COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING –SEPTEMBER 14, 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, John Mallers, Pamela Burton, John Ditmars, and Ron Bates.

2. Invocation

Mrs. Burton gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Graves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of 9/14/26 Agenda

Mrs. Graves stated the following amendments to the agenda:

1. Remove item E1 – Clerk's request to increase hourly rate of Absentee Voter Board
2. Move up Item F, Other Business – Approval of Ordinance 2026-10, to be heard after item D – Routine Matters due to scheduling issue

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

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

There were no public comments.

B. First Preliminary Determination Public Hearing on the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026

Mrs. Graves opened the public hearing at 6:00pm to receive comment on County Council Ordinance 2026-09, an Ordinance of the Johnson County Council authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of providing funds to acquire vehicles, acquire and install certain equipment, complete certain projects, and make certain improvements and renovations and to pay the costs of issuance of the bonds. She then invited Jeff Peters, Municipal Advisor, to discuss some required disclosures.

Mr. Peters was present and stated that since this is a controlled project the following disclosures are required:

1. The percent of the County's current and projected annual debt service payments divided by the net assessed value of the taxable property within the County (the "Net Assessed Value") is approximately *0.0713%.*
2. The percent of the County's outstanding long-term debt coupled with the outstanding long-term debt of other taxing units located within the County divided by the Net Assessed Value is approximately *6.0888%.*
3. The maximum term of the bonds is *8 years.*
4. The maximum principal amount of bonds is *$7,835,000.*
5. The estimated interest rate on the bonds is *5.00%.*
6. The estimated total interest cost for the bonds is *$385,688.*
7. The description of the projects to be financed with bond proceeds include: *vehicles, county park, county fairground, highway equipment, north annex, and various other projects and equipment.*

8. The following statement must be provided: *If the County Council adopts a resolution making a preliminary determination following the second public hearing on October 12th, a notice of that determination would be published and property owners or registered voters would have 30 days following the publication to file a petition requesting the application of the petition remonstrance process for the proposed bonds.*

9. The County's current debt service levy is *$7,030,377 and the current debt service rate is $0. 0530 cents per $100 of assessed valuation.*

10. If the bonds are issued, the estimated increase to the debt service levy is *$24,811 and the tax rate is $0.0183 cents per $100 of assessed valuation.*

11. The estimated increase to the County's debt service levy and rate that will result during the following ten (10) years if the County issues the bonds, after also considering any changes that will occur to the debt service levy and rate during that period on account of any outstanding bonds or lease obligations that will mature or terminate during that period.
    a. Based on currently outstanding debt*: in 2027, an estimated levy is approximately $7,055,188 and a rate of $.0549, and for 2028, an estimated levy of $1,738,000 and a rate of $0.0135.*

Mr. Peters then stated he would be happy to answer any questions they may have.

Mrs. Graves thanked Mr. Peters. She then stated members of the public appearing at the meeting either in person or via zoom have the right to be heard and opened the floor for any public comments. Hearing none, she closed the public comment portion of the hearing.

C. Approval of Ordinance 2026-09 (First Reading): *An Ordinance of the Johnson County Council Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the Purpose of Providing Funds to Acquire Vehicles, Acquire and Install Certain Equipment, Complete Certain Projects and Make Certain Improvements and Renovations and to Pay the Costs of Issuance of the Bonds*

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-09 as presented on first reading. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

D. 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 presented. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

1. *Approval of 8/10/26 Regular Meeting Minutes*

2. *Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0124) Sheriff/Jail*

(a) AA: 4300.44100.00000.0124	*Misc Equipment*	*$*	*1.22*

3. *Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0911) Jo Co Public Safety Comm*

(a) AA: 4300.32400.00000.0911	*Utilities*	*$*	*13.43*

4. *Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0108) Prosecutor*

(a) AA: 4300.30060.00000.0108	*Grant Adjustments*	*$*	*955.00*

5. *Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0215) WIC*

(a) Reduction: 4300.31601.00000.0215	*Operating Expenses*	*$*	*(2,400.00)*
(b) AA: 4300.31601.00000.0215	*Operating Expenses*	*$*	*10,000.00*

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

1. General Fund – Clerk/Election Board (#1001-0114) *Clerk*

This request was removed from the agenda.

