

JULY 14, 2025

REGULAR SESSION

The LaGrange County Council met in Regular Session on Monday, July 14, 2025, at their meeting room, County Office Building, 114 W. Michigan Street, LaGrange, Indiana 46761, at 8:30 a.m., with the following present: Council Members, Jeffrey L. Brill, Jeffrey A. Campos, Karen S. Eagleson, Harold D. Gingerich, Ryan J. Riegsecker, Michael G. Strawser, and James R. Young; and LaGrange County Auditor, Kathryn Hopper. President, Mr. Jim Young brought the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SHERIFF – RETIREMENT AMENDMENT

Mr. Tracy Harker, County Sheriff, proposed an amendment to the Sheriff employee retirement policy. Mr. Jeff Campos made a motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

JAIL COMMISSARY REPORT

Mr. Tracy Harker, County Sheriff, presented the Jail Commissary report for the first half of 2025. Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to accept the report. Mr. Harold Gingerich seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

SHERIFF – PURCHASE REQUEST

Mr. Tracy Harker, requested to purchase a new oven for the jail, using commissary funds. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve the purchase request in the amount of \$12,808.55. Mr. Mike Strawser seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER DIVE TEAM FUNDS

Mr. Jim Young presented the following Resolution to Transfer Funds:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07-14-A

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER UNSPENT DONATION FUNDS IN DIVE TEAM FUND TO CANINE DONATION FUND

WHEREAS, LaGrange County created the Dive Team Fund (#4937) to receive checks for contributions from individual contributors, business, not-for-profits groups and organizations, local public service groups, and grants; and

WHEREAS, there exists an unspent balance in the Dive team fund of \$821.79;

WHEREAS, the LaGrange County Sheriff's Office does not currently have an active Dive Team;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

Therefore, effective this date, the LaGrange County Council approves the transfer of **\$821.79** of unused funds from the Dive Team Fund #4937 to the LaGrange County Canine Donation Fund (#4101).

Mr. Jeff Campos made a motion to approve the Resolution to Transfer, Mr. Jeff Brill seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – ALLOCATING REVENUE TO PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES

Mr. Jim Young opened the public hearing on proposed Resolution allowing for a distribution of Local Income Tax for public safety to be allocated to the LaGrange County Townships. Mrs. Melissa Eichelberger, Clearspring Township Trustee, spoke in favor of the funding to the Townships. There being no further comments from the public, Mr. Young closed the public hearing. The following Resolution was presented for consideration:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE, INDIANA
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07-14-B

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A RESOLUTION ALLOCATING REVENUE TO PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 6-3.6-6-8.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code (“IC”) 6-3.6-6-1 and -2, an adopting body may impose a tax rate of up to 2.5% on the adjusted gross income of local taxpayers in the county served by the adopting body (as stipulated, “Expenditure Rate”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 6-3.6-6-4, the adopting body must, by ordinance, determine how the additional revenue from the Expenditure Rate is to be allocated in subsequent years among the categories of (1) public safety, (2) economic development projects, and (3) certified shares;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 6-3.6-3-1(a)(2) and 36-2-3-2, the LaGrange County Council (“Council”), as the fiscal body of LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”), is the adopting body for the County;

WHEREAS, pursuant to County Ordinance 2017-03-13, the Council increased the Expenditure Rate from 1.25% to 1.5% and allocated 100% of the additional revenue generated from the increase to public safety uses;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 6-3.6-6-8(b), except as provided IC 6-3.6-6-8(c), the amount of the certified distribution that is allocated to public safety purposes must be allocated to the county and to each municipality in the county that is carrying out or providing at least one (1) public safety purpose (as stipulated, “-8(b) Distribution”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 6-3.6-6-8(c), a fire department, volunteer fire department, or emergency medical services provider that provides fire protection or emergency medical services within the county and that is operated by or serves a township within the county may apply to the adopting body before July 1 for a distribution of the additional tax revenue generated from the Expenditure Rate to be made in the following calendar year (as stipulated, “-8(c) Distribution”);

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2024, the Council adopted Resolution 2024-08-12-A, which provided for the -8(b) Distribution and -8(c) Distribution to be made in the current calendar year;

WHEREAS, the Council has invited, without change, each of the townships located in the County (“Townships”) to apply for consideration of the -8(c) Distribution each year since 2017;

WHEREAS, except with respect to late applications in previous years, the Townships have applied, without change, for consideration of the -8(c) Distribution each year since 2017;

