

JULY 9TH, 2025

The Jay County Council met in session on Wednesday, July 9th, 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. Attending virtually was council member Cindy Bracy. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the minutes from June 11, 2025 meeting. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ADDITIONALS

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROJECT INCOME

1122.14900.00000.0000 Employer Health Insurance **\$14,100.00**

The 2025 DOC grant did not cover the entire health insurance cost for all employees. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

RETIREMENT CENTER DONATIONS

4102.31102.00000.0000 Resident Activities **\$1,000.00**

Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ARR-2021 CLFRF

8950-001-30-0148 Professional Services- Ritter Strategic **\$10,800.00**

The additional appropriation was to pay invoice #2022279. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

TRANSFERS

1000.15100.00000.0068 Commissioners-Employer Health Insurance to 1000.14900.00000.0068 Workers Comp in the amount of \$26,509.

Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY SOLID WASTE -RECYCLING

George McGinnis, director, came to the council for support to eliminate trash being left in their four recycling trailers. There are two trailers located at the parking lot of Pizza Hut and two located in the Jay County Sheriff's Department lot. The county commissioners had previously approved an Ordinance in 2022 that created financial penalties for those dumping trash in the recycle trailers. Mr. McGinnis would like help paying for and placing cameras in those locations in order to catch those disposing illegally. The trailers that are then hauled to Muncie, are costing additional monies to dispose of the trash, such as mattresses. Matt Minnich asked how much the district was paying in fees and if that would justify the cost of cameras. Mr. McGinnis was not sure of the amount, as it varied from week to week. The council discussed if more public education or signage could help eliminate the issue. However, Mr. McGinnis felt education and signage had already been tried and it would require enforcing the policy to make a change. It was discussed if moving the trailers was a possibility, but cement would be required, and they plan to put them at their new facility once built.

It was then questioned who would be monitoring the cameras for incidents. Mr. Newton explained while cameras could face the trailers they were to cover the whole area and could not be left on the dumpsters. Then there would still be the issue of where to place cameras and who would monitor them at the Pizza Hut location. Mr. Schemenaur explained the information required by his office in order to move forward with charges and suggested trail cameras that could be monitored by Mr. McGinnis. He could then report any findings to the sheriff's department and prosecutor for them to pursue fines. Mr. McGinnis agreed to look into the purchase of trail cameras to try and resolve the matter.

JAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ceann Bales, PhD, executive director, came to give an update to the council on operations. She has attended 144 meetings in the last quarter, and reported two new companies have expressed interest in coming into the county. They have been working on community development projects including the Asbury Church redevelopment and the Jay County Food Cooperative Launch. Annual abatement compliance reviews were completed with three companies being granted new abatements. Mrs. Bales spoke on the three childcare facilities and that the county is only at 29.8% capacity for early learning. A list of trainings and sessions attended as well as priorities moving forward were provided to council members. Lastly, she gave an update on READI, with the READI 1.0 funding almost to the threshold to start awarding for 2.0. The 68 Acre project has passed the first hurdle to test if it would make an economic impact. The second step is for them to check if the project is viable.

HODSON ENERGY

Kyle West and Maura Hoff, representatives, came to the council to request a one-year extension to start their solar project. This would require an amendment to the Economic Development Agreement (EDA) and their abatement forms (SB-1). Mr. West explained the delay was as a result of PJM and the procurement and sourcing of major equipment. They have agreed to pay up to \$10,000 of attorney fees for the project. The new date to commence would be June 30, 2027 with contract completion by December 31, 2028. The council questioned if they still believed they would move forward with the projects with all the changes at the federal level. Mr. West stressed they would be moving forward with the project due to the amount already invested. Michael Brewster made a motion to approve the amended documents with Hodson Energy. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2025-12

Heath Butz, Health Department Environmentalist/Administrator, came to the council to discuss a change in employment status. Mr. Butz explained the Local Public Health funded by the state has cut their funding for 2026 by 75%. The full-time immunization clerk currently budgeted out of the fund has left employment and he would like to maintain the hourly rate of \$20.81, but drop the position down to part time

status working no more than 28 hours a week. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve Salary Ordinance Amendment 2025-12 as presented. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

IT SERVICE RECOMMENDATION

Emily Franks, cybersecurity taskforce member, read the recommendation from the committee regarding IT Services for the county. The members participated in presentations from LEAP Managed IT, Perry Pro Tech and Allstar Technologies before taking a formal vote. After the review, the taskforce recommends the fully managed services with LEAP Managed IT with a co-managed option for the Jay County Security Center that will keep their current IT contractor. The key factors in the decision were; the fully managed option would include the company reporting directly to the council and commissioners, there would not be a lapse in service if any employee leaves, each office would have equal access to support, they provided a clear transition plan from the current provider, and they will assist in compliance with upcoming cybersecurity rules going into effect in the near future. Mr. Schemenaur added if the county does not comply with the cybersecurity requirements the state will withhold access to all state databases. An additional appropriation to cover the transition will be submitted for approval in August. Faron Parr made a motion to move forward with LEAP Managed IT for services moving forward. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LIT RATE CHANGE NOTICE

Emily Franks, auditor, explained any potential changes to the county LIT rate will need to be noticed to the underlying units prior to August 1. The county would then have until the end of October to officially notice and vote on a change. She reported there has been very limited guidance from the state on the upcoming LIT changes, other than to say adjustments would be made in the next session. The county is also unsure how much will be estimated to be received for 2026, as the 2025 figures had the large double filer. Michael Brewster made a motion to not look at changing the county LIT rate or structure for 2026. Randy May seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

2026 BUDGET

The preliminary figures for the 2026 budget were presented to the council, along with estimates. The estimates did not include any state estimates, LIT estimates or levy increases as they had not been published at the time. Emily Franks, auditor, asked the council to think about priorities for the county moving into the budget hearings. As revenue is estimated to decrease, prioritizing wages, employee benefits, infrastructure or projects will help make sure the available money is put in the right funds.

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 7:23 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

AYE	_____	NAY	_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
ATTEST: 	_____		_____
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR			