

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

REGULAR SESSION

The LaGrange County Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in their meeting room, County Office Building, 114 W. Michigan Street, LaGrange, Indiana, 46761, at 8:30 a.m., with the following present: Commissioners, Mr. Terry A. Martin, Mr. Peter A. Cook, and Mr. Kevin R. Myers; and LaGrange County Auditor, Kathryn Hopper. Mr. Terry Martin, President, called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to adopt the proposed agenda with flexibility. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

JOINT SESSION

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, asked if the Commissioners and Council would like to have a joint session to discuss the Major Moves Construction fund. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to advertise an additional appropriation out of the Major Moves Construction fund for the proposed construction of a new highway facility and to hold a joint session on March 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

SHERIFF – JAIL PARKING LOT RESURFACING

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, explained that the parking lot at the Sheriff's office is in need of repaving. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to find that the project is a routine maintenance project and to proceed with the requests for quotes process. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

SECURITY AUTOMATION SYSTEMS – INTERCOM STATION REPLACEMENTS

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, presented a contract from Security Automation Systems to replace the intercom call stations and to also replace 26 ceiling speakers for \$36,400. This would be paid for out of the Commissary Fund. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the contract to authorize the president to sign the contract. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

SHERIFF -LEXIPOL CONTRACT

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, explained that the Sheriff would like to terminate the contract with Lexipol. This is for the software system used at the Sheriff's office for the standard operating procedures. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to authorize the County Attorney to prepare a letter terminating the contract. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COUNTY JAIL WORK RELEASE PROGRAM FEES

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, presented the following Ordinance for consideration:

LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02-17 A

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COUNTY JAIL WORK RELEASE PROGRAM FEES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code ("IC") 36-2-2-24, the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaGrange ("Commissioners"), as the LaGrange County ("County") executive, have established and continue to maintain a county jail ("Jail");

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 11-12-5-2, the LaGrange County Sheriff ("Sheriff") has established a program whereby persons who have been committed to the Jail upon conviction of a crime or adjudication of contempt may be temporarily released from custody to work;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 11-12-5-3(4)-(5), the earnings of a person employed under a temporary prisoner work release program, unless otherwise ordered by the court, shall be distributed in part and as available to pay for the person's room and board provided by the County and other work-related incidental expenses;

WHEREAS, participation in the work release program necessarily entails several work-related incidental expenses for services that the Jail provides as part of the program;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 35-33-11-1(h), whenever an inmate is transferred to the Jail from another county, that county shall pay a per diem consisting of the average daily cost of housing the inmate at the Jail, as well as personnel costs and the costs of health care, transport, and other costs incurred as a direct result of the confinement;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-1-3 (“Home Rule”), a unit in the State of Indiana has all powers granted it by statute and all other powers necessary or desirable in the conduct of its affairs, even though not granted by statute, and may exercise those powers to the extent that the power: (i) is not expressly denied by the Indiana Constitution or by statute; and (ii) is not expressly granted to another entity; *and*

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 2017-09-05 A and predecessor ordinances, the Commissioners established fees for the work release program, authorized mandatory reimbursement for prisoner housing costs, and now desire to amend and restate the fee ordinance.

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

SECTION I – NAME

The name of this ordinance is the “Work Release Fee Ordinance” or the “Fee Ordinance” where the context is obvious.

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. “County inmate” refers to an inmate sentenced by the County courts under a felony or misdemeanor conviction, including an inmate who is subsequently transferred to another county under IC 35-33-11-3.
 - 2. “IDOC” refers to the Indiana Department of Corrections.
 - 3. “Inmate transfer” refers to an inmate of a federal government agency, the Indiana Department of Corrections, or another county who has been transferred to the Jail under an agreement to incarcerate such an inmate.
 - 4. “Jail” refers to the LaGrange County Jail.
 - 5. “Jail inmate” refers to either a County inmate or an inmate transfer, as determined by the context.
 - 6. “Jail’s per diem cost” means the average daily amount that the County spends to incarcerate a Jail inmate, as determined by the County Council from time to time (such determination is hereby incorporated into this definition by reference).
- B. Arbitrator. The Commissioners shall be solely responsible for determining the meaning of the terms in this section.
- C. Interpretation. The fees established under this ordinance are cumulative and in addition to any other fee (e.g., costs reasonably necessary to maintain the health and welfare of inmate transfers) that may be charged pursuant to other applicable federal, state, or local law.

SECTION IV – PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT FEES

- A. IDOC Transfers. The Sheriff shall charge the IDOC each day a Prisoner Reimbursement Fee in an agreed-upon amount (to include the Jail’s per diem cost) for each IDOC inmate transfer to pay for their custody, care, confinement, or treatment or for the provision of other correctional or related services.

- B. Other Inmate Transfers. The Sheriff shall charge a daily Prisoner Reimbursement Fee in an agreed-upon amount (to include the Jail's per diem cost) to a federal government agency or other county for each of their respective inmate transfers.
- C. Accounting. Any fees collected pursuant to this section shall be accounted for by the Sheriff and deposited no later than the then-next business day into the Prisoner Reimbursement Fund.

SECTION V – WORK RELEASE PROGRAM FEES

- A. Scope. This section does not apply to any Jail inmate explicitly referenced in IC 11-12-5-4 (currently, certain probation inmates only).
- B. Program Acceptance Fees. The Sheriff shall charge the following Program Acceptance Fees for participation in the Jail's work release program:
 - 1. for County inmates, a fee in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00);
 - 2. for inmate transfers a fee in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).
- C. Drug-Testing Fees. The Sheriff shall charge any Jail inmate who participates in the Jail's work release program a monthly Drug-Testing Fee in the amount of Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35.00).
- D. Supervision Fees. The Sheriff shall charge a weekly Supervision Fee to each Jail inmate who participates in the Jail's work release program in an amount equal to One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$125.00) or twenty-eight per cent (28%) of the inmate's gross wages earned during the previous week, whichever is greater. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the maximum weekly amount to be charged under this subsection shall not exceed Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$350.00).
- E. Accounting. Any fees collected pursuant to this section shall be accounted for by the Sheriff and deposited no later than the then-next business day into the Work Release Maintenance Fee Fund.

SECTION VII – REPEAL OF PRIOR LAW

- A. Repeal. Ordinance 2017-09-05 A, which was adopted on September 5, 2017, is hereby repealed in its entirety.
- B. Continuance.
 - 1. The monies existing in the Fund as of the adoption of this ordinance shall remain in the Fund until otherwise disbursed in accordance with law.
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. 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.
 - 4. 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 any former ordinance, resolution, section, clause, or provision.

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SECTION VIII – 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 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 the) County of LaGrange (Indiana).”
3. Should a provision of this ordinance 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 the authorized agent or deputy.

B. 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR VETERANS AND PROCEDURES FOR FILING OF CLAIMS THEREFOR

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, presented the following Ordinance for consideration:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE, INDIANA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02-17 B

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR VETERANS AND PROCEDURES FOR FILING OF CLAIMS THEREFOR

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code 10-17-10 (“Act”), the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaGrange (“Commissioners”), on behalf of LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”), has a duty to hear and determine claims to provide financial support for the funeral and burial of certain members of the Armed Forces up to an amount set by ordinance; *and*

WHEREAS, the Commissioners desire to establish a procedure for the processing of claims received pursuant to the Act.

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

SECTION I – NAME

The name of this ordinance shall be the “Veterans’ Burial Allowance Ordinance.”

SECTION II – RECITALS

The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into and made a part of 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. “Armed Forces” means the military forces of the United States of America, including the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Space Force, the Coast Guard, and the National Guard.
 2. “Claim” means any claim for burial allowance that involves the reimbursement of funeral and/or grave marker expenses and that has been, or is ready to be, filed on behalf of a Qualified Veteran in accordance with the requirements of this ordinance.
 3. “Qualified Veteran” means any natural person who:
 - a. served as a soldier, sailor, or marine in the Armed Forces;
 - b. died:
 - i. while being a member of the Armed Forces and before discharge therefrom; *or*
 - ii. after having received an honorable discharge from the Armed Forces;
 - c. was at the time of his or her death either:
 - i. a resident of the County; *or*
 - ii. an Indiana resident who would have been a resident of the County but for having moved out of the County for medical reasons; *and*
 - d. has not previously been allowed a claim for burial allowance for veterans from any other state or local government.
- B. Arbiter. The Commissioners shall be solely responsible for determining the meaning of the terms in this section.

SECTION IV – ALLOWANCE

- A. Amounts. A claim shall be eligible for reimbursement in an amount up to \$1,000.00 for funeral expenses and/or for the setting of a grave marker.
- B. Status. A claim allowed pursuant to this ordinance shall be considered a gift.

SECTION V – FILING OF CLAIMS

- A. Claimant. Any interested person (such as a personal representative, heir, devisee, legatee, executor, or funeral home) who has incurred funeral and/or grave marker expenses on behalf of a Qualified Veteran may file a claim with the Commissioners.
- B. Contents. A claim must be in writing and include:
1. the branch(es) of the Armed Forces in which the Qualified Veteran served;
 2. the date(s) of the Qualified Veteran’s service;
 3. the date of the Qualified Veteran’s death;
 4. the date of final discharge, if the Qualified Veteran was discharged before death;

5. the name of the cemetery or burial ground in which the body of the Qualified Veteran was buried in a decent and respectable manner or else a statement that the body has been cremated and that the respective cremains have not been interred;
 6. a copy of the Qualified Veteran's death certificate;
 7. a copy of the Qualified Veteran's notice of discharge;
 8. if applicable, a copy of a marriage certificate that was valid at the time of death; *and*
 9. one or more receipts, invoices, or forms approved by the state board of accounts that show that the claimant has incurred funeral and/or grave marker expenses on behalf of a Qualified Veteran in at least the amount claimed.
- C. Timing. In order to be allowed, a claim must be received:
1. within 2 years after the Qualified Veteran's date of death; *or*
 2. more than 2 years after the Qualified Veteran's date of death, if in accordance with related federal guidelines (e.g., 38 USC § 2301 et seq. and 38 CFR Part 3, Subpart B).

SECTION VI – CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

- A. Issues Considered. The Commissioners shall hear each claim at an appropriate time and determine whether the facts averred therein are true, whether the subject is a Qualified Veteran, and whether the claim should be allowed.
- B. Final Decision. The Commissioners shall allow or deny each claim heard by majority vote either on an individual-claim basis or collectively along with other claims.
- C. Payment. For each claim that has been allowed, the County shall issue to the claimant a check for reimbursement in a corresponding amount.

SECTION VII – ADMINISTRATION

The Auditor is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to process a claim, execute related documents, and to otherwise effectuate this ordinance.

SECTION VIII – REPEAL OF PRIOR LAW

- A. Repeal. Ordinance 2021-07-06-B, which was adopted on July 6, 2021, is hereby repealed in its entirety.
- B. Continuance.
- a. 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.
 - b. 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, authorizations granted, or proceedings begun prior to the effective date of this ordinance. Those rights, liabilities, authorizations, 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.
- 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 IX – 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 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 the 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, benefit, or guarantee, 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.

F. Codification. To the extent that 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 suitably alter references to and within this ordinance.

G. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - RODNEY D. HOWE, 111050 E 350 S, LAGRANGE, INDIANA

Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, explained that the property owned by Rodney D. Howe, 11105 E 350 S, LaGrange, Indiana, has been the subject at numerous Health Department meetings. The Health Officer has issued numerous orders to the owner regarding his property condition. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to authorize the County Attorney to file complaint against him on behalf of the Health Department.

