



**CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL
CLARK COUNTY, INDIANA**
Regular Meeting of September 14, 2026

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 Fox opened the Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting at 6:00pm.

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

August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes
August 20, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes
August 25, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.
Seconded By Councilperson Blevins
Motion to approve meeting minutes as listed above.

Conflict (1): Councilperson Doherty

Carried (6 to 0)

Councilperson Doherty abstained from the approval of the August 20 and August 25 Budget workshop minutes.

6. Agenda Amendments and Approval

Moved By Councilperson Lenfert
Seconded By Councilperson Snelling Jr.
Motion to approve agenda as presented.

Carried (7 to 0)

7. Acknowledge Receipt of Funds Report

The council acknowledged the receipt of the funds report.

8. Public Comment by Sign-In Sheet, 3 Minute Limit

John O'Bryan Jr., of Charlestown, asked questions regarding the detention of ICE detainees in the county jail. He stated that a recent article stated that on average it costs \$83 per day to house and inmate. Since the federal government reimburses \$90 per day, we are making a \$7 a day profit. Is the \$7 per day profit worth the risk the county is taking on? Are ICE detainees allowed access to attorneys? Can county judges grant bail hearings to ICE detainees? Have any ICE detainees been given access to a bail hearing before being sent to our jail? If there are ICE detainees that are here legally, but have not been given access to a bail hearing, they haven't received due process. What is the county's liability in that case?

Jennifer Swanson, of Charlestown, discussed the Strive to Revive program within Juvenile Detention. The Strive to Revive program provided training to Juveniles in Detention in CPR, First Aid, and AED. This program received donations totaling \$5,500. One of the donors provided a \$5,000 donation and would like these funds to go towards the Kentucky Shakespeare Program. Jennifer Swanson stated that this should not be used for something else.

9. New Business

a. Clark County Council

a.a Public Hearing for 2027 Budget

Clark County

Binding Units (Jeffersonville Flood Control, Charlestown Fire, Tri-Township Fire Protection District, Monroe Township Fire Protection District, Utica Township Fire District, New Washington Fire Protection District, Clark County Solid Waste Management District)

Councilperson Lenfert opened a public hearing for the 2027 budgets of the binding units as listed above. There were no public comments. Councilperson Lenfert closed the public hearing for the 2025 budgets of the binding units.

Councilperson Lenfert opened a public hearing for the 2027 budget of Clark County. A member of the public asked about the procedure for adopting budgets. Councilperson Lenfert explained that these budgets are advertised and available on Gateway. The budgets will be adopted in October. The binding units will have public meetings where they will adopt their budgets. Clark County will adopt their 2027 budget at the October 12, 2026 Council Meeting. There were no further comments. Councilperson Lenfert closed the public hearing.

b. Public Defender, Vicki Carmichael

A majority of the request below are relating to pay parity, including b.a, b.b, b.c, and b.d.

Vicki Carmichael stated that she sent an email with documentation from the Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys indicating that the Public Defenders are still not in pay parity with the Prosecutors. The indicated that there could be a reduction of reimbursement, specifically if the Chief Public Defender and Chief Deputy Public Defender are not into pay parity. This was originally brought up to Abe Navarro.

Request b.e includes a request for equipment to purchase surface tablets for contract public

defenders. The request for Group Insurance is to fund insurance for employees paid from 4906 through the end of the year. The request for Legal Fees and Charges is for Appellate Attorneys. This is not to cover Special Public Defenders. Councilperson Fox asked if the county provides technology to other contract employees. Commissioner Coffman stated that they do not.

Moved By Councilperson Lenfert

Seconded By Councilperson Doherty

Motion to deny b.a, to deny b.b, to approve \$12,500 in Personal Services, \$957 in FICA, \$1,588 in PERF, and \$5,000 in Group Insurance under b.c, to approve the Salary Ordinance amendment for Chief Public Defender the Salary Ordinance for Chief Deputy Public Defender under b.d, to deny the remainder of the Salary Ordinance amendment requested under b.d, and to approve the items under b.e.