WHEREAS, no entity, other than the Townships, has ever applied for an -8(c) Distribution;

WHEREAS, except as may be noted below, each of the Townships has applied for a portion of the -8(c) Distribution to the Auditor before July 1 of this year, and each such Township has thereby certified that it is either an eligible recipient for the -8(c) Distribution as a qualified service provider in accordance with IC 6-3.6-6-8(c) or else legally entitled to apply therefor on behalf of such an entity;

WHEREAS, Clay Township did not properly apply for the -8(c) Distribution to the Auditor before July 1 of this year;

WHEREAS, the formula for applying the next -8(c) Distribution is without change and substantively the same as has been used each year an -8(c) Distribution has been given since 2017;

WHEREAS, the amount of the -8(c) Distribution for the following calendar year is without change and has remained the same each year since 2020 when it was set at \$100,000.00;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 6-3.6-6-8(c), the Council must review the applications and may adopt a resolution to allow an applicant to receive a specified amount of the -8(c) Distribution;

WHEREAS, in accordance with IC 6-3.6-3-7.5, the Council has: (1) reviewed the applications from the Townships and other eligible entities; (2) held a public hearing on this resolution; (3) provided the public with notice of the date, time,

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and place of the public hearing in accordance with IC 5-3-1; (4) timely provided a copy of the notice to all taxing units in the County that are eligible for the -8(b) Distribution and the -8(c) Distribution; and (5) determined which applicants are entitled to receive a specified amount of the -8(c) Distribution;

WHEREAS, the County expects the Expenditure Rate to generate at least \$100,000.00 in revenue in this calendar year, which sum will be made available to eligible applicants as the overall -8(c) Distribution amount for the following calendar year; *and*

WHEREAS, in view of IC 6-3.6-3-3(f) and -7.5(e), with this resolution the Council has not made any fiscal decision to change its -8(b) Distribution or -8(c) Distribution amounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAGRANGE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

SECTION I – NAME

The name of this resolution is the “2025 LIT Public Safety Distribution Resolution.”

SECTION II – RECITALS

The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into, and made a part of, this resolution and found to be true, accurate, and correct.

SECTION III – TOWNSHIPS

Invitation to Apply. The Townships are hereby invited to continue to apply each year for a portion of the -8(c) Distribution so long as they remain eligible to receive the -8(c) Distribution in accordance with IC 6-3.6-6-8(c). Each application must contain a current-year certified resolution from the respective township board authorizing the application.

Eligibility. The Auditor, in consultation with the County Attorney’s office, shall determine the eligibility by law of each Township or other applicant for the annual -8(c) Distribution.

Restriction. Each Township that accepts an -8(c) Distribution pursuant to this resolution shall use the money only for fire protection and/or emergency medical services.

SECTION IV – DISTRIBUTION TOTALS

A. Default Total. The Council hereby sets the -8(c) Distribution total amount available for the Townships at One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

Adjustments. The -8(c) Distribution total identified in Subsection (A) shall be reduced by an amount equal to the amount each Township that is determined to be ineligible under IC 6-3.6-6-8(c) would have been entitled to receive under Section V of this resolution.

Residue. The amount identified in Subsection (B) shall be added to the -8(b) Distribution.

SECTION V – IMPLEMENTATION

A. Formula. The Council hereby adopts the following formula for the determining the specified amount of the -8(c) Distribution that each Township is entitled to receive:

1. The -8(c) Distribution total identified in Subsection IV(A) of this resolution shall be divided into two equal halves:
 - a. The first half shall be allocated evenly among each of the Townships.
 - b. The second half shall be allocated proportionately among the Townships based on the most recent federal decennial census population data provided by the United States Census Bureau, less the population of any incorporated towns located respectively therein.
2. An initial allocation shall be made to each Township in an amount equal to the sum of the amounts under Subdivisions 1(a) and 1(b) combined.

B. Application. Applying the formula provided in Subsection (A) to the Townships, the Council finds as follows:

1. Bloomfield Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$8,918.87;
2. Clay Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$9,886.33;
3. Clearspring Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$10,208.82;
4. Eden Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$10,742.06;
5. Greenfield Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$6,446.44;

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6. Johnson Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$8,968.37;
7. Lima Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$7,883.50;
8. Milford Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$8,658.61;
9. Newbury Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$11,610.52;
10. Springfield Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$6,183.36; *and*
11. Van Buren Township would be entitled to a distribution in the amount of \$10,493.12.

C. Approval. The projected -8(c) Distributions in the respective specified amounts provided in Subsection (B) are hereby approved subject to each Township's respective eligibility to receive an -8(c) Distribution, to be distributed in the following calendar year.

D. Authorization. The Auditor and Treasurer are hereby authorized to take all action and sign all documents necessary to give effect to the -8(b) Distribution and -8(c) Distribution.

SECTION VI – MISCELLANEOUS

A. Repeal. All provisions of County codes, ordinances, and resolutions previously adopted are hereby repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent with or in conflict with this ordinance but only to that extent.

B. References.

1. Except where a specific version or edition is given, reference to another section of this resolution or to another law, document, fund, department, board, program, public servant, or public office, shall extend and apply to the same, as may be subsequently amended, revised, recodified, renamed, reappointed, or renumbered from time to time.
2. Reference in this resolution to a law, document, fund, department, board, program, public servant, or public office, either generally or by title, without reference to another jurisdiction, shall be construed as though it were preceded or followed, as appropriate, by the words "(of) LaGrange County (Indiana)."
3. Should a provision of this resolution require an act to be done which, by law, an agent or deputy may do instead of the principal, the requirement is satisfied by the performance of the act by an authorized agent or deputy.

C. Claims Barred. This resolution is intended only to improve the internal management of the County. Notwithstanding anything in this resolution to the contrary, nothing in this resolution shall be construed to: (i) create any new legal duty, right, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable against the County; nor, (ii) waive or diminish any existing right, protection, immunity, defense, or limitation on liability that may apply to the County or any of its elected or appointed officials, employees, agents, or representatives under any law or regulation.

D. Conflicts. No part of this resolution shall be construed to conflict with any applicable local, state, or federal law, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same.

E. Severability. Should any section or part thereof of this resolution be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the decision shall not affect the validity of this resolution as a whole, nor any other portion thereof, and for this purpose the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared to be severable.

F. Promulgation. The Auditor is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this resolution effective. Specifically, the Auditor is directed as follows:

1. In accordance with IC 6-3.6-6-8(c), the Auditor shall provide via Gateway a copy of this resolution not more than fifteen (15) days after its adoption to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance ("DLGF").
2. In accordance with IC 6-3.6-3-2(d) and DLGF memorandum dated July 26, 2024, the Auditor shall provide to DLGF via Gateway the notice of public hearing relating to this resolution and the result of all votes taken on this resolution not more than ten (10) days after its adoption.
3. In accordance with IC 6-3.6-3-5(a), the Auditor shall record the result of all votes taken on this resolution and send a certified copy thereof via Gateway to the commissioner of DLGF and to the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Revenue not more than ten (10) days after the vote.

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G. Codification. To the extent a substantive change in meaning does not result, the codifier of ordinances may omit the Name, Recitals, Repeals, Miscellaneous, and Adoption sections of this ordinance from the official code, may renumber, reorder, or reorganize any section of this ordinance, and may alter references to and within this ordinance as appropriate.

H. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Jeff Brill seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Harold Gingerich seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

EDC – COMPREHESIVE PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Emilee Buller, LaGrange County Economic Development’s Vice President of Community Development and Engagement, provided an update on various Economic Development projects relating to the Comprehensive Plan.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – LIBRARY

Mr. Richard Kuster, LaGrange County Library Director, was present. Mr. Kuster offered an update on the construction of the new addition to the Library in Shipshewana; with the project ahead of schedule, Mr. Kuster requested an additional appropriation of \$125,000 for steel shelves for the new addition. Since the additional appropriation is over 4%, the approval of the LaGrange County Council is needed.

**LAGRANGE COUNTY LIBRARY
ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

WHEREAS, its has been determined that is it now necessary to appropriate more money than was originally appropriated in the annual budget, now THEREFORE:

Sec 1. Be it ordained (resolved) by the LaGrange County Council for the LaGrange County Library, LaGrange County, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

<u>RAINY DAY</u>	REQUESTED AMOUNT:
Capital Outlays	\$ 125,000

Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation Resolution. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

TAX COMMISSION

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, explained the recent legislative changes that allow Counties to increase innkeeper’s tax above the five percent (5%) threshold up to eight percent (8%); subject to Council’s enactment. The following Ordinance was presented:

**LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07-14-C
AN ORDINANCE REESTABLISHING AND INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF THE COUNTY’S INNKEEPER’S TAX.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code (“IC”) 6-9-18, the fiscal body of a county may adopt an ordinance to impose a county innkeeper’s tax on the short-term furnishing of certain rooms, lodgings, or other accommodations for consideration;

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WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-2-3-2, the LaGrange County Council (“County Council”) is the fiscal body of LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”);

WHEREAS, the County Council desires to promote and encourage conventions, visitors, and tourism within the County;

WHEREAS, in May-June of 1993, pursuant to IC 6-9-18, the County Council adopted Ordinances 1993-5-10, 1993-6-1, and 1993-6-14, which collectively established and imposed the County Innkeeper’s Tax (“Tax”) at a rate of five percent (5.0%) on qualifying transactions;

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2019, the County Council adopted Ordinance 2019-05-13, which repealed and restated the previous Tax ordinances with updated language but, except with respect to new language that deferred collection of the Tax to the Indiana Department of Revenue, declared that the new ordinance “shall be deemed to be the continuation of the original provisions”;

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2025, Indiana Governor Braun signed into law P.L. 230 (2025) (HEA 1427), Section 109 of which created a new IC 6-9-60 (“Act”) to enable the County Council to adopt an ordinance to increase the amount of the Tax up to eight percent (8.0%);

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, if the County Council adopts a Tax ordinance on or before the fifteenth day of a month, any Tax increase in the ordinance takes effect after the last day of the month in which the ordinance is adopted;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the County Treasurer must establish, and under the 1993 and 2019 Tax ordinances and IC 6-9-18-4 did establish, a convention, visitor, and tourism promotion fund (“Fund”) as a Home Rule Fund into which the Tax revenues that are collected can be deposited;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, money in the Fund must be expended to promote and encourage conventions, visitors, and tourism within the County, which expenditures may pay for advertising, promotional activities, trade shows, special events, and recreation; *and*

WHEREAS, the County Council desires to increase the Tax up to the full amount permitted by the Act and to make other housekeeping amendments to the Tax ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LAGRANGE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

SECTION I – NAME

The name of this ordinance is the “Innkeeper’s Tax Ordinance.”

SECTION II – RECITALS

The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into this ordinance and found to be true, accurate, and correct.

SECTION III – DEFINITIONS

- A. Meaning. Whenever the following terms are used in this ordinance, they shall have the meanings herein ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates or requires otherwise.
1. “Accommodations” means any room, lodgings, or other accommodations that are located in the County as part of any:
 - a. house;
 - b. condominium;
 - c. apartment;
 - d. hotel;

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- e. motel;
 - f. boat motel;
 - g. inn;
 - h. college or university memorial union;
 - i. college or university residence hall or dormitory; *or*
 - j. tourist cabin.
- 2. "Act" stands for Indiana Code 6-9-60.
 - 3. "Commission" stands for the County's Convention and Visitor Commission.
 - 4. "DOR" stands for the Indiana Department of Revenue.
 - 5. "Fund" stands for the Convention, Visitor, and Tourism Promotion Fund, as reestablished by this ordinance.
 - 6. "Gross Retail Income" has the meaning given in IC 6-2.5-1.
 - 7. "Innkeeper" means any person to the extent that the person furnishes Accommodations as part of a retail transaction; the term includes a "marketplace facilitator," as such term is defined in IC 6-2.5-1.
 - 8. "Tax" means the Innkeeper's Tax, as prescribed by this ordinance.
- B. Arbiter. The County Council has final authority in deciding the meaning of these terms.

SECTION IV – EXEMPTIONS

- A. Notwithstanding anything in this ordinance to the contrary, the Tax does not apply to any retail transaction that involves the furnishing of Accommodations:
- 1. for a period of thirty (30) days or more;
 - 2. in a college or university residence hall to a student who participates in a course of study for college credit from a college or university located in the County;
 - 3. that is described in IC 6-2.5-5-53(a); *or*
 - 4. that is exempt from the state gross retail tax.

SECTION V – TAX ESTABLISHED

- A. Establishment. There is hereby established an excise tax, to be known as the "LaGrange County Innkeeper's Tax," on any retail transaction that involves the furnishing of Accommodations, as determined by DOR guidance. This Tax is in addition to any state gross retail tax imposed under IC 6-2.5. Upon the expiration or repeal of the Act, but only at that time, this subsection shall be deemed adopted pursuant to IC 6-9-18-3.
- B. Default Amount. The amount of the Tax is hereby set at five percent (5.0%) of the Gross Retail Income received as part of a retail transaction that is subject to the Tax.
- C. Tax Increase. The amount of the Tax is hereby increased from 5.0% to 8.0% of the Gross Retail Income received as part of a retail transaction that is subject to the Tax. This subsection does not take effect until August 1, 2025 and expires upon the expiration or repeal of the Act.

