



Delaware County Council

Meeting Minutes

February 25th, 2025

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Piper (Not Present), Councilmember Whitehead

- *Questions from the public not in attendance may be directed to CountyCouncilDIST@co.delaware.in.us*

Agenda Posted

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to amend the agenda by moving the Letter to State Legislators to the top and adding Ordinance 2025-06 to the Ordinances.

SECOND: Councilmember Kantz

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

New Business

Letter to State Legislators

Ms. Emily Anderson court administrator, provided background information, stating the judges have tried to elevate the master commissioner to a magistrate to take pay and benefits off the county general budget and for efficiency.

MOTION: Councilmember Bookout made a motion the letter to State Legislators

SECOND: Councilmember Flanagan

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

Approval of the January 28th Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bookout made a motion to approve the January 28th minutes

SECOND: Councilmember Flanagan

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

Transfer and Appropriation Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 1135 Cumulative Bridge transfer

SECOND: Councilmember Kantz

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 153 Commissioners appropriation for \$96,320.44.

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 9050 Marathon Thermal Imaging Grant Fund appropriation for \$250.01

SECOND: Councilmember Mochal

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 1161 Local Public Health Services appropriation for \$8,015.07

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 1200 Supplemental Public Defender appropriation for \$1,400.

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 1212 Gal Casa Grant appropriation for \$4,000.

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 9115 Wellness Grant appropriation for \$2,400.

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 1202 Surveyor Cornerstone Perpetuation appropriation for \$30,000.

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 1131 County Assessor Sales Disclosure appropriation for \$6,600.

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to approve 1112 Economic Development Income Tax appropriation for \$5,482,296.

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Hughes made a motion to approve financial, transfers, and to amend salary ordinance with like reductions.

SECOND: Councilmember Flanagan

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to Receive Backfilling Report

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance 2025-02 Foundry Row Apartments 2nd Reading

Marissa Conatser with TWG Development provided information on the Foundry Row Apartments. The complex will be located at 4500 South Cowan Road with 120 units and is scheduled to begin construction in May with an ideal opening date in the fall of 2026.

MOTION:

SECOND:

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

Ordinance 2025-06 Sheriff's Salary 1st Reading

Sheriff Skinner made a request to change the pay rate for part-time correctional officers upon completion of the sheriff's required initial training program and with the recommendation of the sheriff, from \$16 to \$17.

MOTION: Councilmember Hughes made a motion introduce Ordinance 2025-06

SECOND: Councilmember Flanagan

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

Resolution 2025-03 Financial Strategy and Development Committee

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion approve Resolution 2025

SECOND: Councilmember Hughes

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

Resolution 2025-04 Senate Bill One

The resolution opposes any tax policy that affects local units of government that does not come with a corresponding replacement revenue stream implemented by the state of Indiana and does no harm to the Delaware County Council's ability to carry out the expectations of its citizens and all Hoosiers now and into the future.

MOTION: Councilmember Hughes made a motion to approve

SECOND: Councilmember Kantz

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

Appointments and Committee Reports

Yorktown Public Library Board

Councilmember Whitehead stated council has an appointment to the Yorktown Public Library board, with the term ending at the end of March. Liz Roselle, the director, is requesting that Carolyn Klein be reappointed.

Civic Center Authority

President Whitehead stated councilman Bookout asked to have a couple of appointments come and talk. I was going to have councilmember Piper speak on behalf of the CCA but she is absent today. The mayor has reached out, as it is a nine-member board, and the council appoints two members to the CCA.

County Council Rules

President Whitehead stated councilmember Hughes sent out updates to the County Council rules that will be voted on after the 30-day review. Changes included moving the deadline for submitting agendas and resolutions from Friday at 9:00 am to Thursday at noon to provide more review time for the auditor's office and council. Another proposed change was to move the "Appointment and Committee Report" item in the agenda from slot eight to slot nine, behind the committees. There was also a discussion about whether the rules needed to specify details for the newly created Financial Strategy and Development Committee, but the current rules in Section 4 cover the appointment schedule and minimum standards. Further guidelines could be added later if the committee requires them. An updated version of the proposed rule changes would be sent out before the next meeting.

Tax Abatement

Councilmember Mr. Hughes provided an update for the Tax Abatement committee. This committee has three members appointed annually by the council. The current members are Bill Hughes, Josh Perkins (Plant Studio Landscape), and Joe Bar (Mursix Corporation). Their recent activity was the approval of the tax abatement for Midwest. The committee met with Tracy Lut from Greater Muncie Chamber of Commerce, who may have an application. The committee reviews applications and reports to the council for a final decision. Guidelines were adopted in June to prioritize job creation and local expansion. A recommendation was made for any pilot agreements to go before the Tax Abatement Committee as they are essentially a form of tax abatement.