Carried (7 to 0)

b.a Request for additional appropriations in County General

1000-11107-040 Personal Services \$20,000.00

1000-11171-040 FICA/Medicare \$1,530.00

1000-11176-040 PERF \$2,540.00

This request is relating to pay parity.

b.b Request for a salary ordinance amendment in County General

Pay Parity, 1000-040

Deputy Public Defender, Effective 07/29/2026, \$107,000.00

Deputy Public Defender, Effective 07/29/2026, \$107,000.00

Deputy Public Defender, Effective 07/29/2026, \$107,000.00

Deputy Public Defender, Effective 07/29/2026, \$101,900.00

b.c Request for additional appropriations in SPDSF

4906-11107-040 Personal Services \$35,000.00

4906-11171-040 FICA/Medicare \$2,677.50

4906-11173-040 Group Insurance \$5,000.00

4906-11176-040 PERF \$4,445.00

b.d Request for a salary ordinance amendment in SPDSF

4906-040, Pay Parity
Chief Public Defender, Effective 7/29/2026, \$191,013.00
Deputy Public Defender, Effective 7/29/2026 \$101,900.00
Deputy Public Defender, Effective 7/29/2026 \$101,900.00
Deputy Public Defender, Effective 7/29/2026 \$107,000.00
Chief Deputy Public Defender, Effective 7/29/2026 \$145,135.00
Deputy Public Defender, Effective 7/29/2026 \$101,900.00

b.e Request for additional appropriations in SPDSF

4906-40014-040 Equipment \$9,430.00
4906-11173-040 Group Insurance \$7,500.00
4906-30096-040 Legal Fees and Charges \$30,000.00

c. Clark County Commissioners, Jack Coffman

Moved By Councilperson Doherty

Seconded By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Motion to approve all requests listed under Clark County Commissioners as detailed below.

Carried (7 to 0)

c.a Request for additional appropriations in Opioid Restricted Funds

1237-30051-030 Contract Services \$150,000.00
This is for a sub recipient agreement with Family Ark.

c.b Request for a reduction of appropriation in County Highway

1176-11105-062 Part-Time Hourly -\$30,000.00

c.c Request for additional appropriations in County Highway

1176-11173-063 Group Insurance \$30,000.00
This is to insure there is enough appropriation for the rest of the year.

c.d Request for a reduction in appropriation in Clark County Cum Capital

1138-40142-030 Sidewalk Improvements -\$40,000.00

c.e Request for additional appropriations in Clark County Cum Capital

1138-30051-060 Contract Services \$40,000.00

This is for the Vialytics Software for the Highway Department.

d. Emergency Management, Gavan Hebner

d.a Request for additional appropriations in County General

1000-40014-039 Equipment \$10,798.00

1000-30054-039 Equipment Repair \$10,750.00

EMA received a check from the insurance company for a damaged drone. This was receipted into County General. The request for Equipment is to appropriate the amount of the check. The request for Equipment Repair is to replace the batteries in outdoor warning sirens.

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Teah Williams-Hampton

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

Carried (7 to 0)

e. Clark County Clerk, Ryan Lynch

e.a Request for additional appropriations in County General

1000-11105-001 Part-Time Hourly \$22,000.00

Moved By Councilperson Grooms

Seconded By Councilperson Teah Williams-Hampton

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

Carried (7 to 0)

e.b Request for a transfer of appropriations in County General

From 1000-20060-001 Supplies \$450.00
To 1000-30051-001 Contract Services \$450.00

Moved By Councilperson Grooms

Seconded By Councilperson Doherty

Motion to approve the Request for a transfer of appropriations in County General as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

f. Community Corrections, Galadriel Ballard

f.a Request for additional appropriations in Comm Corr Project Income

1122-30051-090 Contract Services \$40,000.00

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Teah Williams-Hampton

Motion to approve the Request for additional appropriations in Comm Corr Project Income as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

g. Planning and Zoning, Eric Wise

g.a Request for additional appropriations in Planning & Zoning Fees Fund

4957-20012-024 Repair & Maintenance \$1,000.00

4957-20021-024 Gas & Oil \$2,500.00

4957-30040-024 Legal Counsel \$17,000.00

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Blevins

Motion to approve the Request for additional appropriations in Planning & Zoning Fees Fund as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

h. Health Department, Doug Bentfield

h.a Request for additional appropriations in 93.074 Public Health Prep.

