WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL

~~WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS~~

WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

99 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 200

SALEM, INDIANA 47167

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WAS LOCATED AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 99 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 200, SALEM, INDIANA. IN ATTENDANCE WERE COUNCILMEMBERS: MARK ABBOTT, GERALD FLEMING, BRAD GILBERT, ANDREW DAVISSON, TODD ARMSTRONG, PRESTON SHELL; ATTORNEY ALYSSA COCHRAN; COMMISSIONERS TODD EWEN AND TONY CARDWELL; AUDITOR KYRA STEPHENSON AND DEPUTY AUDITOR MICHELE FLEENOR. COUNCILMEMBER WISCHMEIER AND COMMISSIONER MARSHALL WERE ABSENT.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ABBOTT CALLED THE COUNCIL TO ORDER.

COMMISSIONER VICE-PRESIDENT EWEN CALLED THE COMMISSIONERS TO ORDER.

COUNCILMEMBER GILBERT LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED BY PRAYER LED BY COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVISSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 4TH, AUGUST 19TH, AND THE AUGUST 20TH-22ND COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHELL. THE MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

*MAX GREEN IS REQUESTING THE COUNTY TO NOT FUND ANY BOARDS THAT ARE NOT COMPLYING WITH THE LIVESTREAM LAW. MR. GREEN DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE THE PLANNING COMMISSION FUNDED DUE TO THE BOARD BEING ILLEGAL AND NOT POSTING MEETINGS PROPERLY.

*SHERIFF BRENT MILLER SPOKE ABOUT THE 2026 BUDGET OVERTIME REQUEST. STAFF TURNOVER, HOLIDAYS AND COVERING SHIFTS FOR VACATION TIME IS A FEW OF THE REASONS THIS LINE ITEM IS SO HIGH. COUNCILMEMBER ARMSTRONG ASKED IF IT WOULD HELP IF THE COUNTY BOUGHT BACK VACATION TIME. MILLER THINKS IT WOULD HELP BUT NOT SURE HOW MUCH.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER RYAN BOWER ASKED TO AMEND HIS 2026 BUDGET REQUEST. BOWER WOULD LIKE THE TWO SECRETARIAL POSITIONS MOVED TO $44,000 EACH SO THE OFFICE CAN HIRE SOMEONE WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE OPEN POSITION. BOWER WOULD ALSO LIKE THE OFFICE MANAGER INCREASED TO $56,000. BOWER STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THOSE SALARIES CHANGED FOR 2025.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

FIRST READING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS WENT BEFORE THE COUNCIL AT THEIR REGULAR AUGUST MEETING. THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOW UP FOR APPROVAL AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. COUNCILMEMBER GILBERT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

1176.25800.00000.0531 BITUMINOUS 150,000.00

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAVISSON. THE MOTION PASSED.

FIRST READING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION WENT BEFORE THE COUNCIL AT THE REGULAR SEPTEMBER MEETING. THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IS FOR THE ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF $74,805.77. THE PURPOSE IS TO REPAY THE ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR THE NEGATIVE AMOUNT AFTER CLOSING OF THE GRANT ON JUNE 30, 2025.

BROWN VERNON FIRE DISTRICT 2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAVISSON. THE MOTION PASSED.

BLUE RIVER FIRE DISTRICT 2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

COUNCILMEMBER ARMSTRONG MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING. THE MOTION PASSED.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

COUNCILMEMBER GILBERT MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING. THE MOTION PASSED.

DELANEY CREEK CONSERVANCY 2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHELL. THE MOTION PASSED.

WASHINGTON COUNTY 2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVISSON MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ARMSTRONG. THE MOTION PASSED.

2026 WASHINGTON COUNTY BUDGET DISCUSSION

*EMS DIRECTOR TONY FLOYD SPOKE TO THE COUNCIL ABOUT THE OVERTIME BUDGET AT THE EMS AND FLOYD ALSO SUBMITTED AN AMENDED BUDGET.

COUNCILMEMBER ARMSTRONG STATED HE WASN'T TRYING TO ATTACK ANY DEPARTMENT AND WAS TRYING TO FIND A BALANCE WITH OVERTIME.

SEVERAL QUESTIONS WERE ASKED CONCERNING EMS AND IF THERE WERE POSSIBILITIES OUT THERE THAT MAY WORK TO REDUCE OVERTIME.

*PARK MANAGER JOHN BURLINGTON WOULD LIKE THE PARK SECRETARY TO BE INCREASED TO $40,000.00.

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS

*COUNCILMEMBER FLEMING GAVE AN UPDATE ON SEARCHING FOR A CORONER'S VEHICLE.

*COUNCIL PRESIDENT ABBOTT STATED THE COUNCIL HAS A JOB TO DO AND WILL CONSIDER ALL COMMENTS MADE BY DEPARTMENTS BUT ULTIMATELY THE COUNCIL HAS TO PUT TOGETHER A FISCALLY SOUND BUDGET.

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS AT HAND, COUNCILMEMBER SHELL MADE A MOTION TO ADOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAVISSON. THE MOTION PASSED.

COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE COMMISSIONERS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARDWELL. THE MOTION PASSED.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL

Todd M. Ewen

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER TONY CARDWELL

ATTEST: Kyra Stephenson Auditor Kyra Stephenson