

Porter County Council

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Andy Vasquez, President
District 4

Red Stone, Vice President
District 1

Jeremy Rivas
District 2

Greg Simms
District 3

Mike Brickner
At-Large

Andy Bozak
At-Large

Michelle Harris
At-Large

The Porter County Council will meet on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., in the County Administration Center, located at 155 Indiana Avenue - Room 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

Minutes

Approval of minutes for Council Regular Meetings for February 25th, 2025 and March 25th, 2025.

First Reading

Juvenile Detention Center – Director Alison Cox

JDC General Fund
1000-000-0381

Additional
Reason

\$9,730 to 11100 Salaries
Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Circuit Court General Fund
1000-000-0232

Reduction
Reason

-\$3,241 to 11100 Salaries
Reduction in salary for Executive Assistant/Court Reporter.
Position now classified as Executive Assistant.

Form 144
Reason

\$53,587 to \$50,346 Executive Assistant
Executive Assistant/Assistant Court Reporter changed to Executive
Assistant, \$3,241 reduction in salary amount.

Circuit Court Family Court Donation Fund
9113-000-0232

Additional
Reason

\$728 to 12300 PERF
Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Transfer
Reason

\$1,329 from 11200 Hourly to 11100 Salaries
\$102 from 11200 Hourly to 12100 FICA
Transfers need for Detention Coordinator.

Form 144
Reason

\$0 to \$1,329 Detention Coordinator
Increase need for the Detention Coordinator

Juvenile Probation – Chief Probation Officer Chris Buyer

Juvenile Probation General Fund		
1000-000-0273	Additional Reason	\$46 to 11100 Salaries To address the restructuring of several positions with the Juvenile Probation Department. Requested changes are in-line with carry forward approved restructuring changes from 2025
	Form 144	\$89,828 to \$0 \$63,587 to \$47,587 \$0 to \$45,548 \$0 to \$50,326 \$0 to \$58,473
	Reason	Juvenile Services Director Office Mgr./Compliance Mgr. Probation Officers Home Detention Case Mgr. Probation Officers Restructuring Juvenile Probation Department
Juvenile Probation User Fee (PUF) Fund		
2050-000-0273	Form 144	\$5,000 to \$0 \$0 to \$5,000
	Reason	Juvenile Services Director Office Mgr./Compliance Mgr. Restructuring Juvenile Probation Department

Commissioners

Commissioners General Fund		
1000-000-0068	Additional Reason	\$6,000 to 11100 Salaries 2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.

Superior Court 4 – Judge Buckley

Superior Court IV General Fund		
1000-000-0204	Additional Reason	\$1,250 to 31100 Legal Transfer needed to pay for Pro Se Pauper defendant expenses and costs.

Prosecutor – Prosecutor Gary Germann

Prosecutor General Fund		
1000-000-0009	Additional Reason	\$4,049 to 11100 Salaries Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Recorders

Recorders General Fund		
1000-000-0004	Additional Reason	\$2,000 to 11100 Salaries 2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.

Assessor – Sue Neff

Assessor General Fund		
1000-000-0008	Additional Reason	\$2,000 to 11100 Salaries 2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.

Treasurer – Jim Albarran

Tax General Fund 1000-000-0003	Additional Reason	\$2,000 to 11100 Salaries 2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.
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Clerk – Jessica Bailey

Clerk General Fund 1000-000-0001	Additional Reason	\$2,000 to 11100 Salaries 2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.
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Surveyor – Kevin Breitzke

Surveyor General Fund 1000-000-0006	Additional Reason	\$2,000 to 11100 Salaries 2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.
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Coroner – Cyndi Dykes

Coroner General Fund 1000-000-0007	Additional Reason	\$2,000 to 11100 Salaries 2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.
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Coroner Fatality Review Fund 4930-000-0007	Additional Reason	\$1,100 to 11100 Salaries \$10,000 to 39910 Other Services and Charges Appropriations needed for Grant.
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SUID/SDY Fund 8158-000-0007	Additional Reason	\$4,500 to 45400 Other Equipment Appropriation needed for Grant.
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Recycling and Waste Reduction – Director Keri Marrs Barron

Special Recycling and Waste District Capital Fund 9993-000-0000	Additional Reason	\$5,234 to 11200 Hourly \$1,366 to 12100 FICA \$1,915 to 12300 PERF \$1,485 to 12410 Longevity Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.
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ITS – Director Lee Childress

ITS General Fund 1000-000-0106	Reduction Reason	\$5,570 to 11100 Salaries Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.
	Transfer Reason	\$1,500 from 45100 Data Processing Equipment to 32100 Travel Transfer needed to send employee for Motorola training.

Adult Probation – Chief Probation Officer Melanie Golumbeck

Adult Probation General Fund 1000-000-0274	Additional Reason	\$500 to 11100 Salaries Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.
Opioioid Restricted Fund 1237-000-0274	Additional Reason	\$47,500 to 11100 Salaries \$3,663.75 to 12100 FICA \$19,551 to 12200 Medical/Life Insurance \$5,320 to 12300 PERF Appropriations needed for Matching Grant awarded in November. This would be a perfect use for the Opioioid Restricted fund.
	Form 144 Reason	\$0 to 47,500 Probation Officer PTS-Assessor Awarded Matching Grant in November. This would be a perfect use for the Opioioid Restricted fund.
Adult Probation Supplemental Fund 2101-000-0274	Additional Reason	\$2,250 to 11100 Salaries Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.
Adult Probation Community Corrections Pre-Trial Grant Fund 9164-000-0274	Reduction Reason	\$4,500 to 11100 Salaries Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Highway – Superintendent Jim Polarek

Local Road & Street (LRS) Fund 1169-000-0530	Additional Reason	\$200,000 to 22610 Salt Appropriation needed to purchase maximum amount of salt on state bid.
Major Moves Fund 1172-000-0530	Additional Reason	\$120,000 to 23620 Bituminous Appropriation needed to purchase bituminous for road projects
Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted (MVH-R) Fund 1173-000-0530	Additional Reason	\$300,000 to 23600 Aggregates Appropriation needed for road projects
Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) Fund 1176-000-0530	Additional Reason	\$100,000 to 23620 Bituminous Appropriation needed to purchase bituminous for road projects
	Additional Reason	\$271,913 to 11110 Full-time Hourly \$97,755 to 12200 Medical/Life Insurance \$31,340 to 12100 FICA \$21,140 to 12300 PERF Appropriations needed to replace the ones that went to the Bridge Crew

Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) Fund (Continued)
1176-000-0530

Form 144

4 @ \$49,296
11 to 12 @ \$58,077
\$2 per hour

Truck Drivers/Laborers I
Equipment Operators
Truck/Laborers/CDL

Reason Five new employees to replace the six that moved to Storm Water

Highway – Superintendent Jim Polarek/Mike Jabo

Road Preservation – Right of Way Fund
4822-000-0530

Additional

\$165,000 to 22630 Repair & Maintenance Supplies
\$4,450,000 to 23620 Bituminous
\$100,000 to 31200 Consultants
\$285,000 to 39500 Contractual Services

Reason

Appropriations needed for 2026 Budget.

Development & Storm Water Management - Director Mike Jabo

Cumulative Bridge Fund
1135-000-0079

Additional

\$53,289 to 11110 Full-time Hourly
\$7,135 to 12100 FICA
\$5,965 to 12300 PERF

Reason

Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Highway Engineering Fund
4926-000-0079

Additional

\$60 to 11100 Salaries
\$4 to 12100 FICA
\$7 to 12300 PERF

Reason

Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Porter County Sheriff Jeffrey A. Balon – Sheriff – Jail – Federal Prisoner/DOC

Sheriff

Sheriff General Fund
1000-000-0005

Additional
Reason

\$48,275 to 11100 Salaries
Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Sheriff County User Fee Fund
2505-000-0005

Additional

\$43 to 11100 Salaries
\$3 to 12100 FICA
\$6 to 12300 PERF

Reason

Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Drug Task Force Fund
4010-000-0005

Additional

\$2,769 to 11100 Salaries
\$212 to 12100 FICA

Reason

Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

School Resource Officer Fund
4923-000-0005

Additional

\$664 to 11100 Salaries
\$51 to 12100 FICA
\$201 to 12300 PERF

Reason

Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Jail

Jail General Fund 1000-000-0380	Transfer	\$1,076 from 12300 PERF to 11100 Salaries \$172 from 12300 PERF to 12100 FICA
	Reason	Adjustment during 2026 budget calculations. Budget clean-up.

Health Department – Administrator Matthew Paul

Bioterrorism Response Grant Fund 8119-000-0610	Additional Reason	\$428.90 to 21100 Office Supplies Appropriation needed for Office Supplies for Emergency Preparedness.
	Additional Reason	\$27,033.75 to 22500 Other Supplies Appropriation needed for respiratory fit testing supplies, PPE, and other preparedness supplies.
	Additional Reason	\$722.80 to 31300 Training and Education Appropriation needed for 2025 Cardiac Arrest Survival Summit.
	Additional Reason	\$1,363.35 to 32100 Travel Appropriation needed for travel.
	Additional Reason	\$5,539.20 to 32200 Telephone and Internet Services Appropriation needed for Phone, Data, Hot Spots, and Active 911
	Additional Reason	\$4,900 to 36100 Maintenance Agreements Appropriation needed for Copier and Vaccine Freezer maintenance.
	Additional Reason	\$2,500 to 36500 Vehicles Repair Appropriation needed for vehicle repair and maintenance.
	Additional Reason	\$38,490 to 37100 Equipment Rentals Appropriation needed for Radios, AED's and PIO hardware, Smart Board, and Data Equipment.
	Additional Reason	\$1,435 to 37500 Other Rentals Appropriation needed for 7 month Rental Unit.
	Additional Reason	\$2,800 to 39300 Dues and Subscriptions Appropriation needed for Software Licensing
	Additional Reason	\$56,650 to 39500 Contractual Services Appropriation needed for Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Contract.

Auditor – Karen Martin

2023 Go Bond Project Fund 4605-000-0068	Additional Reason	\$4,250 to 81200 Principal Payment Under appropriated due to adjustment in Gateway
2024 Go Bond Project Fund 4608-000-0068	Additional Reason	\$1,000 to 81200 Principal Payment Under appropriated due to adjustment in Gateway

Council

Council General Fund
1000-000-0061

Additional
Reason

\$14,000 to 11100 Salaries
2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.

Portage Township Assessor – Crystal Millsap

Assessor General Fund
1000-000-0008

Additional
Reason

\$2,000 to 11100 Salaries
2026 Budget adjustments for Elected Officials raises.

Second Reading

Public Comment Session

Attorney's Report

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

Meeting Adjourned