~~*(1a) 1001.11102.00000.0114 – Absentee Voter Board – increase hourly rate from $11.00 to $12.00*~~

2. Planning & Zoning Impact (#1180) *Highway*
3. Cumulative Capital Development – Highway/Cumulative Bridge (#1138-0206) *Highway*
4. 20.205 Bridge 103 Des 2002993 (#8255) *Highway*
5. Local Road & Street (#1169) *Highway*
6. 20.205 Clark School East 2002991 (#8256) *Highway*
7. County Highway (#1176) *Highway*

Luke Mastin, Highway Supervisor, was present to appropriate funds for the following projects and asked if the council members had any questions:

(2a) AA: 1180.31000.00000.0201	*Professional Services*	*$ 108,300.00*
(3a) AA: 1138.49308.00000.0206	*Bridge 103*	*$ 1,388,712.00*
(4a) AA: 8255.49308.00000.0206	*Bridge 103*	*$ 154,960.00*
(5a) AA: 1169.49211.00000.0201	*Clark School East*	*$ 352,352.00*
(6a) AA: 8256.49211.00000.0201	*Clark School East*	*$ 119,200.00*
(7a) AA: 1176.31201.00204.0201	*Traffic Control Devices*	*$ 150,000.00*
(7b) AA: 1176.37500.00202.0201	*Service Agreements*	*$ 90,000.00*
(7c) AA: 1176.22100.00204.0201	*Vehicle Maint Supplies*	*$ 25,000.00*
(7d) AA: 1176.26200.00204.0201	*Winter Maint Supplies*	*$ 25,000.00*
(7e) AA: 1176.37800.00204.0201	*Stoplight Maintenance*	*$ 10,000.00*
(7f) AA: 1176.32400.00203.0201	*Utilities*	*$ 15,000.00*

Mrs. Graves asked if the appropriations being requested are from cash savings in existing fund balances.

Mr. Mastin answered yes.

Mr. Myers asked if there were scheduled dates for the start/finish of these two projects.

Mr. Mastin replied they are going to bid letting in November, and depending on the contractor's schedule there may be construction this winter but will be finished by the end of next year.

Mrs. Burton made a motion to approve the above requests as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

F. Other Business

1. Approval of Ordinance 2026-10: *An Ordinance of the Johnson County Council Approving an Additional Appropriation of Certain Proceeds from the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the Nineveh Fire Protection District, Johnson County, Indiana (Series 2026A Bonds – Fire Station Project; $1,120,000)* – Second Reading

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-10 as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

G. Old & New Business

1. Sheriff – Reclassification of Position - *acct#13200 Crime Technician*

Chief Deputy Sheriff, Andy Barnhart, was present to request a reclassification of a position due to a long-time employee who is retiring in December and will be replaced with an existing employee. This is something that was brought up a few years ago but hasn't been discussed again since then because no employees' salary was being affected – until now. This transition for the existing employee should have been more of a lateral move; however, due to the classification, the retired Crime Technician employee was making more than the WIS study. He knows job classification reviews are to be done in November but is asking for this to be sent earlier to WIS in time for the upcoming budget and before it would affect the existing employee's salary who will be moving into the Crime Technician position. Mr. Barnhart stated the position of Crime Technician was classified as a CIV POLE 1 solely due to an inaccurate and outdated job description. They are asking for the job to be reclassified as a CIV POLE 5.

Mrs. Graves stated the reason they can allow this request outside of their normal process is because it is in compliance with the Council's reclassification ordinance in reviewing a position when it becomes vacant due to a separating employee. In this case, the position is held by a longtime employee who is retiring December 18th. The reclassification request is to reflect the actual requirements of the position in its current usage. So, the position has been doing the work, even though the work is not in the job description. And, because it is a restructuring, that is why the Council can conform to their process and send this to WIS now for review She also said, for the record, all communication with WIS needs to go through County Legal, per the Council's contract.

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

2. Discussion of New Hires – Employee Salaries *(from August Meeting)*

Mrs. Graves stated this was discussed at last month's meeting; however, a final vote was not taken. The discussion was for clarity regarding the Council's position with new hires' conforming to the WIS salary guidelines and salary ranges. This topic was addressed last year at budget time; however, the Auditor's Office has reported that not everyone understood the instruction and there was need for clarity.

Mrs. Graves then stated the motion would be: e*ffective immediately, all new employees and current employees transferring into a new position will be compensated according to the appropriate WIS job classification within the approved salary range for that classification and not automatically paid the previous incumbent's salary if that salary exceeds the WIS guidelines. New Probation Officers will be compensated according to the 2026 minimum salary schedule for Probation Officers by the Judicial Conference of Indiana*. She then asked for a motion.

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the language as read by Mrs. Graves. Mrs. Burton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

H. Adjournment – *Next regular meeting October 12, 2026*

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

September 14, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Michele Ann Graves

Michele Ann Grave, Council President

John M. Mallers

John Mallers, Council Vice-President

Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member

absent

Melinda Griesemer, Council Member

Pamela Burton, Council Member

John Ditmars, Council Member

Ron Bates, Council Member

Attest:

Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor