

MEETING MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
August 12, 2025

The August 12, 2025 Montgomery County Council Meeting was held at 9:00 am at the Community Meeting Room of the Montgomery County Government Center. In attendance were Council Members Gary Booth, Brett Cating, Joyce Grimble, David Hunt, Steve Loy, Matt Nelson and Mike Warren. Auditor Mindy Byers, County Administrator Tom Klein, Mayor Todd Barton and Attorney Dan Taylor were also present.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Hunt called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer led by Council Member Nelson.
- II. CONSENT AGENDA: Council Member Nelson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Loy. Motion carried 7-0.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

IV. MONEY MATTERS:

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description	Additional Amount Requested
4911	Pretrial Diversion	0009	Prosecutor	44542	Special Equipment	\$15,000.00
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	11021	OT	\$15,000.00
1206	Local Health Trust	0610	Health Department	30050	Contractual Services	\$25,000.00
				TOTAL:	\$55,000.00	

- A. Council Member Cating moved to approve the Prosecutor’s additional appropriation request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimble and carried 7-0.
- B. Council Member Booth moved to approve the MCCCC additional appropriation request for the OT line. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson and carried 7-0.
- C. Council Member Nelson moved to approve the Health Department’s additional appropriation request for Contractual Services. The motion was seconded by Council Member Loy and carried 7-0.

TRANSFER of APPROPRIATIONS:

Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department	From Account	Account Description	To Account	Account Description	Transfer Amount Requested
1170	PS LIT	0005	Sheriff	11315	Sergeant	11250	Deputy	\$1,339.00
1222	Statewide 911	0303	MCCCC	11406	Dispatcher	12065	H.S.A.	\$3,000.00
1222	Statewide 911	0303	MCCCC	11406	Dispatcher	12050	Group Insurance	\$15,000.00
1235	PSAP UT	0303	MCCCC	11046	PT Dispatcher	11045	PT Dispatcher	\$721.62
1235	PSAP UT	0303	MCCCC	11046	PT Dispatcher	11047	PT Dispatcher	\$3,022.97
1235	PSAP UT	0303	MCCCC	11830	Dispatcher	11021	OT	\$9,500.00
1235	PSAP UT	0303	MCCCC	11203	Dispatcher	11313	Dispatcher	\$5,400.00
1235	PSAP UT	0303	MCCCC	30160	Other Services & Charges	44500	Equipment	\$50,000.00
1176	Highway Unrestricted	0529	Highway	11011	Truck Driver	11021	OT	\$21,455.00
1176	Highway Unrestricted	0529	Highway	11319	Truck Driver	11021	OT	\$21,455.00
1000	County General	0009	Prosecutor	24201	Office Supplies	32100	Dues & Subscriptions	\$1,500.00
1000	County General	0271	Public Defender	11060	Intern	11621	Deputy Public Defender	\$45,000.00
						TOTAL:	\$177,393.59	

- A. Council Member Loy moved to approve the Sheriff’s transfer request to correct a pay line. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cating and carried 7-0.
- B. Council Member Booth moved to approve all seven of the CCC’s transfer requests, needed to clean up various pay and benefit lines. The motion was seconded by Council Member Warren and carried 7-0.
- C. Council Member Cating moved to approve the Highway Department’s transfer requests for OT due to storm cleanup. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimble and carried 7-0.

- D. Council Member Loy Moved to approve the Prosecutor's transfer request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Warren. Motion carried 7-0.
- E. Council Member Booth moved to approve the Public Defender's pay line transfer request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson, and carried 7-0.
- F. Council Member Booth moved to approve the Coroner's request for a transfer into Autopsy Fees. The motion was seconded by Council Member Loy, and carried 7-0.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2025-9 – Resolution to Opt-In to Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys Reimbursement Program. The Chief Public Defender Bryan Donaldson, and the Council committee formed to determine how to fund and operate the Public Defender's Office reported that the consensus was that it would benefit the County to join the CCAA Reimbursement Program. Mr. Donaldson added that if all of the requirements were in place as of October 1st, the County would get reimbursed for Q4 2025. Council Member Booth moved to approve the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Grimbale. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. New Business

