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**LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 25, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by President Adam Koronka.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Koronka asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Auditor Michael Rosenbaum called the roll and noted that all were present and a quorum was reached.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilman Kessler asked that 2 corrections be made –

- Remove Surveyor request
- Minor Correction – transfer is going from 2500 to 2501

Councilman Novak asked that Purdue Extension be corrected to reflect a transfer from the 100 accounts, not an additional appropriation.

A motion was made by Mr. Kessler and supported by Mr. Novak.

The vote was unanimous. 7 – 0

**APPROVAL OF JULY 28, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the July 28, 2025 minutes was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Pressel.

The motion passed 7 – 0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Holifield talked about a personal emergency and commended several individuals for their work.

He then congratulated LaPorte School's teacher, Marty Briggs for his recognition by the state as a candidate for teacher of the year.

He's also holding another town hall in Michigan City at City Hall.

Former Mayor Leigh Morris spoke about the stained glass in the court house and requested help with restoring and preserving them. A discussion took place and will be ongoing.

A motion to support sending this back to the Commissioners was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Novak and Pressel. Motion passed 7 – 0.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**IT Department Head**, Darlene Hale passed out a proposal from Integrated Technologies. She and Councilman Yagelski explained the proposal for copiers in the county. The analysis will be free.

A motion was made by Councilman Novak to support the analysis and supported by Councilman Kiel. The motion passed 7 – 0.

**Parks & Rec** – Park Superintendant Jeremy Sobecki updated the council on the upgrades provided by the Park Foundation.

**Attorney Guy DiMartino** approached the council to inform them of 2 issues he was bringing before them. The first was concerning insurance and the second issue is building maintenance. The Commissioner's budget also needs an additional \$150,000 for legal fees.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilman Mollenhauer –

Attended the Solid Waste meeting, Baker Tilly meeting, Joint Executive Session between Commissioner's and Council. Also expressed sympathy to the family of Louise Mock, a long time member of the Sheriff's Merit Commission. Mrs. Mock passed away recently. She served the county from 1999 through 2025.

Councilman Kiel –

Attended the NIRPC meeting, Mill Pond festival and sat with Rob Sabie there. Spoke with his departments. He also attended a presentation by the State's IT director after the NIRPC meeting.

Councilman Novak –

Attended the RDC meeting, the 911 Board meeting, the Purdue Extension office and the Maintenance committee meeting.

Councilman Pressel –

Attended the FMEC meeting, (Baker Tilly) Finance Committee overview, Community Corrections Board, Plan Commission comprehensive plan meeting

Councilman Yagelski –

Visited a Data Center in Hammond with IT Director Darlene Hale.

Councilman Kessler –

Attended the Finance Committee meetings and the Small Animal Shelter meeting

Councilman Koronka –

Spoke about the Data Center review and Baker Tilly review with the City

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Auditor Rosenbaum stated that we received from:

Sheriff Ron Heeg – the LaPorte County Sheriff's Commissary Fund Report  
And a sworn Statement from Recorder Bilderback concerning the recorder's funds.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

- An Ordinance (2025-8) to Adopt Request to Use Recorder's Perpetuation Fund To Cover Office Expenses and Salaries in 2026

Recorder Bilderback spoke about the fund and the council's right to use it.

A motion was made by Councilman Yagelski to read by title only. The motion was supported by Councilman Novak. Motion was approved on a 7 – 0 vote.

The Ordinance was read by title only by Auditor Rosenbaum.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-8 was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Mollenhauer. The motion passed 7 – 0.

A motion to suspend the rules and hear the ordinance on second reading was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kessler. Motion passed 7 – 0.

A motion was made by Councilman Novak to read by title only. The motion was supported by Councilman Kessler. Motion was approved on a 7 – 0 vote.

The Ordinance was read by title only by Auditor Rosenbaum.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-8 was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed 7 – 0.

- PUBLIC HEARING IDENTIFYING AND CONFIRMING PORTIONS OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA BE DESIGNATED AS AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA.

Matt Reardon approached the council to explain the ERA. Public Hearing was opened by President Koronka who announced 3 times that the hearing was opened and then closed after no questions were asked by the public. Questions were then opened to the council.

Councilman Kiel asked if the road in front of the property would be given to the county. The answer was yes.

Also, Mr. Kiel asked if the owner would be using Union Labor – the response was they would be using local labor, but did not know if it would be union or not. A discussion took place between Mr. Yagelski and the business owner.

- A Resolution of the LaPorte County Council Identifying and Confirming Portions of the LaPorte County, Indiana be Designated as an Economic Revitalization Area(s) Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12-1.1 et seq.

A motion was made by Councilman Yagelski to read by title only and supported by Councilman Kessler. The Resolution was read by title only by Auditor Rosenbaum.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-8 was made by Mr. Yagelski and supported by Mr. Novak. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Mr. Reardon then asked that the council approve the statement of benefits so that the public hearing can be held and the 5 year abatement can be approved.

A motion was made by Councilman Novak to approve the benefits and it was supported by Councilman Yagelski. The motion passed 7 – 0.

## OLD BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

- Wanatah Public Library  
Additional Appropriation/Don Parker  
Advertised 8/15/2025

Don Parker, director of the Wanatah Public Library, addressed the council asking for an additional appropriation of \$25,000 for additional salaries, new furniture and some miscellaenous expenses.

President Koronka asked about the Library's cash reserve. Mr. Parker said they expected to have a cash reserve of \$224,000.00.

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kessler.  
The motion was approved on a 7 – 0 vote.

**HR Director, Monique Thomas –**  
Job Evalution Committee Recommendations:

- E-911 Assistant Director salary be removed off the scale and classified as an Unclassified position with exempt status. Salary recommendation at \$74,000 annually.  
Councilman Novak explained the request. A discussion took place between Ms. Huston and the council.  
Because the council felt more information was needed, It was agreed among the council members to hold this over until the Public Hearing on Budgets is held.
- Adult Probation classifying the MC Adult Probation Secretary from COMOT IV to V.  
Lyn Swanson approached the council to explain this request.  
Because the council felt more information was needed, It was agreed among the council members to hold this over until the Public Hearing on Budgets is held.

## APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

LaPorte County Adult Probation \$900.00  
Requesting to appropriate  
Fund #7121  
As follows: 7121.30120.000.0369

Motion was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kessler.  
Motion passed 7 – 0.

LaPorte County Building Maintenance \$250,000.00  
Requesting an Additional Appropriation  
For Building Repairs/HVAC  
From:  
1191 Riverboat  
1170 LIT Public Safety  
1112 LIT Economic Development

Attorney DiMartino approached the council to discuss the needs of Building Maintenance. Councilman Yagelski suggested taking \$100,000 from the 100 accounts that has not been used yet this year and put it into the accounts that need it.

President Koronka said he wanted to discuss how we got here. "We have a budget, the amount budgeted has been repeated several times over the last several years. (In the county), we issue the work to be done, receive the invoice and not paying attention to what we have to spend in the budget. So, we're not paying attention. Where I come from, we issue a P.O. based on a proposal, then get an invoice based on the P.O. and after the work is done, the P.O. process includes reviewing what we have for additional supporting funds. We don't have that here and we need to resolve that in this county."

Attorney DiMartino added to the discussion and said that we are being reactive not proactive. We have older buildings that need attention. Councilman Novak talked about the maintenance committee that is now addressing the problems. There is a plan to make things better and address preventive maintenance. The committee is looking at outsourcing some of the maintenance. The discussion continued with Councilman Kiel adding to the conversation.

A motion was made by Councilman Mollenhauer to approve the additional appropriation of \$250,000 from Fund 1112 LIT Economic Development and support was made by Councilman Kessler. The motion passed 6 – 1 with Councilman Kiel dissenting.

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|--|-------------|
| <u>LaPorte County Animal Shelter</u>             | \$61,332.64 |
| Requesting Fund 4100 be appropriated as          |             |
| Follows:   |             |
| From 4100.00000.000.0000 to                      |             |
| 4100.30120.000.0531 (Other services and charges) |             |

Motion to approve the appropriation was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kessler.  
Motion passed 6 – 1 with Councilman. Yagelski dissenting.

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|--|--------------|
| <u>LaPorte County EMS</u>                  | \$205,000.00 |
| Requesting an Additional Appropriation for |              |
| Overtime \$150,000.00                      |              |
| Computer Replacement \$35,000              |              |
| Winter Coats (Uniforms) \$20,000           |              |
| 1191 Riverboat                             |              |
| 1170 LIT Public Safety                     |              |
| 1112 LIT Economic Development              |              |

The motion to approve \$205,000 from 1170 LIT Public Safety was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion passed 6 – 1 with Councilman Yagelski dissenting.

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|---|-------------|
| <u>LaPorte County Prosecutor</u>                            | \$40,000.00 |
| Requesting a transfer from 2501 – User Fee Claims           |             |
| To:   |             |
| 2501.20021.000.0343 (Law Enforcement Equipment) \$25,000.00 |             |

Motion to table was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Mollenhauer. Motion passed 5 – 2 with Mr. Novak and Mr. Kessler dissenting.

2501 40112.000.0343 (Capital Purchases/Repairs) \$15,000.00

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kiel.  
Motion passed 7 – 0.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <u>LaPorte County Extension Office</u>           | \$4,150.00 |
| Requesting a transfer from 1000.10117.00000.0133 |            |
| For Fabricated Steel Gates for Office            |            |

Motion to approve made by Mr. Novak and supported by Mr. Kessler. Motion passed 7 – 0.

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|--|--------------|
| <u>LaPorte County Board of Commissioners</u> | \$150,000.00 |
| Requesting Additional Appropriation          |              |
| For Legal Fees                               |              |
| 1191 Riverboat                               |              |
| 4220 Win Tax                                 |              |

A discussion took place with the Council and Mr. DiMartino.

A motion to appropriated \$50,000 from 1191 Riverboat was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Kessler. Motion passed 4 – 3 with Novak, Yagelski & Mollehauer dissenting.

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|--|----------------|
| <u>LaPorte County Auditor</u>                    |                |
| Requesting transfer of Riverboat Distribution to | \$1,162,647.95 |
| Rainy Day Fund per Ordinance.                    |                |

Motion to approve by Councilman Pressel and supported by Councilman Kessler. Motion passed 7 – 0.


#### **COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**


Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Yagelski.

Motion passed 7 – 0.


EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 25th day of August, 2025.

  
Councilman President Adam Koronka

  
Councilman Justin Kiel


  
Councilman Randy Novak

  
Councilman Brett Kessler

  
Councilman Mike Mollenhauer

  
Councilman Jimmy Pressel

  
Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:   
Michael Rosenbaum, CPA, LaPorte County Auditor