

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Michele Ann Graves.

A. Call the Meeting to Order

1. Roll Call

The following members were present: Jonathan Myers, Melinda Griesemer, Pamela Burton, John Mallers, and Ron Bates. John Ditmars was also present via zoom. *(note: all votes were done by roll call)*

2. Invocation

Mr. Bates gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Graves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of 2/9/26 Agenda

Mrs. Graves stated at the end of January, Johnson County became aware of a discrepancy in the procedures for advertising proposed additional appropriations as a result of new legislation. In an effort to address this discrepancy, the Auditor's Office have consulted both the DLGF and SBOA to ensure that they comply with all rules and requirements and that members of the public have sufficient notice of the additional appropriations the Council is considering. To address this matter, all additional appropriations will be tabled until their March meeting to ensure transparency. The Auditor's Office is adjusting their procedures to maintain compliance with the established rules and regulations. The affected county departments and offices have been notified and were gracious and able to either move their requests to the March Council meeting or modify their request to a transfer for February. She stated she has been assured that this will not impact their ability to pay county bills/invoices in a timely manner.

Mrs. Graves then made a motion to amend the agenda as follows:

- *Table item B9 – Park Non-Reverting Capital Improv – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item B10 – Phelps Charitable Fund – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item B11 – Enhanced Access – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item B12 – VASIA 2026 – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item B13 – Prosecutor Hub Grant 2026-2028 – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item C1 – Pretrial Diversion Program – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item C2 – General Fund (Highway) – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item C3 – LIT Economic Development (Highway) – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item C4 – Cumulative Bridge – request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item C5 – Bridge 85 2211 FFE - request for an additional appropriation*
- *Table item D1 – Approval of Resolution 2026-02*
- *Add item B14 – VASIA Guardianship Fees – transfer requests*

Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

5. Public Comments *(agenda items only, limited to 5 minutes per person)*

There were no public comments.

B. Routine Matters – Consent Agenda

By a single motion, the Board approves the following items, which may include Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions, and Transfers. Any items listed on the consent agenda may be removed by a Council member and moved to the regular agenda.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

1. Approval of 1/12/26 Regular Meeting Minutes

2. LIT Correctional/Rehab Facilities – Jail (#1233-0124) *bookkeeping*

- (a) 1233.12521.00000.0124 – Corporal (1) – change title to “Correctional Corporal (1)”
- (b) 1233.12547.00000.0124 – Corporal (2) – change title to “Correctional Corporal (2)”
- (c) 1233.12548.00000.0124 – Corporal (3) – change title to “Correctional Corporal (3)”
- (d) 1233.12549.00000.0124 – Corporal (4) – change title to “Correctional Corporal (4)”
- (e) 1233.12610.00000.0124 – Corporal (5) – change title to “Correctional Corporal (5)”
- (f) 1233.12612.00000.0124 – Corporal (6) – change title to “Correctional Corporal (6)”

3. Auditors Ineligible Deductions (#1216) Auditor

- (a) From: 1216.40100.00000.0102 Office Equipment/Furniture \$ (5,500.00)
- To: 1216.31000.00000.0102 Professional Services (new) \$ 5,500.00

4. Problem Solving Court Juvenile 2026 (#9176) Court Services

- (a) From: 9176.21003.00000.0138 Participant Incentives \$ (1,500.00)
- From: 9176.31500.00000.0138 Travel & Training \$ (2,500.00)
- To: 9176.30035.00000.0138 Participant Services (new) \$ 4,000.00

5. Reentry Court 2026 (#9177) Court Services

- (a) From: 9177.31500.00000.0138 Travel & Training \$ (1,500.00)
- To: 9177.21600.00000.0138 Operating Supplies \$ 1,500.00

6. Mental Health Court 2026 (#9178) Court Services

- (a) From: 9178.31500.00000.0138 Travel & Training \$ (1,500.00)
- To: 9178.21600.00000.0138 Operating Supplies \$ 1,500.00

7. Drug Court Adult 2026 (#9179) Court Services

- (a) From: 9179.31500.00000.0138 Travel & Training \$ (1,500.00)
- To: 9179.21600.00000.0138 Operating Supplies \$ 1,500.00

8. Veterans Court 2026 (#9188) Court Services

- (a) From: 9188.31500.00000.0138 Travel & Training \$ (1,500.00)
- To: 9188.21600.00000.0138 Operating Supplies \$ 1,500.00

9. Park Non-Reverting Capital Improv (#1178) Park

- ~~(a) AA: 1178.42001.00000.0271 Building & Land Improvement \$ 125,750.00~~

10. Phelps Charitable Fund (#4113) Park

- ~~(a) AA: 4113.42000.00000.0128 Operating Equipment \$ 862.00~~

11. Enhanced Access (#1154) Recorder

- ~~(a) AA: 1154.36102.00000.0104 Contractual Services \$ 1,750.00~~

12. VASIA 2026 (#9129) VASIA

- ~~(a) AA: 9129.32000.00000.0133 Dues & Subscriptions \$ 2,000.00~~
- ~~(b) AA: 9129.36102.00000.0133 Contractual Services \$ 59,210.00~~
- ~~(c) AA: 9129.25801.00000.0133 Food \$ 2,100.00~~
- ~~(d) AA: 9129.21001.00000.0133 Volunteer Favors \$ 2,000.00~~

~~(e) AA: 9129.31500.00000.0133 Travel & Training \$ 4,690.00~~

13. Prosecutor Hub Grant 2026-2028 (#9164) Prosecutor

~~(a) AA: 9164.14200.00000.0108 Fica-Social Security \$ 4,590.00~~
~~(b) AA: 9164.14300.00000.0108 PERF \$ 6,720.00~~
~~(c) AA: 9164.19900.00000.0108 Overtime \$ 48,690.00~~

14. VASIA Guardianship Fees (#4203) VASIA *added at meeting*

~~(a) From: 4203.21001.00000.0454 Volunteer Favors \$ (1,000.00)~~
~~From: 4203.21500.00000.0454 Office Supplies \$ (551.73)~~
~~From: 4203.25801.00000.0454 Food \$ (1,000.00)~~
~~From: 4203.31000.00000.0454 Professional Services \$ (700.00)~~
~~From: 4203.31500.00000.0454 Travel & Training \$ (1,000.00)~~
~~From: 4203.35002.00000.0454 Advertising \$ (1,000.00)~~
~~From: 4203.36200.00000.0454 Communications \$ (720.00)~~
~~From: 4203.44000.00000.0454 Office Equipment \$ (366.06)~~
~~To: 4203.32000.00000.0454 Dues & Subscriptions \$ 608.45~~
~~To: 4203.36102.00000.0454 Contractual Services \$ 5,729.34~~

C. Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions, and Transfers

1. Pretrial Diversion Program (#2509) Prosecutor

This item was tabled.

~~(a) AA: 2509.30060.00000.0286 Grant Adjustments \$ 1,032.53~~
~~(b) 2509.11400.00000.0286 Part Time request approval to increase part time rate from \$25.00 to \$26.50~~

2. General Fund (#1001-0201) Highway

This item was tabled.

~~(a) AA: 1001.49152.00000.0201 Smith Valley Road \$12,000,000.00~~

3. LIT Economic Development (#1112-0201) Highway

This item was tabled.

~~(a) AA: 1112.49152.00000.0201 Smith Valley Road \$15,000,000.00~~

4. Cumulative Bridge #1135) Highway

This item was tabled.

~~(a) AA: 1135.11400.00000.0206 Part Time \$ 65,000.00~~
~~(b) AA: 1135.34400.00000.0206 Bridge Maint/Repair \$ 250,000.00~~
~~(c) AA: 1135.49305.00000.0206 Bridge 66 \$ 50,000.00~~
~~(d) AA: 1135.49306.00000.0206 Bridge 98 \$ 30,000.00~~
~~(e) AA: 1135.48205.00000.0206 Bridge 61 \$ 25,000.00~~
~~(f) AA: 1135.49302.00000.0206 Bridge 602 \$ 150,000.00~~
~~(g) AA: 1135.49307.00000.0206 Bridge 85 \$ 500,000.00~~
~~(h) AA: 1135.49308.00000.0206 Bridge 103 \$ 20,000.00~~
~~(i) AA: 1135.49309.00000.0206 Bridge 206 \$ 55,000.00~~
~~(j) AA: 1135.49310.00000.0206 Bridge 56 \$ 85,000.00~~
~~(k) AA: 1135.49503.00000.0206 Bridge Construction/Reconst \$ 1,270,000.00~~

5. Bridge 85 2211 FFE (#9203) Highway

This item was tabled.

~~(a) AA: 9203.49307.00000.0206 — Bridge 85 ————— \$ 1,682,023.00~~

D. Other Business

1. Approval of Resolution 2026-02: A Resolution to Transfer Funds (\$39,566 from the County Identification Security Protection Fund #1160 to the County Recorder's Perpetuation Fund #1189)

This item was tabled.

2. Approval of Ord 2026-1 – Amending 2025 Annual Salary Ordinance (December 2025 approvals)

Mrs. Burton made a motion to approve this request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Ord 2026-2 – Amending 2026 Annual Salary Ordinance (January 2026 approvals)

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve this request as presented. Mr. Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

E. Old & New Business

1. Approval of Updated Council Liaison List

Mrs. Graves stated there were just a few changes made to the Council liaison list, which was included in their packets.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the updated Council liaison list as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Mrs. Graves asked that this new list be sent out to all Elected Officials and Department Heads. She then stated that the Council liaison should be their first point of contact for Council matters. The liaison should understand their request as they have presented it and then be able to convey it to the other Council members. However, it doesn't necessarily mean that their liaison agrees with their request. Elected Officials and Department Heads are also able and encouraged to contact any Council member regarding any issues they may have; they are not limited to only their liaison.

2. Approval of Attorney Fees for Melinda Griesemer

Mrs. Graves first asked Taylor Webster, Assistant County Attorney, to step out of the auditorium for the next request. She then asked Ms. Griesemer to present her request from the podium.

Ms. Griesemer appeared before the Council and read aloud a prepared statement (*please see meeting recording for full statement*). Ms. Griesemer began by sharing the background that formed her position that it was necessary to hire outside legal counsel regarding allegations that her government email account had been tampered with. Ms. Griesemer then began speaking to alleged personnel issues concerning individual County employees.

Mrs. Graves intervened and warned that the statement had become more of a personal attack than a presentation of the invoice.

Ms. Griesemer continued with her prepared statement. In the end, Ms. Griesemer explained that her attorney, Michelle Harter's involvement has benefited the County and that Mrs. Harter's invoice should be paid, as she was hired out of necessity.

Upon conclusion of Ms. Griesemer's statement, Mr. Myers stated that based on his research, payment of this invoice would not be allowed under Indiana law. Ms. Griesemer stated that she disagreed with his assessment and that she

would hate for this decision to come back on Mr. Myers personally as a representative of the Council and noted that if the invoice was not approved that individual Council members could be liable in their personal capacity.

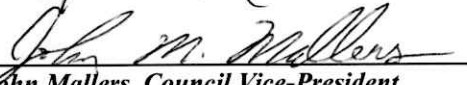
Ms. Griesemer made a motion to approve payment for Mrs. Harter's invoice. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

F. Adjournment – *Next regular meeting March 9, 2026*

There being no further business, Mr. Mallers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

February 9, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes


Michele Ann Grave, Council President


John Mallers, Council Vice-President


Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member

Melinda Griesemer, Council Member


Pamela Burton, Council Member


John Ditmars, Council Member


Ron Bates, Council Member

Attest:


Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor