MINUTES
MARSHALL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026

BE REMEMBERED: That on Monday, July 13, 2026, the Marshall County Council met at a public meeting at the Marshall County Building, Room 203, 112 W. Jefferson Street, Plymouth, Indiana, at 5:30 p.m. pursuant to the call of President Tim Harman. The board members present were President Tim Harman, Vice President Nicole Cox, James Masterson, Deborah Johnson, Will Patterson, Brandon Schadek, and Greg Compton; Council Attorney Marcel Lebbin; and County Auditor, Angela C. Birchmeier.

The meeting streamed live at http://www.youtube.com/@MarshallCountyIN, James Masterson gave the Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance was said, and noting a quorum was present, the business at hand was heard.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The attendees did not have public input on agenda items.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Lebbin did not have any business to report.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: President Harman stated that a subcommittee meeting was not held but will be meeting soon. President Harman along with Members Schadek, Cox and Johnson attended a conference in Indianapolis concerning the local income tax structure proposed. He further indicated that the county looks extremely good on the funding right now and that the Governor has stated that he will be making local government whole from lost gas tax revenues.

Highway: Member Compton reported that he and Auditor Birchmeier met with the Highway Department and discussed the payment plan for the trucks, sale of the zipper to St. Joseph County, the emulsion tank, and the MVH Restricted Fund.

Job Classification & Compensation: Vice President Cox stated that two job classifications are still under review.

CENDER DALTON MUNICPAL ADVISORS

Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Managing Partner Steve Dalton provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed Local Income Tax Restructuring. He outlined the current breakdown of LIT for Marshall County, the proposed 2027 local income tax rate (consideration of 1.00% to Certified Shares, 0.20% to Jail Operations, 0.05% to PSAP/Court for a total rate of 1.25%.), and Projected 2027 Local Income Tax Distributions - All Units, and a Timetable for establishment of new local income tax, as follows:

Late July – Final Review of Statutory authority; confirm conversion from 0.25% Jail Bond LIT to 0.2% Jail Operations LIT and 0.05% PSAP and Court LITs.

August 1, 2026 – Submit draft documents for Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) review (30-days prior to Public Hearing/Adoption) per I.C. 6-3.6-3-2.

August 10, 2026 – First Reading of Income Tax Ordinance at County Council Meeting at 112 W. Jefferson Street, Room 203, Plymouth at 9:00 a.m.

September 14, 2026 – Conduct public hearing and adopt Ordinance Establishing and Repealing Special LIT.

September 15, 2026 – Certify action through County Auditor (must be done within 10 days of adoption per I.C. 6-3.6-3-5). Auditor will then send certified copies of documents to the Department of Revenue and Department of Local Government Finance.

January 1, 2027 – New LIT rates become effective.

MUSEUM

Museum Executive Director Sandy Garrison and Historical Archives Manager Thais Carillo presented the quarterly report. They presented the Board with a copy of the Crossroads newsletters, Historical Society Board of Trustee minutes, various flyers, and PowerPoint presentation. Director Garrison stated that the long range plan is to increase communications and they are pleased that they have over 700,000 views on social media, which is a significant increase. They highlighted the number of visitors, volunteer hours, events, and activities.

CASA

CASA Director Chastity Keller presented a request to apply for the Matching Grant in the amount of $15,843. The Matching Grant award is based on the statutory formula as outlined in I.C. 33-24-6-4 *et. seq.* The amount of the Matching Grant can vary from year to year, it is based on CHINS filings in both Marshall County and across the state. The grant does require a local county match of 85% of $13,467 (Director salary) and a 15% in-kind contribution (office space, internet, etc.).

Director Keller presented a request to apply for the Capacity Building Grant in the amount of $6,793. The Capacity Grant is discretionary and must be used to build the capacity of the program to serve more children and eliminate the number of children waiting for a GAL/CASA. This grant does not require matching funds.

Director Keller provided a department update, highlighting the donations received, number of volunteers, number of children assigned and unassigned, Department of Child Service calls, and case hours.

Will Patterson moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the request for CASA to apply for the Matching Grant and Capacity Building Grant, as presented.
Motion carried 7-0.

MARSHALL COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Marshall County Economic Development Corporation President/CEO Greg Hildebrand provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Activities, Updates, and Perspectives, Current Economic Conditions, Marshall County Progress, Current Projects and Activities, Business Retention & Expansion, Workforce Development, and Additional Projects Moving Forward.

President Harman discussed the natural gas plant proposed in Lapaz.

COUNCIL ITEMS

Ordinance 2026-(7) Additional Appropriations**:** The Auditor posted the Notice of Proposed Additional Appropriations on Gateway, the county website, and bulletin boards on June 22, 2026.