Job Classification/Compensation

President Whitehead stated this committee has been discussed since last fall with no progress. The proposed composition includes three council members, the county auditor, the county HR director, a county commissioner, and a member of the public with HR experience (non-voting). The committee would review job descriptions when positions become vacant or when there are significant shifts in duties or new positions. Councilman volunteered to be on this committee. Commissioner Brand was appointed by the Commissioners. Councilman Hughes also volunteered. Councilwoman Piper was nominated to chair the initial year, pending her confirmation. Council members Bookout and Hughes would reach out to her. The committee would be responsible for finding the public member. Commissioner Brand and HR have updated job descriptions awaiting review.

Elected Officials & Department Heads

Councilman Hughes raised the Delaware County policy requiring all elected officers to certify annually in writing that they have not violated employer policy, with submissions due to the Board of Commissioners by December 31st. He did not recall this being done in the last couple of years. HR would send out the form, and the most updated version was available for council members.

President Whitehead stated Sheriff Tony Skinner was not present under this agenda item, but noted he would reach out to council members regarding the contractor agreement for food service at the jail, as discussed last month.

Mr. Brian Wilson, VSO, requested \$13,302.25 to repair and replace flagpoles and add the Space Force flag. Three flag bases were cracked, and two eagle wings were broken. The funds would cover two 8ft holes, bases,

toppers, and six Space Force flags. This was not budgeted, and the proper steps for appropriation needed to be followed by contacting the auditor's office, despite prior approval from the commissioners. President Whitehead stated the request would need to be advertised before funds could be approved.

Ms. Emily Anderson, Court Administrator, inquired about progress on the Local Income Tax (LIT) analysis. There was a discussion with city council, the mayor, and commissioners about Baker Tilly conducting a LIT analysis, which was approved a month prior but not yet executed. Commissioner Brand would follow up to ensure it proceeds. No further decisions or recommendations were expected until the legislature resolves issues with Senate Bill One in April. Ms. Anderson asked if she should submit a budget without considering LIT changes. The recommendation was to work within the current budget, with potential adjustments later in the year if needed, as no information would be available by the July budget date. The LIT analysis was still being pursued.

Commissioner Brand stated the Building Superintendent Steven Foster resigned, and the job description was amended in the absence of the Job Classification/Compensation Committee. An offer was being made to a candidate. Project Director/Administrator Angie Moyer from the Engineering Department also resigned. The Commissioners proposed replacing this position with a County Engineer, which was not expected to cost more due to a potential state grant-in-aid subsidy of \$40,000 for counties employing a degreed engineer (IC 8-17-5-10). The average county engineer salary in Indiana was around \$90,000. The Job Classification/Compensation Committee would review the new job description. A budget transfer would be needed before the grant, and clarification was sought on the reimbursement process. Having an in-house engineer could also offset costs associated with hiring outside engineering firms. The job description for the County Engineer would be sent out. Commissioner Brand publicly thanked Angie Moyer for her 30 years of honest and polite service. An email would be sent to county employees regarding a dependent audit for healthcare benefits, aimed at ensuring only eligible dependents are covered and potentially reducing healthcare costs. The county currently pays 90% of employee healthcare premiums. The county policy requires spouses eligible for insurance through their own employer to take that coverage (spousal carve-out). Questions should be directed to Pam or Commissioner Brand. Nominations for Employee of the Month were still being sought through an online form on the county website. There were no current nominations for the next month. The Delaware County Redevelopment Commission meeting would be held on March 13th at 9:00 am at the Innovation Connector, where Matt Erley from Baker Tilly would present the 2024 TIF performance.

Public Comment

Members of the public who wish to speak to the Council at a meeting will be asked to sign in and will be called upon in the order in which their names appear. Others who did not sign up will be called upon after all who have signed in have been given the opportunity to speak. Public comments may also be submitted electronically or in writing at CountyCouncilDIST@co.delaware.in.us. It is the expectation that all public comments will be cogent, concise, respectful and be limited to three (3) minutes.

Comments from Council

Councilman Hughes discussed the sheriff's pension fund report from the January meeting, noting that the reported 10% earnings were good compared to other public retirement funds and slightly higher than the S&P 500 return of approximately 9.5%.

Council commented on the great job done by Steven Foster and Angie Moyer

Councilman Bookout noted the helpfulness of the auditor's office in providing TIF balance updates in previous years and requested updated electronic versions of the TIF balances and the EDIT plan (a 2024 version was found but not updated) to aid in understanding potential shortfalls from state legislative actions. The

importance of reviewing fund balances across departments to identify potential resources due to potential revenue impacts from the state legislature was emphasized. The lack of a glossary for the various county funds was noted as a challenge for analysis

Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Flanagan made a motion to recess.

SECOND: Councilmember Kantz

YEAS; Councilmember Flanagan, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Mochal, Councilmember Bookout, Councilmember Kantz, Councilmember Whitehead

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18th, 2025 at 9:00 am