



**Michael Rosenbaum, CPA
LaPorte County Auditor
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 205
LaPorte, IN 46350**

**Meeting Minutes
LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2026**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the LaPorte County Council to be held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. CT in the Assembly Room of the LaPorte County Government Complex, 809 State Street, LaPorte, IN 46350.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Adam Koronka.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Koronka asked all present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Present	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Absent								0

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilman Yagelski made the motion to accept the agenda.

Councilman Kessler offered the following amendments:

- Add Pioneer Cemetery Financial Information under Correspondence
- Add Encumbrances 2025/2026 under New Business
- Add "Discussion on Coroner's Employee" under New Business

Councilwoman Heath seconded the motion. Agenda, as amended, passed 7 – 0.

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

APPROVAL OF January 26th, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Yagelski made a motion to approve the January 26th, 2026 minutes.

Councilman Mollenhauer & Councilman Pressel supported the motion. The motion passed 7 – 0.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tommy Kolavik, Michigan City, spoke on the traffic light at CR 400 N and Cleveland Road; Opioid funds being used by the Drug Treatment Court for a recovery facility in Michigan City; Bridge tender position for the Franklin Street bridge; and finally, told the council they were doing a good job, much better than passed years and to keep up the good work.

Steve Holifield, Commissioner, spoke about the recent Town Hall meeting in Westville and thanked all who attended. He also spoke about the League of Women Voters Forum that he and President Koronka attended. Finally, he thanked President Koronka and Councilwoman Heath for attending the meeting held on the discussion of Data Centers.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Coroner Lynn Swanson handed out a Facebook PSA release on suicides in the county. She met with Jennifer Heath (Councilwoman) from the Swanson Center on literature that the Coroner's deputies will be passing out. Swanson Center will also be working with her staff on this.

Building Maintenance Director, Angie Davis, passed out work orders received by her department and spoke about where we are with building repairs and how those repairs are being handled. Major repairs are out sourced. When asked about her budget for this year, Councilman Yagelski said that so far they're fine but may need help as invoices come in and larger repairs need to be done.

Attorney DiMartino has been trying to work with LG on the courthouse heating system, but they are hard to work with. It was decided for Attorney DiMartino to seek help from Scott Cooley, Ameresco and LG. So far, NIPSCO is up \$43,000 this year.

LIAISON REPORTS

Councilwoman Heath: Met with the Health Department
Attended her first RDC meeting
Met with Paladin

Councilman Kiel: Met with the Coroner & Attorney DiMartino about her employee
Attended a conference in Washington, DC for NIRPC on Regional Transportation

Councilman Mollenhauer: Attended the Merit Board meeting
Attended a special Solid Waste meeting to clean up wood & brush and told the Council that Clay Turner would be retiring as of 4/3/26

Councilman Yagelski: Looking into salt consumption for softeners.

Councilman Pressel: Attended FMEC meeting, Plan Commission where they are working on the Comprehensive Plan for the county, E911 meeting and building maintenance committee

CORRESPONDENCE

Pioneer Cemetery Financial Information

Received by Council through mail

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

County Highway, Charity Glaser – permission to hire a bridge tender. 3 candidates were interviewed.

Motion of support was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Pressel.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

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

Encumbrances 2025/2026

Motion to approve made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilwoman Heath.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

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

Discussion on Coroner's Employee

Motion to table was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Mollenhauer.
Motion passed 6 – 1.

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

APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Magistrate John Link requesting an additional appropriation
To pay sick days for retiring employee

60 sick days X \$75.00 = \$4,500.00

25 vacation days X \$211.63 = \$5,290.75

Magistrate Link said that he has enough in his budget to cover this.

Councilman Mollenhauer made the motion to approve the pay and Councilman Yagelski seconded the motion. Vote to approve was 7 – 0.

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

LaPorte County Building Maintenance

\$1,195.95

Requesting additional appropriation
For lap top for maintenance director

Win Tax (4220)
Riverboat (1191)

Councilman Yagelski made the motion to approve from Riverboat (1191) and Councilman Pressel seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous. 7 - 0

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

TRANSFERS/PERMISSION TO SPEND-APPROPRIATE

LaPorte County Chief Deputy Adult Probation Officer,
Steve Eyrick

Requesting the appropriation of the \$40,814.15
Drug Court Fund - #2701
2701.30120.00000.0728

Councilman Pressel made the motion to approve and the motion was supported by Councilwoman Heath.
Vote passed 7 – 0.

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

Requesting the appropriation of the \$26,374.06
Veterans Treatment Court Fund #2460
2460.30120.00000.0824

Councilman Kessler made the motion to approve and the motion was supported by Councilwoman Heath.
Vote passed 7 – 0.

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

Juvenile Probation

Requesting the appropriation of Fund 2511 –
Juvenile Probation User Fees – as follows:

2511.02061.00000.0321- receipts to
2511.20021.00000.0321-Other Supplies

Councilwoman Heath made to the motion to approve and the motion was supported by Councilman Pressel.
Vote passed 7 – 0.

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

LaPorte County Auditor, Mike Rosenbun

Requesting the transfer of Riverboat (1191) distribution \$149,451.80
To the Rainy Day Fund (1186)

Councilman Kessler made the motion to transfer the funds and the motion was supported by Councilwoman Heath.
Vote passed 7 – 0.

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

LaPorte County Prosecutor, Sean Fagan \$35,000.00
Permission to appropriate Fund 2501

Appropriate from 2501.00000.00000.0343 \$35,000.00
Into 2501.20021.00000.0343 as follows:
\$10,000 for Upcoming Trial Expenses (for the expense of a trial)
\$10,000 for Law Enforcement Equipment and Services
\$15,000 for Community Organization Services

Councilman Pressel made the motion to approve and Councilman Mollenhauer supported the motion.
Vote was 7 – 0 to approve.

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

COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Kessler reminded everyone that Farm Bureau will sponsor a Chili Supper on March 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Yagelski moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Councilwoman Heath offered support.
Vote was unanimous.

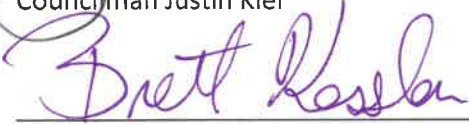
	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Nay								0

EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 23rd day of February, 2026.


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, La Porte County Auditor