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**MEETING MINUTES
LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
July 27th, 2026**

(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)

The Regular Meeting of the LaPorte County Council to be held on Monday, July 27th, 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 – President Koronka called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – President Koronka asked those present to stand for the Pledge and asked Councilman Mollenhauer to lead the pledge. After the pledge, President Koronka asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence for county employee, Katie Zabel, who passed away recently.

ROLL CALL - Auditor Michael Rosenbaum called the roll.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilwoman Heath. Vote was as follows:

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

APPROVAL OF June 22nd, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilwoman Heath. Vote was as follows:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Holifield: Spoke about the budget hearings and reminded the Council that the employees deserve raises and hopes that the Council will consider this.

Goot Logwood, 104 W Greenlawn, LaPorte, IN: Spoke in favor of the ordinance on the agenda tonight. He also gave kudos to the Council and said they don't often receive the kudos they deserve.

Brett Kessler, 4989 W SR 2, LaPorte, IN: Presented a Resolution (Resolution No. 48) from the Indiana General Assembly honoring the LaPorte County Fair. (Resolution is attached.)

Tim Stabosz, 1501 Michigan Ave, LaPorte, IN: The former county auditor criticized counsel conduct toward Councilman Kiel at a prior meeting and requested an apology while also urging support for the prompt publishing ordinance.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Angie Davis, director of Building Maintenance-Facilities, introduced her office manager, Savannah, to the council and reported that her maintenance staff is fully staffed.

Angie Henzman, co-director of Voters Registration explained that their annual training is at Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City this year and has been approved to take their staff. She is requesting the transfer of \$100 from office supplies (20001) to employee education (30027).

Councilman Yagelski made a motion to transfer the funds and Councilman Kessler supported his motion. The motion was approved on a 7 – 0 vote.

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

Heather Stevens, Clerk of the Circuit Court: The Clerk reported a recent office closure to attend a staff member's funeral service and confirmed that staff was paid for that day.

LIAISON REPORTS

Heath: The director of the JSC has resigned and Anita Ross has been named interim director. Toured MS4 area for drainage.

Kessler: The Animal Shelter has the washer and dryer installed and they're doing great. Thanked the highway department for taking care of the noxious weeds and taking care of the roads.

Kiel: July 16th attended NIRPC; There will be a LIT MUST meeting next Wednesday, August 5th, in Westville.

Pressel: Plan Commission has a PUD on their agenda and thank you for a great fair this year.

Mollenhauer: Attended the Sheriff's Merit Board Meeting and the Solid Waste Board Meeting – the Board appointed Robin Havens as the new director. Spoke to Rob Sabie about the sirens.

Yagelski: Impressed with the flags installed on the courthouse lawn; working on HVAC in third floor courtroom to fix the thermistors; next step is design; thank you to the Elks club of MC for donation of flags inside the courthouse - projected one- to one-and-a-half-year timeline for design and installation of a replacement system.

Koronka: It's of course our budget hearing season, many, many meetings with many, many of my liaison assignments, too many to discuss here. And yeah, I'm sure there's more to come. All right, thank you. So, in lieu of a liaison report, I got a few things to cover. Obviously, the season is budgets heavy as well as some of the problems that we're facing right now. So leading into that Wednesday evening, 6 p.m., we have a lit and wheel tax discussion workshop for the council. At a date sometime to follow, we will schedule related to the two items that Councilman Mollenhauer and Yagelski mentioned related to both sirens and eating an air. That we need to discuss further. But first and foremost, is the timeline critical things when it comes to what our stance is going to end up be collectively regarding those two funding items. Representative Pressel will be present in order to fully define and clarify any concerns related to community crossings funding versus and eligibility relative to. Wheel tax or not having a wheel tax. So be ready with all of your questions at that time.

Last month we discussed the Zoom resolution that was adopted during our March 25th, 2025 meeting. After much discussion, questions from members of the public and other members of the council, and reviewing of the actual YouTube video of the meeting, it seems that we failed to capture the intent in writing in the adoption of that resolution. There was discussion during a second meeting, and there are things that we how we conducted the resolution versus how some of the discussion occurred prior to the vote. I'm going to ask for that the council re-review that resolution and come forward with a revision in order to either capture the intent or whatever the joint collective of the council's opinion is at that time. So, watch for that in probably the next Council meeting. And then, lastly, as a result of the June meeting, I want to remind everyone that the voters put us here, as well as anybody that is appointed or hired or any of that nature, to be here to conduct ourselves in a respectful manner that represents those residents that put us in office. Personal attacks and other behavior unbecoming of a public meeting will not be tolerated. Now, I understand that there are times where feedback may be in a point of conflict, but do so in a respectful manner. And I ask that of everyone, including the public, in the case of public comment, is do it in a meeting. This is a regular business meeting, and that is how I ask that this and all future meetings be conducted. With that said, going to close liaison reports.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sheriff's Quarterly Commissary Fund Report

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Yagelski made a motion to read by title only and Councilman Kiel supported the motion.
Motion passed 7 – 0

The Ordinance was read by title only.

•AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PUBLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Held for second reading.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Permission to hire:

Clerk of the Circuit Court: Permission to hire criminal clerk for Superior 1 & 2

A motion by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler to grant one position (one staff member) and the Clerk should come back to the council for the Superior 3 clerk at a later date.

Michigan Township Assessor: Permission to hire Commercial/Income Deputy / Tabled 6-1

LaPorte County Treasurer: Permission to hire COMOT V, Second Deputy / Tabled 6-1

APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

TRANSFERS/PERMISSION TO SPEND-APPROPRIATE

Steve Eyrick, Adult Probation:

Requesting \$10,109.54

\$7,800 for vacation & sick pay for retiring employee

\$2,400 for missed step increase for another employee

1191 Riverboat

4220 Win Tax

1000 General

Motion was made by Councilman Kessler & supported by Councilman Kiel from the general fund. Vote was 6 – 1 as noted below.

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

Requesting \$8,500.00 from Probation User Fees \$8,500.00
 For the purchase of a Minolta Copier for Superior Ct 4
 2102.41007.000.0334

Motion to approve request was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Kessler.
 Vote was unanimous.

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

Requesting up to \$1,500 from the Probation User Fee Fund \$1,500.00
 For 14 chairs for the 2 Circuit Court Magistrate Courtrooms

2102.41007.000.0334

Motion to approve made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilwoman Heath.
 Vote was unanimous.

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

Charity Glaser, Highway Superintendent:

Requesting permission to spend \$636,844.00 \$636,844.00
 For two new tandem dump trucks from
 1112 – LIT Economic Development

1112.30102.00200.0208
 1112.20021.00200.0208

Motion made by Councilman Mollenhauer to approve and supported by Councilwoman Heath.
 Vote was unanimous.

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

LaPorte County Auditor, Michael Rosenbaum:

Requesting \$20,000 for Professional Consulting \$20,000.00
 Services for contractual services in
 Board of Commissioner's Budget 30065

4220 WIN Tax

1191 Riverboat
 1000 General Fund

Motion to approve from Win Tax was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Pressel.

Vote was 6 – 1 with Councilman Yagelski voting no.

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

LaPorte County Juvenile Services Center Director, Dion Campbell:

Requesting Overtime \$60,000.00

\$60,000.00

4220 WIN Tax

1191 Riverboat

1170 LIT Public Safety

Anita Ross appeared as the interim director since Dion Campbell resigned. A discussion took place Interim Director Anita Ross requested \$60,000 for overtime after the center has spent \$98,000 against a \$60,000 overtime allocation; she attributed overages to vacancies, FMLA, and required staffing ratios, and described limited remaining funds for upcoming payroll. Council members examined occupancy rates, per-juvenile costs, potential county placement contracts, reimbursement timing from the state, comp-time usage, meal-service alternatives, and encouraged facility tours and written explanations to better understand operational needs. The council approved the \$60,000 request with two dissenting votes.

A motion to approve \$60,000 was made by Councilman Kiel and supported by Councilman Pressel. Motion passed on a 5 – 2 vote recorded below.

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X	X	X		X		5
Nay					X		X	2

LaPorte County Circuit Court, Judge Julianne Havens

Requesting additional appropriation for the

\$79,794.00

Audio/visual cabling raceways for Circuit Court.

Judge Julianne Havens reported ongoing courtroom audio problems during a jury trial and requested an additional \$79,794 for audiovisual cabling and raceway work because underfloor raceways proved inaccessible; contractors proposed boring through concrete and performing limited construction to anchor large courtroom displays and add jury/overflow room monitors, with the overall JAVS audiovisual project now expected to come in \$20,000–\$30,000 under the original \$150,000 estimate.

A motion was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and supported by Councilman Kessler to fund the request from Riverboat. Motion passed on a 5 – 2 vote as recorded below.

4220 WIN Tax

1191 Riverboat

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	X	X		X	X	X		5
Nay			X				X	2

LaPorte County Planner, Mitch Bishop:

\$84,000.00

Requesting permission to spend \$84,000 from
The Cumulative Bridge. These funds are to be used
As Matching Funds for Bridge 180 replacement.

*Published for July meeting; Permission to spend
Granted at June meeting.

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

LaPorte County Sheriff, Ron Heeg:

Requesting permission to spend \$9,000 from
Fund 1175 (misdemeanant) for jail mattresses

\$9,000.00

1175.00000.0000.00000.0000

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

LaPorte County Prosecutor, Sean Fagan:

\$20,000.00

Requesting transfer from Fund 2500 (Co. User Fee Fund)
To 2501.20021.000.343 for:

\$7,500 School Safety Training/Speaker

Motion was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and supported by Councilman Kessler. Motion passed by
a 7 – 0 vote.

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

\$7,500 Run for Hope 2026 (Swanson Center Fund Raising)

Motion was made by Councilman Kessler and supported by Councilman Mollenhauer. Vote was 5 – 0
with 2 abstentions (Heath and Yagelski)

	Heath	Kessler	Kiel	Koronka	Mollenhauer	Pressel	Yagelski	Total
Aye	A	X	X	X	X	X	A	5
Nay								0

\$5,000 Salvation Army (Kids Weekend Lunch Program)

Motion was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler. Motion passed by a 7
– 0 vote.

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

LaPorte County Treasurer, Dan Barenie:

Requesting transfer from Printing – 1000.30005.00000.0103

\$5,228.88

To Office Supplies – 1000.20001.00000.0103

Chief Deputy Cori Knight appeared for Treasurer Barenie. Included is a desk hutch, stamps, money counters. A motion was made by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Mollehauer. Motion approved by a 7 – 0 vote.

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

LaPorte County Coroner, Lynne Swanson:

Requesting permission to spend from the Coroner's

\$3,000.00

Non Reverting Fund (2053) an amount not

To exceed \$3,000 for Chromebooks for

Coroner's reporting

Request is approved on a motion by Councilman Yagelski and supported by Councilman Kessler. Vote was unanimous.

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

LaPorte County Building Maintenance, Director, Angie Davis:

Requesting approval of motion of support from the June 22nd, 2026

\$29,774.90

Meeting for heating costs in courthouse

Councilman Kessler made the motion to approve the request and Councilwoman Heath supported the motion. Vote passed 6 – 1.

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

Requesting additional appropriation for the following:

\$207,430.52

Air Flow, (courthouse repairs) \$122,995.27

Communication company, (fire suppression repairs) \$24,406.25

Marquiss (3rd floor dehumidifier complex) \$ 36,532.00

Marquiss (JSC gym lights) \$23,497.00

4220 WIN Tax

1191 Riverboat

1000 General Fund