SECTION VI – ADMINISTRATION

- A. In General.

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1. The Tax shall be imposed, paid, and collected in the same manner in which the state gross retail tax is imposed, paid, and collected under IC 6-2.5 and always in accordance with the Act, IC 6-9-29, and DOR rules.
 2. All of the provisions of IC 6-2.5 relating to rights, duties, liabilities, procedures, penalties, definitions, exemptions, and administration are applicable to the imposition and administration of the Tax except to the extent those provisions are otherwise in conflict or inconsistent with the specific provisions of the Act, IC 6-9-29, this ordinance, and/or as reasonably directed by the Treasurer and/or Auditor.
- B. Revenues. The Auditor and Treasurer are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary and/or proper to ensure that the County receives payment of the Tax revenues collected, including setting up an account with the state comptroller.
- C. Deposits. All Tax revenues received by the County shall be deposited into the Fund.

SECTION VII – FACILITATION

- A. Powers; Duties. The Auditor and/or Treasurer are hereby authorized and empowered to:
1. upon taking office or as soon thereafter as is practicable, enter into a confidentiality agreement with the DOR in accordance with IC 6-8.1-3-7.1;
 2. contact the DOR to request summary data regarding Tax revenues collected;
 3. serve as a preliminary response to any inquiries made by any Innkeeper regarding the Tax and to direct the person to the DOR for additional information;
 4. identify any Innkeeper who is not properly registered with the DOR and/or who has not fully remitted the Tax;
 5. contact each Innkeeper who does not appear to be in compliance with fully remitting the Tax and to give the person the tools necessary to be compliant; *and*
 6. contact the DOR to report any Innkeeper who is found not to be in compliance with fully remitting the Tax.
- B. Cooperation. In accordance with IC 6-9-29-6, each Innkeeper must provide the Auditor and/or Treasurer, upon request, with information on the Tax revenues collected by the Innkeeper on behalf of each of its sellers for the period specified.

SECTION VIII – CONVENTION, VISITOR, AND TOURISM PROMOTION FUND

- A. Reestablishment. The Fund is hereby reestablished under its Fund Code 1127 (or as otherwise prescribed by the Indiana State Board of Accounts) as a special nonreverting Home Rule fund.
- B. Purpose. The purpose of the Fund is to hold all revenues that are collected from the Tax until disbursed from the Fund in accordance with applicable law.
- C. Appropriations. No money may be disbursed from the Fund without a prior appropriation from the County Council except in accordance with applicable law.
- D. Warrants. No money may be disbursed from the Fund without a warrant from the Auditor, based on the Commission's prior written request, directing the County Treasurer to transfer money from the Fund to the Commission's Treasurer.
- E. Restrictions. Money in the Fund shall be used only for a purpose permitted by IC 6-9-60-5, for the incidental expenses of the Fund or the Commission, or as otherwise permitted by applicable law. In accordance with IC 6-9-29-8(b), money may not be deposited into or transferred from the Fund except in accordance with applicable law.

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- F. Investment. All money in the Fund, and any interest earned on the money, shall be invested and reinvested pursuant to the County's standard investment procedures; provided, however, that any interest earned from the Fund shall be redeposited into the Fund.
- G. Nonreverting. All money in the Fund, including any interest earned on the Fund, shall remain in the Fund and shall not revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year.
- H. Authorization. The Auditor and Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign all documents and to take all action necessary or helpful to create and administer the Fund and for the disbursement of money therefrom, subject to the provisions of this section.
- I. Termination. When the Fund is terminated, all money in the Fund shall be deposited into a suitable replacement fund with similar purposes to the Fund or, if no such fund should exist, into the General Fund except as otherwise required by applicable law; provided, however, that the termination shall not operate to remove any use restrictions attached to any money in the Fund.

SECTION IX – REPEAL OF PRIOR LAW

- A. Repeal. Ordinance 2019-05-13, which was adopted on May 13, 2019, is hereby repealed in its entirety.
- B. Continuance.
 - 1. The provisions of Ordinance 2019-05-13 and predecessor Ordinances 1993-5-10, 1993-6-1, and 1993-6-14 shall be deemed to be substantially restated by this ordinance. To the extent that the provisions contained in this ordinance substantially restate the provisions of a prior ordinance, the provisions shall not be deemed a new enactment of the original provisions, but rather shall be deemed to be the continuation of the original provisions.
 - 2. The express or implied repeal or amendment by this ordinance of any other ordinance or part thereof does not affect any rights or liabilities accrued, penalties incurred, or proceedings begun prior to the effective date of this ordinance. Those rights, liabilities, and proceedings are continued, and penalties shall be imposed and enforced under the repealed or amended ordinance as if this ordinance had not been adopted.
 - 3. All rules and regulations adopted under any continued version of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect except as specifically provided otherwise.
- C. Revival Prohibited. The express or implied repeal or amendment by this ordinance of any other ordinance or resolution or part thereof shall not be construed to revive or move back any former ordinance, resolution, section, clause, provision, code header, or code section.

SECTION X – MISCELLANEOUS

- A. References.
 - 1. Except where a specific version or edition is given, reference to another section of this ordinance or to another law, document, fund, department, board, commission, public servant, or public office, shall extend and apply to the same, as may be subsequently amended, revised, recodified, renamed, reappointed, or renumbered from time to time.
 - 2. Reference in this ordinance to a law, document, fund, department, board, commission, program, public servant, or public office, either generally or by title, without reference to another jurisdiction, shall be construed as though it were preceded or followed, as appropriate, by the words "(of) LaGrange County (Indiana)."

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3. Should a provision of this ordinance require any action to be performed which, by law, an agent or deputy may do instead of the principal, the requirement is satisfied by the performance of the action by an authorized agent or deputy.
- B. Claims Barred. This ordinance is intended only to improve the internal management of the County. Notwithstanding anything in this ordinance to the contrary, nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to: (i) create any new legal duty, right, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable against the County; nor, (ii) waive or diminish any existing right, protection, immunity, defense, or limitation on liability that may apply to the County or any of its elected or appointed officials, employees, agents, or representatives under any law or regulation.
- C. Conflicts. No part of this ordinance shall be construed to conflict with any applicable local, state, or federal law, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same.
- D. Severability. Should any section or part thereof of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, nor any other portion thereof, and for this purpose the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.
- E. Promulgation. The Auditor is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this ordinance effective, including to send the DOR a certified copy of this ordinance immediately upon its adoption.
- F. Codification. To the extent a substantive change in meaning does not result, the codifier of ordinances may omit the Name, Recitals, Repeals, Miscellaneous, and Adoption sections of this ordinance from the official code, may renumber, reorder, or reorganize any section of this ordinance, and may alter references to and within this ordinance as appropriate.
- G. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. Jeff Campos made a motion to approve the Ordinance to increase the Innkeeper's tax. Mr. Jeff Brill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY'S PERSONNEL POLICIES HANDBOOK

Mrs. Jenny Landez, Human Resources Director, presented the following Joint Ordinance for consideration:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE
JOINT ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07-14-D

A JOINT ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW VERSION OF THE COUNTY'S PERSONNEL POLICIES HANDBOOK.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1-4-14, a unit may establish a system of employment for any class of employees based on merit and qualification;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaGrange ("Commissioners") and the LaGrange County Council ("Council"), on behalf of LaGrange County, Indiana ("County"), have adopted, and at times amended, various personnel policies and procedures; *and*

WHEREAS, the Commissioners and Council have determined that there is a need for an update to the County's *Personnel Policies Handbook* dated March 11, 2024, as adopted by Joint Ordinance 2024-05-13.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LAGRANGE AND BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA, JOINTLY, THAT:

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SECTION I – NAME

The name of this ordinance is the “Personnel Policies Handbook Adoption Ordinance.”

SECTION II – RECITALS

The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into this ordinance and found to be true, accurate, and correct.

SECTION III – HANDBOOK ADOPTION

- A. Definition. As used in this ordinance, “Handbook” means the *Personnel Policies Handbook* effectively dated July 14, 2025, as promulgated by the Human Resources Department, which is attached to this ordinance as Exhibit A.
- B. Purpose. The Handbook is issued to provide information about working conditions, employee benefits, general employee responsibilities, and some of the policies affecting employment with the County. The Handbook shall be used to provide a work environment that is conducive to both personal and professional growth.
- C. Approval; Adoption; Incorporation. The Handbook is hereby approved and adopted. The Handbook is incorporated into this ordinance by reference as if fully set out herein.
- D. Construction. Nothing in the Handbook is intended, nor shall be construed, to constitute an employment contract nor to change the “at-will” status of any County employee.

SECTION IV – REPEAL OF PRIOR LAW

- A. Repeal. Joint Ordinance 2024-05-13, which was adopted by the Commissioners on May 15, 2024 and by the Council on May 13, 2024, is hereby repealed in its entirety.
- B. Continuance.
 - 1. To the extent that the provisions contained in this ordinance substantially restate the provisions of a prior ordinance or resolution, the provisions shall not be deemed a new enactment of the original provisions, but rather shall be deemed to be the continuation of the original provisions.
 - 2. The express or implied repeal or amendment by this ordinance of any other ordinance or part thereof does not affect any rights or liabilities accrued, penalties incurred, or proceedings begun prior to the effective date of this ordinance. Those rights, liabilities, and proceedings are continued, and penalties shall be imposed and enforced under the repealed or amended ordinance as if this ordinance had not been adopted.
 - 3. All rules and regulations adopted under any continued version of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect except as specifically directed otherwise.
- C. Revival Prohibited. The express or implied repeal or amendment by this ordinance of any other ordinance or resolution or part thereof shall not be construed to revive any former ordinance, resolution, section, clause, or provision.

SECTION V – MISCELLANEOUS

- A. References.
 - 1. Except where a specific version or edition is given, reference to another section of this ordinance or to another law, document, fund, department, board, program, public servant, or public office, shall extend and apply to the same, as may be subsequently amended, revised, recodified, renamed, reappointed, or renumbered from

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time to time.

2. Reference in this ordinance to a law, document, fund, department, board, program, public servant, or public office, either generally or by title, without reference to another jurisdiction, shall be construed as though it were preceded or followed, as appropriate, by the words “(of) LaGrange County (Indiana).”
 3. Should a provision of this ordinance require any action to be performed which, by law, an agent or deputy may do instead of the principal, the requirement is satisfied by the performance of the action by an authorized agent or deputy.
- B. Claims Barred. This ordinance is intended only to improve the internal management of the County. Notwithstanding anything in this ordinance to the contrary, nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to: (i) create any new legal duty, right, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable against the County; nor, (ii) waive or diminish any existing right, protection, immunity, defense, or limitation on liability that may apply to the County or any of its elected or appointed officials, employees, agents, or representatives under any law or regulation.
- C. Conflicts. No part of this ordinance shall be construed to conflict with any applicable local, state, or federal law, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same. In case of conflict, the Wage and Salary Ordinance controls over this ordinance.
- D. Severability. Should any section or part thereof of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, nor any other portion thereof, and for this purpose the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.
- E. Incorporated Materials. Two (2) copies of all materials incorporated by reference in this ordinance shall be on file in the Office of the County Auditor for public inspection.
- F. Promulgation. The Auditor is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this ordinance effective.
- G. Codification. The codifier of ordinances should not codify the Handbook in full, but rather should simply codify Section III of this ordinance.
- H. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption

Mr. Jeff Campos made a motion to approve the Ordinance Adopting a New Version of the County’s Personnel Policies Handbook. Mrs. Karen Eagleson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE

Mrs. Jenny Landez, Human Resources Director, presented the following Amendment to the Salary Ordinance:

AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2025

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED THAT the following changes be made in the LaGrange County Salary Ordinance for the year 2025:

REQUESTED

1000 COUNTY GENERAL - 911

1000.10615.00000.0062 Dispatch Training Officer	Up to \$26.59/ week Up to 40 hours/ week
-------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

This position is replacing 1 of the Assistant IDACC Coordinator positions.

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1000 COUNTY GENERAL - 911
1000.10004.00000.0000 Dispatcher

Up to \$25.92/ week
Up to 40 hours/ week

This is until 1 of the dispatchers moves to Dispatch Supervisor position and then this position will go away

Effective: 07/14/2025

9190 DROWNING PREVENTION GRANT
9190.10019.00000.0000 Swim Instructors

Up to \$15.75/ week
Up to 40 hours/ week

Effective: 06/01/2025

Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance Amendment. Mr. Harold Gingerich seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Harold Gingerich seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE

Mrs. Jenny Landez, Human Resources Director, presented the following Amendment to the Salary Ordinance:

AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2025

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED THAT the following changes be made in the LaGrange County Salary Ordinance for the year 2025:

REQUESTED

1000 COUNTY GENERAL - CLERK
1000.13001.00000.0062 Election/Canvassing Board

Up to \$1000/ year
To be paid in 2 payments
in Non-General Election
Year

January- June \$500
July- December \$500

The Salary Ordinance Amendment for the Clerk's Election/Canvassing Board dies for lack of motion.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Jim Young presented the following Ordinance of Additional Appropriations:

ORDINANCE OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget, now THEREFORE:

Sec 1: Be it ordained by the LaGrange County Council, LaGrange, Indiana, that for the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

1179 PARK NON-REVERTING
1179-20401-0000 Herbicide & Seed

**REQUESTED
AMOUNT**

\$ 2,000.00

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<u>1191 RIVERBOAT</u>	
1191-10209-0000 Vehicle Engine	6,000.00
<u>1237 OPIOD RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>	
1237-59702-0000 Transfer of Grant Match	150,000.00
<u>4907 PARKS – LCCF GRANT – FOREST SCHOOL</u>	
4907-20008-0000 Forest School Supplies	130.41

Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriations. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

LEGAL CLAIMS

Mr. Harold Gingerich presented the legal claims in the amount of \$22,902.25 for May 2025, from Beers Mallers. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve the legal claims. Mr. Mike Strawser seconded the motion. Mr. Mike Strawser proposed an amendment to allow the Convention and Tourism Board to reimburse for the legal claims associated with the Innkeeper’s Tax. Mr. Harold Gingerich seconded the amended motion and it carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS

Mr. Jim Young read the following Resolution to Transfer Funds:

	<u>DECREASE</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL - COUNTY ELECTION BOARD</u>		
1000-13301-0062 Traveling Board	\$ 10.00	
1000-13400-0062 Central Count Board		\$ 10.00
<u>COUNTY GENERAL- BUILDING DEPT</u>		
1000-20019-0312 Office Supply	310.00	
1000-40005-0312 Equipment		310.00
<u>COUNTY GENERAL - GIS</u>		
1000-20019-0753 Office Equipment	400.00	
1000-40005-0753 Equipment		400.00
1000-10221-0753 Scanning Tech Assistant	2,400.00	
1000-15001-0753 Extra Hours / OT		2,400.00
<u>1179 PARKS NON-REVERTING OPERATING</u>		
1179-30620-0000 Maple Syrup Festival	300.00	
1179-40510-0000 Well System		300.00
1179-40909-0000 Tetrick Property Purchase	2,000.00	
1179-40902-0000 Memorial Benches		1,000.00
1179-40112-0000 Picnic Tables		1,000.00
<u>1219 PARK & RECREATION</u>		
1219-30501-0000 Building / Equipment Repairs	599.99	
1219-30606-0000 Demolition	500.00	
1219-40005-0000 Equipment		599.99

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1219-20401-0000	Herbicide & Seed		500.00
1219-30422-0000	Security Systems	529.99	
1219-40609-0000	Water Softener		529.99
<u>4920 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT</u>			
4920-40003-0000	Computer Equipment	2,098.25	
4920-30338-0000	Warranties		2,098.25


Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to approve the Resolution to Transfer Funds. Mr. Jeff Brill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MINUTES

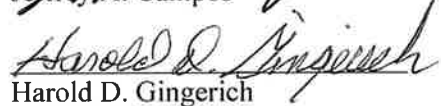
Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to approve the June 9, 2025 regular session minutes. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

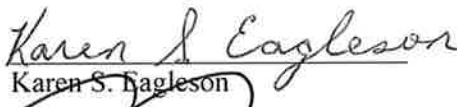
ADJOURNMENT

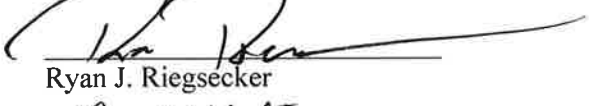
There being nothing further to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to adjourn and meet on any subsequent day necessary to carry on the business of the Board. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

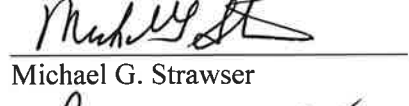

Jeffrey L. Brill

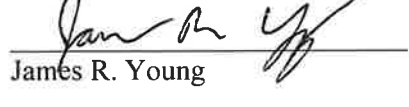

Jeffrey A. Campos


Harold D. Gingerich

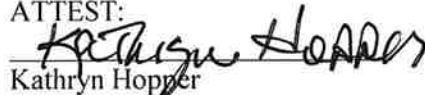

Karen S. Eagleson


Ryan J. Riegsecker


Michael G. Strawser


James R. Young

ATTEST:


Kathryn Hopper
LaGrange County Auditor