General / Sheriff (1000-0005): **Brandon Schadek moved, second by James Masterson, to approve the additional appropriation request of $19,136 into Vehicle Repair. Motion carried 7-0.**

General / Superior Court 3 (1000-0203): **Greg Compton moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to approve the additional appropriation request of $1,500 into Court Appointed Doctors. Motion carried 7-0.**

Ordinance 2026-2(6): Transfer of Appropriations**:**
MVH / MVH Restricted (1176-0531 / 1173-0531): **James Masterson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the transfer of $16,388 from MVH Wages-Heavy Equipment Operator PT into MVH Restricted Wages-Heavy Equipment Operator PT. Motion carried 7-0.**

Prosecutor PreTrial Diverson (2511): **Deborah Johnson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the transfer of $5,000 from Wages-Clerical into Wages-Law Clerk PT. Motion carried 7-0.**

COVID-19 Bridge Program (8116): **Brandon Schadek moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the transfer of $6,720 from Machinery & Equipment into Contractual Services. Motion carried 7-0.**

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (8118-9601): **Greg Compton moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to approve the transfer of $2,482.54 from Wages-Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, $496.21 from Overtime, and $623.38 from Employer Social Security into Vehicle Maintenance Supplies in the total sum of $3,602.13 Motion carried 7-0.**

Ordinance 2026-5(4) Establish New County Funds: **Nicole Cox moved, second by Will Patterson, to approve Ordinance 2026-5(4): An Ordinance Authorizing Marshall County Council to Establish New County Fund: 9021 AARP Community Challenge Grant. Motion carried 7-0.**

Ordinance 2026-6(3): Amending Salary Ordinance 2025-30: **Brandon Schadek moved, second by James Masterson, to approve Ordinance 2026-6(2): Amending Salary Ordinance 2025-30 as follows:**

- **Section Marshall County Veterans Service Officer**
  Fund 1000-0012 Veterans Service Officer
  Adding Clerical PT COMOT1 non-exempt $11.33 to $19.54 per hour

Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes of June 8, 2026: **Deborah Johnson moved, second by Will Patterson, to approve the meeting minutes of June 8, 2026, as presented. Motion carried 7-0.**

Lebbin Law Invoice: **Brandon Schadek moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the submission of Lebbin Law Invoice 2057 in the amount of $600. Motion carried 7-0.**

Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Invoice: **Greg Compton moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the submission of Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Invoice 12705 in the amount of $2,222.50. Motion carried 7-0.**

Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Invoice: **Will Patterson moved, second by Greg Compton, to approve the submission of Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Invoice 12785 in the amount of $2,160.73. Motion carried 7-0.**

Bremen Public Library Appointment: President Harman read a letter received from the Bremen Public Library Director Ann Britton stating that Joyce Grabill's term ended on June 30, 2026, that Ms. Grabill has decided to retire, and Tanner Givens has expressed interest in serving on the Library Board. **Will Patterson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to appoint Michele Hartsough to the Bremen Public Library, for a four-year term ending on June 30, 2030. Motion carried 7-0.**

Plymouth Economic Development Commission Appointment: **Tim Harman moved, second by Greg Compton, to reappoint Nick Fisher to the Plymouth Economic Development Commission, for a one-year term ending on April 9, 2027. Motion carried 7-0.**

Municipal Unit Strategic Task Force (MUST): President Harman explained that I.C. 6-3.6-3-13, outlines the MUST Taskforce membership will include the local town fiscal officers, Clerk-Treasurers, and a Council designee and the purpose is to review and discuss the local income tax provisions established under Indiana law. President Harman stated that he has the data for all the cities and towns, has been running projections, and believes the cities and towns will be in good shape. Member Compton suggested appointing Auditor Birchmeier if she is willing. Member Cox stated the appointment needed to be a Council member. Auditor Birchmeier clarified that the appointment does not have to be a Council member but could be a member. She further stated the MUST committee is a non-binding authority, and any proposals of the MUST committee must be sent to the Department of Local Government Finance Legislative Study Committee for review. She further explained that AIC has created a proprietary portal, that only Auditors have access to, so as Auditor, could be in attendance to share the data, but does not have to be the appointee. **Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to appoint Tim Harman as the Council representative to the Municipal Unit Strategic Task Force (MUST). Motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC INPUT

Attendees did not have any public input.

COUNCIL ITEMS - CONTINUED

Member Schadek clarified the AIC program allows the Auditor to manipulate the numbers to see how it impacts all the different government entities. He further explained that President Harman has been working with AIC behind the scenes. President Harman explained that the AIC program is a spreadsheet type of function, he has all the data, all the cells programmed so that he can provide the numbers. He further stated that the City of Plymouth and Town of Bremen could adopt their own tax rate and can adopt a rate up to 1.2%. He further stated that the County will have binding authority over townships, libraries, small towns, fire, and EMS income tax rates.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Council, **the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. upon motion by Nicole Cox, second by Brandon Schadek. Motion carried 7-0.**

Tim Harman, President	Will Patterson
Nicole Cox, Vice President	Brandon Schadek
James Masterson	Greg Compton
Deborah Johnson	Attest:
	Angela C. Birchmeier, Auditor