



LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
September 22nd, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Adam Koronka at 6:24 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Koronka asked all present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Councilman Kessler.

ROLL CALL - Auditor Michael Rosenbaum called the roll and noted that all were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion of support by Councilman Kessler.

Supported by Councilman Novak. Motion passed 7 – 0.

APPROVAL OF August 25th, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Holifield advocated for raises for employees including the elected officials.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- Coroner Lynn Swanson began a discussion on a raise for her chief deputy. Councilman Novak told her she only has a part time employee, not a chief deputy. Ms. Swanson was to to contact HR and to go through the personnel committee.

- Planner Mitch Bishop brought forth a commitment letter for grant opportunities.

Councilman Yagelski talked about Johnson Road and that it does not have a good base and needs to be revamped.

On a motion by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kessler, the council approved Johnson Road. Motion passed 7 – 0.

- Steve Eyrick asked for permission to bring a part time position to a full time position (Comot V) in the Adult Probation office. It would be paid for through Probation Administrative fee.

Councilman Kiel made a motion for Adam to contact HR to refer this back to Wagner, Irwin and Scheele. The motion was supported Councilman Novak. Motion passed 5 – 2 with Councilmembers Yagelski and Mollenauer dissenting.

- Magistrate John Link came before the council to request approval of his motion of support of \$10,000 for psychological services. He currently has \$7,500 in funding and he's hoping that this will last throughout the remainder of the year.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Pressel talked about the maintenance committee and what has been accomplished thus far. Planning Commission – comprehensive plan is underway.

No other reports were given.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

LaPorte County Building Maintenance director, Angela Davis, requesting permission to hire 2 full time maintenance positions.

A motion was made by Councilman Novak to grant permission to hire. Motion was supported by Councilman Yagelski. Motion passed 7 – 0.

LaPorte County Auditor, Mike Rosenbaum, requesting permission to hire full time clerk.

Motion to approve by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Pressel. Motion passed on a 7 – 0 vote.

LaPorte County Treasurer, Dan Barenie, requesting permission to hire second deputy replacement.

- A motion was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Mollenauer to approve the hire of a second deputy but eliminate the bookkeeper position.

- A discussion took place and the decision was made to hold over the bookkeeper until the October meeting for discussion. Councilman Yagelski amended his motion to hire a second deputy and discuss the bookkeeper next month. Motion passed on a 7 – 0 vote.

- Approval of Insurance Rates

Auditor Rosenbaum explained that the Council had a document that explained the new rates to them.

A discussion took place between County Attorney DiMartino, Auditor Rosenbaum & the Council.
A motion was made to accept the new rates by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Mollenauer. Motion passed 7 – 0.

APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, REQUESTS

LaPorte County Sheriff

Sheriff Ron Heeg requesting permission
To spend from the "Asset Forfeiture" for
The purchase of new duty weapons,
Holsters, misc equipment for the weapons.
4003.00000.000.00000

\$90,000.00

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Novak. Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Maintenance

\$360,000.00

Requesting an additional appropriation
For Building Repairs
From:
1191 Riverboat
1112 LIT Economic Development

A discussion took place between Ms. Davis, the director of maintenance, the council and Attorney DiMartino.

A motion was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Pressel to approve the \$360,000 from 1112 LIT Economic Development providing that all invoices are sent to the council by the end of the week. Additionally, the \$100,000 will be transferred from the HVAC 100 account to building repairs.

Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Prosecutor

Requesting an additional appropriation
From Win Tax to be used to pay for
The monthly charge for the Prosecutor's server
The funds would be put into
4220.40112.00108.057

\$33,012.00

From:
1191 Riverboat
4220 Win Tax

After a discussion between the Prosecutor and several councilmembers, a motion to appropriated **\$11,200** from Riverboat was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kiel.

The motion passed 6-1.

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x		6
Nay							x	1

Requesting a transfer from the User Fee Fund
2500 to 2501.20021.000.0343 – Claims Account

\$40,000.00

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Novak.

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Auditor

Requesting an additional appropriation
For payroll withholdings:

\$830,000.00

PERF

OASDI

Health

Medicare

From:

1191 Riverboat

1112 LIT Economic Development

This is due to shortages in all the above accounts.