- A. State Representative Jeff Thompson presented information to the Council about recent legislation, specifically Senate Bill 1. Representative Thompson explained several areas of property taxation, property tax cap loss, and LIT distributions that were cleaned up with the legislation. Most of the changes put in place by the bill will not be in full effect until 2027. He welcomed questions and comments. Council Member Booth asked if there were any plans to increase road funding. He also asked if income taxation had been reevaluated to perhaps be returned to the county where the business is located, at least in part. Representative Thompson did say that those items were being assessed. Mayor Todd Barton pointed out that the estimations provided by fiscal professionals that had been consulted about all of the taxation changes did not match the numbers provided by the Legislative Service Agency. Auditor Byers reminded those present that the LIT changes do away with Property Tax Replacement Credits, which will increase local tax bills, and cause more taxes to be lost to the property tax caps. Representative Thompson reminded all present that additional analysis and innovations will continue for the next several years.
- B. Johnny Park from the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN) presented information about the organization and provided several examples of some of their local success stories and contributions. WHIN is requesting additional funding from the Council -- an increase from the current amount of \$30,000 annually to \$50,000 for 2025-2027. Various recipients of WHIN's programs spoke on their behalf, including representatives from Lakeside Book Company, Still Water Manufacturing and local school corporations. There was some discussion among the Council about the request, then Council Member Cating moved to take the funding request under advisement for the 2025-2027 budgets. The motion was seconded by Council Member Booth, and carried 7-0.
- C. Auditor Mindy Byers presented the 2026 Budgets for Montgomery County and Montgomery County Solid Waste Management District. She provided the total amount of expected revenues, a look at what the tax levy will need to be to satisfy the budget, and explained that many of the requests, especially those in the levied funds were inflated for advertising purposes. Auditor Byers also explained that all of the new credits, as well as deduction and taxation changes brought about by SB1 had caused delays for nearly all counties, and that only a handful had certified net assessed values. She hopes to certify net AV's in the next couple of weeks. The total Montgomery County 2026 Budget request was \$48,992,703 and the total Montgomery County Solid Waste Management District 2026 Budget request was \$156,000.
- D. Each year, the Council must review and make written recommendations to the local units regarding tax levies and circuit breaker limits. A motion to have the Auditor draft and send a letter to all local units with the Council recommendations was made by Council Member Loy. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimbale, and carried 7-0.

- E. Attorney Taylor presented the annual abatement compliance resolutions to the Council. While the Council also grants abatements to Nucor, they are not required to receive annual compliance resolutions. The resolutions presented were:
1. Resolution 2025-5 – Steel Technologies – A motion to approve this resolution was made by Council Member Grimbale. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson, and carried 7-0.
 2. Resolution 2025-6 – Crawfordsville 5 Solar Array – A motion to approve this resolution was made by Council Member Nelson. The motion was seconded by Council Member Warren, and carried 7-0.
 3. Resolution 2025-7 – Darlington Solar Array – A motion to approve this resolution was made by Council Member Grimbale. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson, and carried 7-0.
 4. Resolution 2025-8 – IMPA Waynetown – A motion to approve this resolution was made by Council Member Warren. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson, and carried 7-0.

VII. REPORTS:

- A. Clerk Sondra Sixberry mentioned that she is looking at investing the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund, and has sought legal input regarding investing those funds. Attorney Taylor said that they have started looking into it.
- B. Chief Probation Officer reported to the Council that the office is looking at getting into the TRECs program, and that it should be on the next Commissioner's agenda.
- C. Chief Public Defender just wanted to clarify that the Council wanted to begin the CCAA program October 1st, and that was confirmed.
- D. Auditor Byers reported that the annual audit was complete. She thanked those other departments who participated in the audit, and especially the Auditor's team.
- E. Council Member Cating thanked Representative Jeff Thompson for attending and answering questions. He also reported that he had spoken to the Mayor and that the City is shooting for a 2% pay increase in 2026, and have started making cuts on their budgets. Asking all departments to look for any budget cuts as well. He also reported that there will be a Nucor Road Overpass meeting at the Government Center on 8/13 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss that upcoming project.
- F. Council Member Warren thanked Representative Thompson and all of the department heads for all of their hard work. He also asked if there were any school representatives that had questions or comments.
- G. Council Member Loy also thanked Representative Thompson.
- H. Council Member Grimbale also thanked Representative Thompson, and confirmed the Soil and Water Conservation Districts dates and time for Table Talk at the Tablespoon restaurant.
- I. Council Member Hunt also thanked Representative Thompson. He also asked that all mentioned that Lori Dossett's sister and also Susie Conrad, a long-time County employee had passed away; he asked for prayer for those families.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

- IX. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: A motion to approve the \$1,592.50 claim from Taylor, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter, the \$2,636.44 claim from Peters Franklin, LTD and the \$4,861.25 claim from Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates was made by Council Member Booth. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson and carried 7-0.

- X. NEXT MEETING(s):
August 25 at 4:00 p.m. at Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row – Room E109
August 26 at 4:00 p.m. at Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row – Room E109 ^a
September 12 at 9:00 a.m. at Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row
– Room E109 – Regular Council Meeting and Budget Hearing for Montgomery County, and Montgomery County Solid Waste Management District.

- XI. ADJOURN: Council Member Hunt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Grumble and carried 7-0.



Gary Booth, Council Member



Brett Cating, Council Member



Joyce Grumble, Council Member

David Hunt, Council Member



Steve Loy, Council Member



Matt Nelson, Council Member



Mike Warren, Council Member

Attest:



Mindy Byers, Auditor