8212-11107-071 Personal Services \$1,100.00

8212-30014-071 Telephone \$400.00

Moved By Councilperson Lenfert

Seconded By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Motion to approve the Request for additional appropriations in 93.074 Public Health Prep. as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

i. Drainage Board, Jack Coffman and Brian Dixon

i.a Introduction to Drainage Board Ordinances

Jack Coffman stated that in September of 2025 the Drainage Board sent a request to the council because there were new requirements for the MS4 program and there is currently no money or no personnel available to meet these requirements.

Jack Coffman introduced two ordinances. The first ordinance establishes the Storm Water Department. The second ordinance would establish a storm water/drainage fee. This is a user fee, not a tax, for those who live in unincorporated areas. This would be about \$12 per EDU per year. This would bring in around \$218,000 per year. This would fund an MS4 Coordinator, an administrator, attorney fees, and some equipment. Councilperson Grooms asked if any projections were made for the future balance of the fund. Brian Dixon stated that they did not do future projections.

Jack Coffman asked if these ordinances could be acted upon at the next council meeting. Councilperson Lenfert stated that it would need to be advertised.

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

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Teah Williams-Hampton

Motion to approve all requests listed under Clark County Courts, Adrian Anderson and Nick Karaffa as detailed below.

Carried (7 to 0)

j.a Request for additional appropriations in CASA-The Voice of Clark

9107-30096-194 Legal Fees And Charges \$15,000.00

Adrian Anderson explained that there are currently 15 families with Guardian ad Litem. Prior to the new CASA director taking over, there was not enough CASA volunteers available for all children in need of a CASA. It is required by statute that every child in care has a CASA or a GAL. Due to the lack of volunteers, several GALs had to be appointed. Since the new director was appointed, the volunteer base has more than doubled allowing some GALs to be relieved of their duties.

j.b Request for additional appropriations in County General

1000-31026-302 Competency Evaluations \$50,000.00

There are currently outstanding invoices for Competency Evaluations totaling \$15,000. Councilperson Grooms asked if the council had took action on a Competency Evaluation appropriation recently. Judge Reger explained that they probably had but it is difficult to predict if a defendant will need a competency evaluation. Adrian stated that she does have a spreadsheet to track this. This cost is not reimbursed by the state.

j.c Request for additional appropriations in County General

1000-30051-276 Contract Services \$25,000.00

There are two capital cases being paid out of Location 276. There are currently several outstanding invoices. Councilperson Lenfert asked what the expenses for Capital Cases have been so far. Adrian Anderson stated that this is for mitigation specialists, investigators, interpreters, DNA experts, and Medical Doctors that are requested by the defense counsel.

k. Juvenile Detention, Adrian Anderson and Judge Lisa Reger

Judge Reger explained that on 8/28/2026, the Board of Judges made a difficult decision to

terminate the Director and Administrator of the Juvenile Detention Center. This decision was rooted in having more open communication, more accountability and transparency, a more cooperation between county agencies. This has not been easy but there has been a great collaboration between county agencies. Judge Reger recognized the following: The Clark County Sheriff's Office, Dylan Beickman, Josh Banet, Colonel Mark Grube, Matron Morgan Maples, Officer Keehner, Chief Probation Officer Evan Roach, all Juvenile Probation Officers, Clark County Health Department, and Marion Shepherd.

There was a DOC audit the week following the terminations and they were impressed with the collaboration between the JDC and the Sheriff's Office. She stated that they also terminated Jennifer Swanson's contract to help eliminate duplicate services. This has nothing to do with Jennifer's work with the youth. She stated that Marion Shepherd informed her that there is a critical need concerning JDC's plumbing. Judge Reger stated that they intend to keep the Kentucky Shakespeare program.

The requests below are for two temporary positions to get JDC back on their feet. They plan to bring Lyda Abell back to help with administrative work and they would like to make Clare Banet the Interim Director of Juvenile Detention. They will work towards hiring a new Director. As a result of operational inefficiencies, they do plan to eliminate the Administrator position.

k.a Request for a Salary Ordinance Amendment in Juv Det Project Income

4915-041, Temporary Salary Ordinance, Administrative Staff, effective 8/31/2026, \$25.00 per hour

4915-041, Temporary Salary Ordinance, Interim Director, effective 8/31/2026, \$36.38 per hour

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Blevins

Motion to approve the Request for a Salary Ordinance Amendment in Juv Det Project Income as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

Councilperson Blevins stated that he appreciates their work to improve efficiency.