PAGERS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Stewart Bender, Topeka Fire Chief, explained that three quotes were received at the February 2, 2026 Commissioners' meeting for pagers for the County Fire Departments. The lowest quote is from J & K Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$125,429.43 for 139 pagers. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the purchase subject to the County Council's approval of an additional appropriation and have the president sign outside of the regular meeting. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

LAGRANGE COUNTY HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to appoint Cathy Przybyla to the LaGrange County Board of Health until December 31, 2029. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

SHERIFF - OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST

Mr. Tracy Harker, County Sheriff, requested permission to have his detective travel out of state in his commissioned vehicle for training. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the out of state travel. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

COUNCIL ON AGING – TRANSPORTATION GRANT

Mrs. Cheri Perkins, Council on Aging Executive Director, presented the 4th quarter voucher for the transportation grant. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the voucher and have the president sign the voucher. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

COUNCIL ON AGING – YEAR END REPORT

Mrs. Cheri Perkins, Council on Aging Executive Director, presented a year-end report for 2025.

REGION 3A – INDIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS GRANT

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to have Ms. Sandra Tamez, Region 3A Executive Director, conduct the public hearing for the Inspiration Ministries, Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) grant. At 9:00 a.m. Ms. Tamez opened the public hearing for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) grant. The grant is in the amount of \$750,000. The deadline for the submission of the grant is February 22, 2026. She explained what the housing will offer. She asked if there were any comments from the public. Several individuals spoke in favor of the facility. Ms. Tamez concluded the public hearing. Mr. Kurt Bachman, County Attorney, explained that the County passed a resolution on December 15, 2025, when the first public hearing was held. He is concerned about the potential legal consequences and risk associated with the grant. The Commissioners expressed concern as to the risks associated with the grant.

Mr. Martin explained that this project is a priority for the County and that the County is committed to meeting all OCRA requirements. Mr. Terry Martin closed the public hearing.

GOVERNMENT UTILITIES TECHNOLOGY SERVICE, INC – TAX SALE

Mrs. Connie Brower, County Treasurer, presented an addendum to the contract with Government Utilities Technology (GUTS) for January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve and authorize the president to sign the addendum. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OLD DITCH PROJECT BILLS

Mrs. Connie Brower, County Treasurer, explained that she has two ditch project bills that she is requesting permission to write off. One is from a 2013 Woodland Hills project in the amount of \$1,259.28 and the other is a 2017 Orland Brock project in the amount of \$714.61. She has spoken with the County Surveyor and he is in agreement with this. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to write off the ditch bills. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PURDUE EXTENSION – COPY MACHINE

Mr. Jeff Burbrink, County Extension Director, requested permission to purchase a new copier for the Purdue Extension office. The one they currently are using is 8 years old. The cost is \$16,028.60 and Purdue will cover the cost with the exception of \$6,000.00. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve \$6,000.00 towards the copier out of the Cumulative Capital Development fund. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MIDWEST PRESORT AGREEMENT – FORM 11’s

Ms. Kelly Grimes, County Assessor Office Manager, presented an agreement with Midwest Presort for the Form 11’s that the County Assessor issues. The estimated cost is \$14,576.22. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve and authorize the president to sign the agreement. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PARKS – REFINISH FLOORS AND TABLES AT PINE KNOB PARK

Mrs. Mary Franke, Park Director, explained that she would like to have the floors and tables at Pine Knob park refinished. She presented three quotes. The lowest quote is from Stoney Acres Woodworking, LLC in the amount of \$6,362.00. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Mrs. Robbie Miller, Plan Administrator, presented the following Ordinance for consideration:

**LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02-17 C**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TEXT OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING OR AMENDING CERTAIN REGULATIONS REGARDING DEVELOPMENTAL STANDARDS, USE STANDARDS, AND/OR DEFINITIONS

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2024, pursuant to Indiana Code (“IC”) 36-7-4-606, the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaGrange (“Commissioners”) adopted the Unified Development Ordinance of LaGrange County, Indiana (Ordinance 2024-08-19-A or “UDO”);

WHEREAS, the UDO is the zoning ordinance for LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(b)(1), after the zoning ordinance for a jurisdiction has been adopted, a proposal to amend the text of the UDO may be initiated by the Plan Commission;

WHEREAS, the Proposed Text Amendments to the UDO (“Proposal”) is available for inspection in the Office of the Zoning Administrator for public inspection and is further shown in approximate, unofficial form in Exhibit A, which is attached to this ordinance;

WHEREAS, the LaGrange County Plan Commission (“Plan Commission”) desires to adopt the stated Proposal, and update the UDO accordingly.

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(b)(4), after having provided legal notice to all interested parties in accordance with IC 36-7-4-604, the Plan Commission conducted a public hearing on the Proposal;

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(b)(5) and IC 36-7-4-605, a copy of the Proposal, which is hereby incorporated by reference, was certified to the Commissioners with a favorable recommendation as to adoption;

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WHEREAS, on February 17, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(b)(6) and IC 36-7-4-607.5, the Commissioners considered the Proposal at its regular meeting, after first having given notice under IC 5-14-1.5-5 of its intention to consider the Proposal at the meeting;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-603, in preparing and considering the Proposal, both the Plan Commission and Commissioners have paid reasonable regard to the statutory criteria set forth therein; *and*

WHEREAS, a motion to adopt this ordinance was substantively introduced and seconded by members of the Commissioners constituting a legal quorum present at a public meeting, which was duly called pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 by a notice stating its date, time, place, and purpose.

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

SECTION I – TEXT AMENDMENT

- A. Recitals. The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into, and made a part of, this ordinance and found to be true, accurate, and correct.
- B. Proposal. The certified Proposal is hereby approved and adopted.
- C. Text Amendment. The proposed text amendments, which are incorporated by reference, are hereby accepted, and the UDO shall be updated and amended to be consistent with the text provided in the Proposal.

SECTION II – MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Repeal of Prior Law. All other provisions of ordinances and resolutions previously adopted are hereby repealed to the extent they are inconsistent with or in conflict with this ordinance but only to such extent.
- B. Conflicts. No part of this ordinance shall be interpreted to conflict with any local, state, or federal laws, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same.
- C. 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.
- D. Incorporated Materials. Two (2) copies of all materials incorporated by reference herein shall be on file in the Office of the County Auditor for public inspection.
- E. Promulgation. The County Zoning Administrator and Auditor are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this ordinance effective.
- F. Codification. The codifier of ordinances shall omit codification of this ordinance.
- G. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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AMENDMENT TO THE MAP OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Mrs. Robbie Miller, Plan Administrator, presented the following Ordinance for consideration:

LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02-17 D

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MAPS OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION AND USES ALLOWED ON THE PARTICULAR REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2024, pursuant to Indiana Code (“IC”) 36-7-4-606, the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaGrange (“Commissioners”) adopted the Unified Development Ordinance of LaGrange County, Indiana (Ordinance 2024-08-19-A or “UDO”);

WHEREAS, the UDO is the zoning ordinance for LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”) and incorporates by reference the various zoning maps and classifications of the County;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(c)(1)(B), after the zoning ordinance for a jurisdiction has been adopted, a proposal to change the zoning maps with respect to a specified area of the County may be initiated by a petition signed by property owners who own at least 50% of the land involved;

WHEREAS, Schmidt, Wilbur G & Mary Emma Trustee ea ½ int Wilbur G Schmidt Revocable Trust & Mary Emma Schmidt Revocable Trust (collectively, “Landowner”) has at least a 50% ownership interest in the real property located at N SR 9., Howe, IN 46746 identified as Parcels 44-03-13-400-009.000-012 in the records of the Office of the County Auditor, and more particularly described as follows:

Situated in the County of LaGrange, State of Indiana, described as follows:

A tract of land out of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter Section 13, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Lima Township, Lagrange County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the southeast corner of said Section 13; thence North 1 degree 25 minutes 46 seconds West on the East line of said Section 13, 654.08 feet to the place of beginning; thence, South 88 degrees 34 minutes 14 seconds West 644.80 feet; thence, North 12 degrees 56 minutes 42 seconds East 535.17 feet; thence North 88 degrees 04 minutes 12 seconds East 535.65 feet to the East line of said Section 13; thence, South 1 degree 25 minutes 46 seconds East 540.66 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 7.31 acres more or less.

(the “Real Estate”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 13.03 and 13.04 of the UDO, Landowner has caused a completed application to be filed with the Zoning Administrator to amend the zoning maps of the UDO such that the Real Estate be reclassified from B-3 to I-1 (“Proposal”);

WHEREAS, on February 10th, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(c)(4) and -608(b), after having provided legal notice to all interested parties in accordance with IC 36-7-4-604, the LaGrange County Plan Commission (“Plan Commission”) conducted a public hearing on the Proposal;

WHEREAS, on February 10th, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(c)(5) and IC 36-7-4-605, a copy of the Proposal, which is hereby incorporated by reference, was certified to the Commissioners with a favorable recommendation;

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WHEREAS, on February 17th, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(c)(6) and IC 36-7-4-608, the Commissioners considered the Proposal at its regular meeting, after first having given notice under IC 5-14-1.5-5 of its intention to consider the Proposal at the meeting;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-603, in preparing and considering the Proposal, both the Plan Commission and Commissioners have paid reasonable regard to the statutory criteria set forth therein; *and*

WHEREAS, a motion to adopt this ordinance was substantively introduced and seconded by members of the Commissioners constituting a legal quorum present at a public meeting, which was duly called pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 by a notice stating its date, time, place, and purpose.

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

SECTION I – MAP AMENDMENT

- A. Recitals. The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into, and made a part of, this ordinance and found to be true, accurate, and correct.
- B. Proposal. The certified Proposal is hereby approved and adopted.
- C. Rezone. The UDO zoning maps, which are incorporated by reference, are hereby amended, and shall be redrawn as necessary, to show that the Real Estate is rezoned as stated in the Proposal.

SECTION II – MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Repeal of Prior Law. All other provisions of ordinances and resolutions previously adopted are hereby repealed to the extent they are inconsistent with or in conflict with this ordinance but only to such extent.
- B. Conflicts. No part of this ordinance shall be interpreted to conflict with any local, state, or federal laws, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same.
- C. 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.
- D. Incorporated Materials. Two (2) copies of all materials incorporated by reference herein shall be on file in the Office of the County Auditor for public inspection.
- E. Promulgation. The County Zoning Administrator and Auditor are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this ordinance effective.
- F. Codification. The codifier of ordinances shall omit codification of this ordinance.
- G. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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REGULAR SESSION

AMENDMENT TO MAPS OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Mrs. Robbie Miller, Plan Administrator, presented the following Ordinance for consideration:

LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02-17 E

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MAPS OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION AND USES ALLOWED ON THE PARTICULAR REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2024, pursuant to Indiana Code (“IC”) 36-7-4-606, the Board of Commissioners of the County of LaGrange (“Commissioners”) adopted the Unified Development Ordinance of LaGrange County, Indiana (Ordinance 2024-08-19-A or “UDO”);

WHEREAS, the UDO is the zoning ordinance for LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”) and incorporates by reference the various zoning maps and classifications of the County;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(c)(1)(B), after the zoning ordinance for a jurisdiction has been adopted, a proposal to change the zoning maps with respect to a specified area of the County may be initiated by a petition signed by property owners who own at least 50% of the land involved;

WHEREAS, RH Yoder Enterprises, LLC & Yoder, Richard D & Melinda A (collectively, “Landowner”) has at least a 50% ownership interest in the real property located at S 1100 W, 2365 S 1100 W & 2375 S 1100 W, Shipshewana, IN identified as Parcels 44-12-05-100-017.000-007, 44-12-05-100-010.001-007 & 44-12-05-100-010.000-007 in the records of the Office of the County Auditor, and more particularly described as follows:

Situated in the County of LaGrange, State of Indiana, described as follows:

A tract of land located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 05, Township 36 North, Range 08 East, in Eden Civil Township, LaGrange County, the State of Indiana. Said tract being an Original Survey as prepared by Scott D. Zeigler, PS #LS29600008, dba Hand to the Plow Surveying, LLC; 5678 West – 350 South, Albion, Indiana 46701, being represented as Plat of Survey #36-08-05-400-002. Said tract being all of those tracts of land conveyed to Richard D. and Melinda A. Yoder, as described in LaGrange County Document Number 02040320, and to R.H. Yoder Enterprises LLC, as described in LaGrange County Document Numbers 14070541 and 11120657, and all of Lot 1 in the Plat of R H Yoder Enterprises, as described in LaGrange County Plat Book 24, Page 40, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at the Northwest Corner of said Northwest Quarter (Pt#17083), said point being 0.12 feet South of a Harrison Marker (Pt#3513); thence South 01 degrees 08 minutes 59 seconds East (Grid-Indiana GCS-LaGrange County), along the West line of said Northwest Quarter, for 1320.52 feet (recorded as South 00 degrees 26 minutes 17 seconds East for 1320.52 feet and South 01 degrees 17 minutes 28 seconds East for 1320.56 feet) to the Northwest corner of said R.H. Yoder Enterprises tract, said point also being the Southwest corner of a tract of land conveyed to Glen Joe and Doris K. Miller, as described in LaGrange County Document Number 06020549, said point being marked by a Zeigler Marker Spike (Pt#17086) and being the Point of Beginning for this description; thence North 89 degrees 40 minutes 10 seconds East, through the center points at the top of two Wood Corner Posts held for line (Pts#17093 and 17092) and along the common line of said R.H. Yoder Enterprises and Miller tracts and the South line of a tract of land conveyed to Lamar D. and Christine F. Yoder, as described in LaGrange County Document Number 16070060, for 947.38 feet (Recorded as North 89 degrees 31 minutes 35 seconds East for 947.50 feet) to a #5 No-Cap Rebar at the Northeast corner of said R.H. Yoder Enterprises tract (Pt#17058); thence South 01 degrees 10 minutes 23 seconds East, along a common line of said R.H. Yoder Enterprises and Lamar Yoder tracts, for 456.78 feet (recorded as South 01 degrees 17 minutes 58 seconds East for 456.72 feet) to a #5

Taylor rebar at the Southeast corner of said R.H. Yoder Enterprises tract of land, said point also be a point on the North line of said Richard Yoder tract of land (Pt#17061); thence North 89 degrees 16 minutes 52 seconds East, along a common line of said Richard Yoder and Lamar Yoder tracts, to the Northeast corner of said Richard Yoder tract (Pt#17094), said point being 0.42 feet North and 2.33 feet East of the center point at the top of a Wood Corner Post (Pt#17064); thence South 02 degrees 26 minutes 37 seconds East, along a common line of said Richard Yoder and Lamar Yoder tracts, for 429.31 feet (Recorded as South 00 degrees 06 minutes 11 seconds West, for 428.96 feet), to a #5 Justice Rebar at the Southeast corner of said Richard Yoder tract, said point also being the Northeast corner of a tract of land conveyed to Floyd M. and Lisa Jane Graber, as described in LaGrange County Document Number 17060499 (Pt#17081); South 89 degrees 16 minutes 53 seconds West, along the common line of said Richard Yoder and Graber tracts, for 1328.13 feet to the common corner thereof, said point also being a point on the West line of said Northwest

Quarter and marked by a Zeigler Marker Spike (Pt#17090); thence North 01 degrees 08 minutes 59 seconds West (Recorded as North 00 degrees 26 minutes 17 seconds West, North 00 degrees 25 minutes 26 seconds West, and North 01 degrees 17 minutes 28 seconds West), along the West line of said Northwest Quarter, said line also being the West line of said Richard Yoder and R.H. Yoder Enterprises tracts and said Lot 1 in R.H. Yoder Enterprises Subdivision, for a record distance of 892.32 feet to the Point of Beginning, said tract containing 23.04 Acres, more or less, and being subject to all road right-of-ways and easements of record.

(collectively, the “Real Estate”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 13.03 and 13.04 of the UDO, Landowner has caused a completed application to be filed with the Zoning Administrator to amend the zoning maps of the UDO such that the Real Estate be reclassified from A-2 to PUD (“Proposal”);

WHEREAS, on February 10th, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(c)(4) and -608(b), after having provided legal notice to all interested parties in accordance with IC 36-7-4-604, the LaGrange County Plan Commission (“Plan Commission”) conducted a public hearing on the Proposal;

WHEREAS, on February 10th, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(c)(5) and IC 36-7-4-605, a copy of the Proposal, which is hereby incorporated by reference, was certified to the Commissioners with a favorable recommendation;

WHEREAS, on February 17th, 2026, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-602(c)(6) and IC 36-7-4-608, the Commissioners considered the Proposal at its regular meeting, after first having given notice under IC 5-14-1.5-5 of its intention to consider the Proposal at the meeting;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-7-4-603, in preparing and considering the Proposal, both the Plan Commission and Commissioners have paid reasonable regard to the statutory criteria set forth therein; *and*

WHEREAS, a motion to adopt this ordinance was substantively introduced and seconded by members of the Commissioners constituting a legal quorum present at a public meeting, which was duly called pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 by a notice stating its date, time, place, and purpose.

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

SECTION I – MAP AMENDMENT

- A. Recitals. The foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, are hereby incorporated into, and made a part of, this ordinance and found to be true, accurate, and correct.
- B. Proposal. The certified Proposal is hereby approved and adopted.
- C. Rezone. The UDO zoning maps, which are incorporated by reference, are hereby amended, and shall be redrawn as necessary, to show that the Real Estate is rezoned as stated in the Proposal.

SECTION II – MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Repeal of Prior Law. All other provisions of ordinances and resolutions previously adopted are hereby repealed to the extent they are inconsistent with or in conflict with this ordinance but only to such extent.
- B. Conflicts. No part of this ordinance shall be interpreted to conflict with any local, state, or federal laws, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same.
- C. 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.
- D. Incorporated Materials. Two (2) copies of all materials incorporated by reference herein shall be on file in the Office of the County Auditor for public inspection.
- E. Promulgation. The County Zoning Administrator and Auditor are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this ordinance effective.
- F. Codification. The codifier of ordinances shall omit codification of this ordinance.
- G. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. Kathy Hopper, County Auditor, explained that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is an annual campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. The Prosecutor’s Victims Advocate Coordinator would like to use the Courthouse gazebo and lawn on April 14, 2026 for an event. April 29, 2026 is designated as Denim Day, and she would like permission to have County employees to wear denim that day in exchange for a donation to the LaGrange County Sheriff’s Office for transportation expenses to the Sexual Assault Treatment Center. She would like to do a chalk walk the week of April 6th to raise awareness to sexual assault . Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the activities. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

COUNTY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, presented the 2025 County Annual Financial Report. Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to accept the report. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, presented the financial statement for the month ending January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$55,610,568.26 and investments of \$19,652,340. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to accept the report. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, presented the Accounts Payable Vouchers. Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the vouchers. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. Peter Cook made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2026 regular session. Mr. Kevin Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

REGULAR SESSION

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Kevin Myers made a motion to approve the memorandum for the February 11, 2026 staff meeting and the February 11, 2026 executive session. Mr. Peter Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

LaGrange County Clerk of the Circuit Court – January 2026 report

LaGrange County Treasurer – January 2026 report

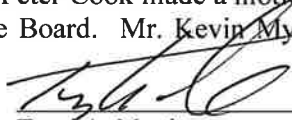
LaGrange County Surveyor – Letter to property owners regarding inspection of regulated drains

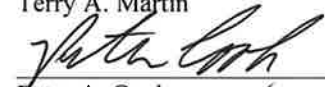
Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Notice of Approval, EKO Powder Coating, Inc,
3195 North, State Road 5, Shipshewana, IN 46765, Permit Number 087-49857-00744

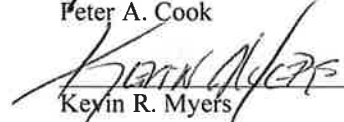
Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Notice of Approval, Spectrum Finishing LTD,
1340 Industrial Dr and 1185 US 20 W, LaGrange, IN 46761, Permit Number 087-49462-00060

ADJOURNMENT

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

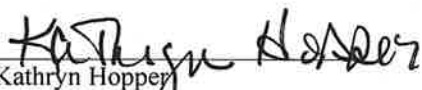


Terry A. Martin

Peter A. Cook

Kevin R. Myers

ATTEST:



Kathryn Hopper
LaGrange County Auditor