

JUNE 11, 2025

The Jay County Council met in session on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Faron Parr, Randy May, Michael Brewster, Bryan Alexander, Harold Towell, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Matt Minnich, president presiding. Absent was Cindy Bracy. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes from May 14, 2025. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

ADDITIONALS

COUNTY GENERAL

1000-232-40-0011

Circuit Court - Office Equipment

\$14,000.00

Judge Hutchison came to the council to request additional monies for a new courtroom recording system. The current system he estimates to be around 25 years old. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LIT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1112-001-30-0027

Contractual Services- JCDC

\$86,000.00

1112-001-30-0027

Contractual Services- Kleinpeter Consulting

\$50,000.00
\$36,000.00

The JCDC additional appropriation covers the last six months of 2025 agreement with the county. The Kleinpeter Consulting covers the remaining original contract for the Owner-Occupied Rehab. Bryan Alexaner made a motion to approve both additional appropriations from LIT Economic Development.

DRUG FREE COMMUNITY

1148-001-30-0126

Jay County Organizations

\$13,350.81

An additional appropriation was presented for Drug Free Community monies as part of the comprehensive local plan. The monies are from court fees and are approved by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional appropriation out of the Drug Free Community fund. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ARP-2021 CLFRF

8950-001-30-0148

Professional Services- Ritter Strategic

\$243,425.80

An additional appropriation from the ARP funds related to the countywide emergency radio project was presented for approval. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for Ritter Strategic Services. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

8950-001-30-0148

Professional Services- REA

\$232,625.80

An additional appropriation for the remainder of the Rundell Ernsterberger Associates contract related to preliminary work on the 68 acres was presented for council approval. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote, with Harold Towell voting against the motion.

SB-1 MINNICH EGGS

Ceann Bales, executive director JCDC, informed the council the tax abatement advisory board had voted unanimously to recommend approving both the real estate and personal property abatement. Mrs. Bales noted the company had greatly invested in the community and noted it was good to retain business. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve both SB-1 abatements as presented for Minnich Eggs with five-year terms for each. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Matt Minnich sustained from any discussion or vote in relation to the SB-1.

AGRICULTURE ABATEMENT GUIDELINES

Ceann Bales, executive director JCDC, informed the council the tax abatement advisory board had voted unanimously to recommend changing guidelines for agriculture abatements.

The current guidelines from July 2014 are as follows:

3-year abatement- \$1,000,000 to \$4,999,999; 2 jobs created

5-year abatement- \$5,000,000 and up; 4 jobs created

The recommended guidelines from the abatement advisory were as follows:

3-year abatement- \$5,000,000 to \$14,999,999; 2 jobs created

5-year abatement- \$15,000,000 and up; 4 jobs created

Matt Minnich noted it was a large increase in investments as the council does not see a lot of abatement requests adding he did not want to lose a tool in the toolbox. Faron Parr had recommended the change since the guidelines had not been reviewed in over a decade and did not know when they would be reviewed again. Bryan Alexander clarified these would be guidelines and abatements could be brought forward by JCDC even if they did not meet the new guidelines. He added he saw both sides, as protecting the county while trying to be a good business partner in the community. Faron Parr added the recommendations were approved by two council members, two commissioners and the

auditor. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the guidelines as recommended for Agriculture abatements. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CF-1 REVIEW FOR 25 PAY 26

There were five compliance forms that needed approval for 2025 pay 2026. They were Minnich Poultry, Reier Pullets, NextEra, and Bitter Ridge. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve all compliance forms for 2025 pay 2026. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 2025-11 RECERTIFYING COUNCIL DISTRICTS

An ordinance was presented to council to recertify council districts as already set by a previous ordinance. There are no adjustments that need to be made because of population. Harold Towell voiced concerns over district two, which he represents having a larger population than other districts. He explained the district runs from Penn to Pike Township and has both state representatives JD Prescott and Matt Lehman. Due to the state deadline of June 30th, 2025, Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-11 as presented. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote with Harold Towell voting against the motion.

IT SERVICES

Emily Franks, auditor, informed the council their long-term IT contractor, Randy Cleaver, will not be renewing his contract with county effective, December 31, 2025. The cybersecurity committee has been reviewing various options moving forward including fully managed, co-managed and employee options. Along with the change the state is requiring more cybersecurity controls than in previous years. The cybersecurity committee will be bringing forth their recommendation at the July council meeting. Ms. Franks informed the council all the options under review will have an estimated \$100,000 increase to the county budget for 2026.

2025 Calendar for 2026 BUDGET





The calendar as presented had the department review on September 3, 2025, the first reading of the budget on September 24, 2025 and the second reading and adoption on October 8th, 2025. Emily Franks, auditor, asked the council for a proposed wage increase to start the budget process. She would recommend starting at a 2% increase until more information is provided by the state. Matt Minnich thought the standard 3% would be a good place to start as the council can approve lower than what is advertised, but not higher. Michael Brewster made a motion to set and approve the budget calendar for 2026 as presented. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business for the council, Faron Parr made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Randy May seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

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ATTEST: 
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR