MINUTES
JACKSON COUNTY COUNCIL
June 17, 2026

Members Present: Brady Riley, Brian Thompson, Jacquelyn Jasinski, John Nolting, Brett Turner and Amanda Lowery

Members Absent: Michael Davidson

Riley called the Council meeting to order and opened with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sheriff Rick Meyer administered the oath of office to the Council.

Riley asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026 meeting as amended to include Council member Brett Turner in the list of members present. Lowery moved to approve the minutes as amended. Thompson seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Reports from Committees, Boards, or Commissions:

- Riley reported that the State Board of Accounts had begun its annual audit of Jackson County and that the fieldwork was expected to be completed by the end of June.
- Riley reported that the Commissioners had contracted Capacity Project Management to assist with the Jackson County Fairgrounds Grandstand project and that requests for proposals would be issued soon.
- Thompson reported on a June 9 property tax informational meeting hosted by the Seymour Chamber of Commerce. He noted discussion regarding a proposal by State Representative J.D. Prescott that would eliminate property taxes and replace them with a sales tax on services. Thompson encouraged Council members to review the proposal as discussions continue at the state level.
- Thompson also reported on a May 27 meeting with Reedy Financial regarding the potential adoption of a county wheel tax. Council discussed changes to the state's Community Crossings Matching Grant program and how adoption of a wheel tax could qualify Jackson County for additional grant funding. Thompson explained that current minimum wheel tax rates would generate approximately $250,000 annually while potentially unlocking an additional $500,000 in Community Crossings funding. Council agreed to continue discussions at the July meeting due to upcoming statutory deadlines.

New Business:

June Additional Appropriations – 2026 Ordinance #5 Council Bill #5

Council reviewed an additional appropriation request for the Supplemental Public Defender Fund 1200:

- Other Services and Charges - $10,000

The request was made to cover contract applications and conflict attorney fees.

Thompson moved to approve 2026 Ordinance #5 Council Bill #5 on first reading. Nolting seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Jasinski moved to approve 2026 Ordinance #5 Council Bill #5 on second reading by title only. Turner seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

June Emergency Transfer Requests – Resolution #4 Council Bill #6

Council reviewed the following transfer requests:

County General Fund (1000):

- Transfer from Administration Manager to Commissioners Contract Services - $17,500

Innkeeper's Fund (1127):

- Transfer from Visitor Center Part-Time to Janitorial Services - $6,500

Thompson moved to approve Resolution #4 Council Bill #6. Jasinski seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Council considered an additional appropriation request that had been properly advertised for public hearing.

Additional Appropriation – Ordinance #6 Council Bill #7 Grassy Fork Township Fire Protection District

Following discussion under miscellaneous, Council considered an additional appropriation request that had been properly advertised for public hearing.

The Grassy Fork Township Fire Protection District requested appropriations totaling $90,000 for the purchase of a 2025 Freightliner tanker pumper truck:

- Rainy Day Fund - $20,000
- Special Fire General Fund - $50,000
- Special Cumulative Fire Fund - $20,000

Ruben Cummings explained that the District Board had approved the contribution toward the vehicle purchase and that the affected funds maintained adequate balances. Council noted that the tanker purchase had been discussed and planned for several years.

Turner moved to approve Ordinance #6 Council Bill #7 on first reading. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Thompson moved to approve Ordinance #6 Council Bill #7 on second reading by title only. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

J.L. Brewer – Community Corrections – JRAC Recommendation for Use of Opioid Settlement Funds

J.L. Brewer, representing the Jackson County Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC), presented the recommendation of the JRAC grant review committee to award $86,000 in restricted opioid settlement funds to 180 Recovery Community Organization (180 RCO). Brewer explained that the organization provides peer recovery services and recovery support resources for individuals affected by substance use disorders.

Steve Scherer, chair of the JRAC grant committee, provided additional information regarding 180 RCO's services and explained that the funding request would support one year of peer recovery services. Scherer noted that the organization continues to seek additional reimbursement and funding opportunities to sustain services in the future.

Council discussed outreach efforts, long-term sustainability, and the JRAC grant review process. Council members expressed appreciation for the diligence of the JRAC committee in evaluating applications and prioritizing opioid settlement funding.

Turner moved to approve the JRAC recommendation awarding $86,000 to 180 RCO from the restricted opioid settlement funds. Jasinski seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Old Business:

Innkeeper's Tax – Ordinance #4 Council Bill #4

Council considered Ordinance #4 Council Bill #4 on second reading as amended. Susan Bevers advised that the ordinance had been revised from the first reading to clarify the allocation of a portion of the increased tax revenue for capital improvement purposes.

The ordinance increases the Jackson County Innkeeper's Tax from 5% to 8%, effective October 1, 2026, pursuant to Indiana Code 6-9-32. The ordinance establishes the distribution of revenues generated by the increase and is intended to support tourism-related capital improvements, including potential improvements to the Jackson County Fairgrounds Grandstand.

Thompson moved to approve Ordinance #4 Council Bill #4 on second reading as amended. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Miscellaneous:

Planning & Zoning- Dalton Anderson

- No report

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Highway Superintendent- Jerry Ault

- No report.

Sheriff Rick Meyer

- May reports were distributed. Council had no questions.

Human Resources- Jeff Hubbard

- No report.

Auditor- Melissa Gray

- Presented May 2026 fund balance report and Treasurer's Report.
- Reported that the State Board of Accounts audit was nearing completion and that an exit conference was expected to be scheduled during the second week of July.
- Advised that state fuel tax changes may impact future county highway revenues. State officials have discussed possible funding offsets, but no action has been finalized.

County Attorney- Susan Bevers

- No report.

Riley moved to adjourn. Thompson seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

Signed this 15th day of July 2026.

Brady Riley

Amanda Lowery

Michael Davidson

John Nolting

Brett Turner

Jacquelyn Jasinski

Brian Thompson

Melissa Gray - Attest