10. Old Business

a. Juvenile Detention

a.a Request for additional appropriations in Juv Det Project Income

4915-11105-041 Part-Time Hourly \$92,000.00

4915-11171-041 FICA/Medicare \$6,945.00

Adrian Anderson stated that they would like to reduce their request to \$50,000 out of 4515-11105-041 and \$3,825 out of 4915-11171-041.

Moved By Councilperson Lenfert

Seconded By Councilperson Blevins

Motion to approve the Request for additional appropriations in Juv Det Project Income as amended.

Carried (7 to 0)

a.b Request for a salary ordinance amendment in Juv Det Project Income

4915-041, Food Service Director, \$45,758.00, Effective 7/1/2026

This item was withdrawn.

b. New Washington Fire Protection District, Chief Cochran, Matt Duncan, and Andrew Lanham

b.a Resolution 2-2026, A resolution of the Clark County Council authorizing the issuance of New Washington Fire Protection District's General Obligation Bonds

Chief Jason Cochran stated that they are returning with the Resolution that was presented and tabled at the last meeting. They had an Open House and it went well.

Matt Duncan stated that this is the same resolution that was presented last month. He reviewed the timeline which has not changed since the last meeting. The resolution describes the purpose of the bonds and describes the general parameters.

Andrew Lanham presented a financial summary at the last meeting and summarized that again at this meeting. He reminded the council that the tax

impact on the median home will be approximately \$30 per year.

Councilperson Lenfert asked the Chief how many people he has talked to who has opposed this. Chief Cochran stated that at the open house he spoke to only two people who were against it. They are elected officials who do not live in the district. He also messaged with one person on Facebook who was slightly opposed and wanted more details.

Councilperson Williams-Hampton asked if there would be time for the public to challenge this. Matt Duncan explained that there would be.

Councilperson Blevins asked if they have looked into used trucks. Chief Cochran stated that it would be another maintenance issue. Councilperson Blevins asked if any other fire departments have equipment that would be useful. Chief stated that they have 92 square miles. They are almost 24% of the county. This apparatus needs to be functioning and not breaking down. They have very few fire hydrants. Councilperson Blevins stated that he is not knocking the Fire Protection District. He appreciates their efforts but he ran his campaign against property taxes.

Councilperson Doherty stated that he spoke to constituents and they were for this. He could not live with himself if he did not approve this.

Councilperson Snelling stated that the council does their job with a lot of challenges. He is not going to err on the safety issue. He respects Councilperson Blevin's opinion. He has reached out to residents in the New Washington Community as they are the ones who will be effected.

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Grooms

Motion to approve the Resolution 2-2026, A resolution of the Clark County Council authorizing the issuance of New Washington Fire Protection District's General Obligation Bonds as requested.

Against (1):

Councilperson Blevins

Carried (6 to 1)

c. Utica Township Fire Protection District, Joe Jarles and Kelly Khuri

Councilperson Snelling spoke...

c.a Ordinance 16-2026, An Ordinance requesting additional appropriations for Utica Township Fire Protection District in Special Fire General

Special Fire General \$592,827.00

Chief Joe Jarles explained that the funds they are requested to be appropriated were recovered from the AG settlement. He went over the breakdown provided in the Council's packet in great detail.

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Doherty

Motion to approve the Ordinance 16-2026, An Ordinance requesting additional appropriations for Utica Township Fire Protection District in Special Fire General as requested.

Carried (7 to 0)

11. Reports and Comments

a. Council

Councilperson Williams-Hampton thanked those in the audience and the council.

Councilperson Grooms: He stated that he would like to recognize someone before the meeting adjourns.

Councilperson Snelling: He would like to piggy back Councilperson Williams-Hampton thanks to the audience for their involvement. He believes that everyone on the council does what they think is best.

Councilperson Doherty: None.

Councilperson Lenfert asked the Auditor's office to track the balance of the Health Insurance Fund in case appropriations are needed by the end of the year. He stated that he believes that EMS Funding for 2027 will be short. He will bring a resolution that will propose a shift from PTRC LIT to EMS LIT to the next meeting. He asked the council if they would like to schedule one more budget meeting before budget adoption. The council asked the auditor's office to advertise a budget workshop on September 30 at 5:00pm if the meeting room is open.

Councilperson Blevins stated that he would like to piggyback on Councilperson Snelling. He wants to be clear that his no vote was because he thinks its wrong for the government to take taxpayer money.

