property taxes. He would have to see just cause.

Councilperson Fox stated that public safety is number one in his eyes.

Against (1):

Councilperson Blevins

Carried (6 to 1)

c. Clark County Commissioners

Moved By Councilperson Doherty

Seconded By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Motion to deny the request for additional appropriations in 11173-20023-0692 for \$65,000 and to approve the remaining requests listed under Clark County Commissioners as detailed below.

Carried (7 to 0)

Commissioner Bryan Glover thanked Auditor Danny Yost for his office's support in the highway transition. He suggested to the council that their motion for approval of additional appropriations for the fire district include a statement that the fire apparatus should stay in the township's name.

c.a Request for additional appropriations in MVH Restricted

1173-20023-062 Machine Rental \$65,000.00

1173-30051-063 Contract Services \$700,000.00

Commissioner Glover requested that the council deny the request for Machine Rental as they have decided it is not necessary. The request for Contract Services will be used for paving. Paving subdivisions will be contracted out since this requires milling.

c.b Request for additional appropriations in County General

1000-31026-030 Competency Evaluations \$30,000.00

c.c Request for additional appropriations in ARP

8950-30051-030 Contract Services \$500,000.00

c.d Request for a transfer of appropriations in County Highway

From 1176-40014-063 Equipment \$35,000.00

To 1176-11173-063 Group Insurance \$35,000.00

d. Community Corrections, Galadriel Ballard

Moved By Councilperson Fox

Seconded By Councilperson Blevins

Motion to approve all requests listed under Community Corrections, Galadriel Ballard as detailed below.

Carried (7 to 0)

d.a Request for additional appropriations in Community Corrections

9106-20060-090 Supplies \$2,000.00

IDOC gave additional funds for supplies, so this additional appropriation will make the budget match the grant.

d.b Request for additional appropriations in Comm Corr Project Income

1122-40014-090 Equipment \$5,000.00

This will be used to purchase body armor.

e. Clark County Youth Coalition, Tonya Shelton

Tonya Shelton explained that the Youth Coalition is feed through organization for the Governors' Drug Free Community Fund that is collected through fees charged in drug court. The coalition is charged by the state to propose grants to community organization to bring those funds back into the community through prevention and education programs. The additional appropriations will be used for those grants to community organizations. The organizations receiving grants this year are: Silver Creek Primary School, Jeffersonville Township Library, Clark County Youth Shelter, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Bliss House, Family Ark, Youthlink Southern Indiana, and Thrive. Clark County Youth Coalition does two check-ins with the grantees to insure the money is spent properly.

e.a Request for additional appropriations in Co. Drug Free Community

1148-36000-192 Education/Prevention \$51,284.77

Moved By Councilperson Doherty

Seconded By Councilperson Fox

Motion to approve the Request for additional appropriations in Co. Drug Free Community as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

f. Public Defender, Vicki Carmichael and Jen Lowery

f.a Request for additional appropriations in County General

1000-31019-040 Interpreter Services \$1,000.00

1000-11107-040 Personal Services \$815.00

1000-11171-040 FICA/Medicare \$62.35

1000-11176-040 PERF \$103.51

The personal services related items will be used for a PTO payout.

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Fox

Motion to approve the Request for additional appropriations in County General as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

g. Clark County Courts, Adrian Anderson and Judge Lisa Reger

Moved By Councilperson Fox

Seconded By Councilperson Blevins

Motion to approve all requests listed under Clark County Courts, Adrian Anderson and Judge Lisa Reger as detailed below.

Carried (7 to 0)

g.a Request for a salary ordinance amendment in Veterans Court Grant

8887-302 Veterans Court Probation Officer/Coordinator \$70,570.40
\$5,000.00 Raise from \$65,570.40 for becoming a Coordinator.

g.b Request for a transfer of appropriation in Veterans Court IDOC 1

From 9153-30013-302 Travel \$1,000.00
To 9153-11173-302 Group Insurance \$1,000.00

g.c Request for additional appropriations in Court Improvement Grant Fund

8173-30096-302 Legal Fees and Charges \$15,000.00
This is a new grant that Judge Reger received that will help clear some of the CHINS cases from the docket. This is a reimbursable grant.

h. Prosecutor's Office, Sunshine Fox

h.a Request for additional appropriations in County General

Clark County to other counties. Councilperson Lenfert questioned the data provided as it did not show the need. Vicki Carmichael stated the important information is the utilization rate as the Public Defender's Office is at 115% and at risk of receiving a 90 day letter for being out of compliance.

Councilperson Lenfert asked about the \$90,000 that the Public Defender's Office recently received from the Commissioner's through the Opioid Settlement Fund. Vicki Carmichael stated that this will be used for Public Defenders, specifically for the initial hearings. Councilperson Lenfert pointed out that this will not help with the caseload issue as the cases will still be assigned to another attorney.

Vicki Carmichael explained that if the two positions under a.b are approved, the additional appropriations requested in a.a will fund them through the end of 2025.

Moved By Councilperson Teah Williams-Hampton

Seconded By Councilperson Grooms

Motion to approve all requests listed under Public Defender, Vicki Carmichael as detailed below.

Against (5): Councilperson Lenfert, Councilperson Doherty, Councilperson Fox, Councilperson Snelling Jr., and Councilperson Blevins

Failed (2 to 5)

Councilperson Fox stated that the reason he voted not to approve the requests is because the council still has not approved the 2026 budget. He requested that the Public Defender's Office get the Q3 report to the council in a timely manner.

Councilperson Grooms stated that his vote for this was to bring this item to a decision. Now he has to decide whether to vote to put it in the 2026 budget.

Councilperson Williams-Hampton stated that she appreciates the Public Defender's Office coming back, meeting after meeting and providing additional information.

Councilperson Blevins stated that he concurs with Councilperson Fox. He wants the Public Defender's Office in compliance.

a.a Request for additional appropriations in SPDSF

Items tabled at September Council Meeting
4906-11107-040 Personal Services \$55,510.76

4906-11171-040 FICA/Medicare \$4,246.57
4906-11173-040 Group Insurance \$15,000.00
4906-11176-040 PERF \$7,049.85

a.b Request for a salary ordinance amendment in SPDSF

Items tabled at September Council Meeting
New Positions in 4906-040
Public Defender \$95,000.00
Receptionist \$42,350.00

11. Reports and Comments

a. Council

Councilperson Doherty asked when the next budget meeting is.

Councilperson Lenfert stated that there are no additional meetings on the schedule except for budget adoption Monday October 20, 2025. He stated that he will be in the Auditor's Office's every day until then if any other council members would like to assist with the budget.

Councilperson Snelling stated that his commitment is to be a responsible as he can with the money. He applauds the work the council and county employees have done.

Councilperson Blevins reiterated that he is against property tax increases but he values safety.

b. Attorney

None.

c. Auditor

Auditor Danny Yost reminded the council there will be a lot to sign.

12. Adjournment

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Fox

Motion to adjourn

Members of the Clark County Council

AYES

NAYS

Brain Zepher
Charlotte A. Zep
Vicki
Ron
David Proom

Attest:

Danny Yost - Clark County Auditor

Approved this 10th day of November, 2025.