Councilman Novak made a motion to approve the request and being paid for from Fund 1112 (LIT Economic Development) and supported by Councilman Kessler.
Motion passed as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

Requesting permission to spend (appropriate) for
Payroll funds due to replacement personel
With greater years of experience and steps
From Auditor's Ineligible Fund
216.00000.000.0000

\$10,000.00

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Mollenauer.
Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

Requesting additional appropriation for
GAAP financial reporting (state required)

\$65,000.00

From:

1191 Riverboat

1112 LIT Economic Development

Motion to approve from Riverboat made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Kiel. Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

LaPorte County Treasurer

\$15,900.00

Dan Barenie, LaPorte County Treasurer, requesting
Additional appropriation to purchase a Canon CR 190
Ez stub and check scanner and one year maintenance
Agreement for \$15,900.00.

From:

1191 Riverboat

1112 LIT Economic Development

Treasurer Dan Barenie explained what this scanner will do.

Motion to approve from 1112 LIT Economic Development was made by Councilman Pressel and supported by Councilman Kiel.

Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

LaPorte County Board of Commissioners

\$50,000.00

Requesting Additional Appropriation
For Legal Fees

1000.30020.00000.0143

From:

1191 Riverboat

4220 Win Tax

Commissioner Gramarossa spoke for the Board of Commissioners.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Mollenhauer & supported by Councilman Pressel.

Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

Requesting Additional Appropriation \$38,750.00

For Professional Services & Professional

Consulting

1000.

1191 Riverboat

4220 Win Tax

Commissioner Gramarossa spoke for the Board of Commissioners.

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Mollenhauer & supported by Councilman Kessler.

Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

LaPorte County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Permission to appropriate:

Fund 8899 Clerk Title 4D Incentive 10-99:

8899.20021.00000.0571 (other supplies) \$2,500 to

8899.30120.00000.0571 (other services & charges)\$12,000

Motion of support was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler.

Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								

Fund 1119 Clerks Record Perpetuation:

1119.30120.00000.0341 (other services & charges)\$16,000

1119.10130.00000.0341 (Part time) \$10,000

1119.11007.00000.0341 (OASDI for part time) \$320

1119.11009.00000.0341 (medicare for part time) \$100

Motion was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kessler.

Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								

LaPorte County Circuit Court Clerk

Requesting an additional appropriation

\$3,000.00

This additional request is due to having bought a

New copy machine for the MC Clerk's office

1000.20001.00000.0101

From:

1191 Riverboat

4220 Win Tax

Motion to approve from Riverboat funds was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Mollenauer.

Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

Requesting an additional appropriation

\$6,400.00

For regular part time help

1000.10130.00000.0101

From:

1191 Riverboat

4220 Win Tax

Motion of support was made by Councilman Novak and Councilman Kessler.

Vote was as follows:

Councilmember	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Novak	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Nay							X	1

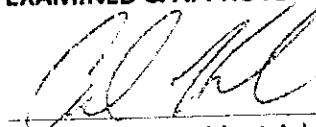
COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

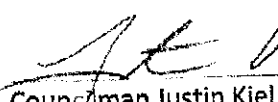
None

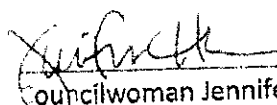
ADJOURNMENT

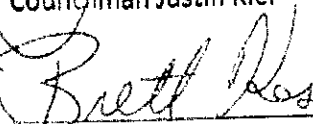
Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Novak and supported by Councilman Kessler at 8:32 p.m.

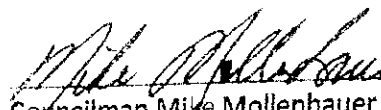
Vote was recorded as 7 – 0.



Councilman President Adam Koronka


Councilman Justin Kiel


Councilwoman Jennifer Heath

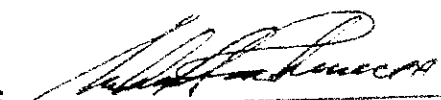

Councilman Brett Kessler


Councilman Mike Mollenhauer


Councilman Jimmy Pressel


Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:


Michael Rosenbaum, CPA, LaPorte County Auditor