Councilperson Fox stated that he appreciates the Clark County Departments and their work on budgets.

Councilperson Grooms commended Matt Duncan and congratulated him on getting married Saturday. He will be moving to Indianapolis.

b. Attorney

None.

c. Auditor

None.

12. Adjournment

Moved By Councilperson Snelling Jr.

Seconded By Councilperson Teah Williams-Hampton

Motion to adjourn.

Carried (7 to 0)

Jack Coffman stated that the Employee Appreciation Health Fair will take place on September 16, 2026 from 11:30 to 1:30.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL CONCERNING
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
FOR THOSE FUNDS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE APPROVAL OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
ORDINANCE NO. 20-2026

WHEREAS, certain extraordinary conditions have developed since the adoption of the existing annual budget so that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget.

Section I. BE IT ORDAINED by the Clark County Council of Clark County, Indiana that for expenses of Clark County government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2026, the following sums of money are herein specified subject to the law governing the same, such sum herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures provided by law.

Section II. THAT for the fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the various funds herein for the following specified amounts to meet such extraordinary emergencies which are declared to exist.

Fund	Acct.	Obj.	Loc.	Acct. Desc.	Allowed	Vote
93.074 Public Health Prep.						
8212	30014	0000	071	Telephone	\$400.00	7-0
Clark County Cum Capital						
1138	30051	0000	060	Contract Services	\$40,000.00	7-0
County General						
1000	30051	0000	276	Contract Services	\$25,000.00	7-0
	31026	0000	302	COMPETENCY EVALUATIONS	\$50,000.00	7-0
County Highway						
1176	11173	0000	063	Group Insurance	\$30,000.00	7-0
Juv Det Project Income						
4915	11105	0000	041	Part-Time Hourly	\$50,000.00	7-0
Planning & Zoning Fees Fund						
4957	20021	0000	024	Gas & Oil	\$2,500.00	7-0
	20012	0000	024	Repair & Maintenance	\$1,000.00	7-0
	30040	0000	024	Legal Counsel	\$17,000.00	7-0
SPDSF						
4906	11173	0000	040	Group Insurance	\$5,000.00	7-0
					\$7,500.00	7-0
	30096	0000	040	Legal Fees And Charges	\$30,000.00	7-0
Comm Corr Project Income						
1122	30051	0000	090	Contract Services	\$40,000.00	7-0
CASA- The Voice of Clark						
9107	30096	0000	194	Legal Fees And Charges	\$15,000.00	7-0
Grand Total						

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL CONCERNING
TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE NO. 21-2026

Fund	Acct.	Obj.	Acct. Desc.	Loc.	Allowed	Vote
County General						
1000	20060	0000	Supplies	001	-\$450.00	7-0
	30051	0000	Contract Services	001	\$450.00	7-0

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL CONCERNING SALARY AND WAGES TO BE PAID TO OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026
AMENDMENT NO. 7

Fund Name	Title of Position	Salary Ordinance					
		Amendment Type	Fund	Loc.	Allowed	Vote	Effective Date
County General	Deputy Public Defender	Pay Parity	1000	040	Denied	7-0	7/29/2026
Juv Det Project Income	Food Service Director	(blank)	4915	041	Withdrawn	7-0	7/1/2026
Juv Det Project Income	Administrative Staff	Temporary Salary Ordinar	4915	041	\$25.00 per hour	7-0	8/31/2026
Juv Det Project Income	Interim Director	Temporary Salary Ordinar	4915	041	\$36.38 per hour	7-0	8/31/2026
SPDSF	Deputy Public Defender	Pay Parity	4906	040	Denied	7-0	7/29/2026
SPDSF	Chief Public Defender	Pay Parity	4906	040	\$191,013.00	7-0	7/29/2026
SPDSF	Chief Deputy Public Defender	Pay Parity	4906	040	\$145,135.00	7-0	7/29/2026

Members of the Clark County Council

AYES

NAYS

STEVE
 NATS
 Steve Wacker
 R. L. Jones Jr.
 Brian Jensen
 Leah Williams
 Ronald B. Jones Sr.
 Christopher A. Jones
 Ron Jones
 Attest: Ray Jones

Danny Yost - Clark County Auditor

Approved this 12th day of October, 2026.