

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Reorganization Meeting
January 27, 2026**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mr. Vasquez called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Vasquez, Roll call please?

Auditor Karen Martin,

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Greg Simms, Council Member Mike Brickner, Council Member Andy Vasquez, Council Member Red Stone, Council Member Michelle Harris and Council Member Andy Bozak. Also present was, Auditor Karen Martin, Auditor Deputy Ryan Kubal, County Attorney Scott McClure and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Reorganization

- Election Of Officers
 - Current Officer
 - Council President – Andy Vasquez

Mr. Vasquez, Well it has come to that time where we reorganize. First on the agenda is the reorganization of the Election of Officers. Current Officer right now as president is yours truly Andy Vasquez. I open the floor for nominations for Council President.

Mr. Stone, Mr. President, just to let everybody in the Council know, I did talk to Harold today, this is the first I think reorganizational that he has missed. He has a fever, does not feel good and I told him not to come.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion for...

Mr. Stone, I nominate...

Mr. Bozak, Go ahead, sorry Red

Mr. Stone, I make a motion for Andy Vasquez.

Mr. Bozak, I second it for Andy Vasquez.

Ms. Harris, Third.

Mr. Vasquez, We have a motion, a second, and a third. Are there any other nominations?

Mr. Bozak, That is a cool jacket.

Mr. Vasquez, Hearing none, nominations are closed. All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Vasquez, Congratulations to me! Thank you.

- Election Of Officers
 - Current Officer
 - Council Vice President – Red Stone

Mr. Vasquez, Okay, next on the agenda, presently we have as Vice President Red Stone. I need a nomination for Vice-President please?

Mr. Brickner, I nominate Red Stone.

Mr. Bozak, I'll second Red Stone.

Mr. Vasquez, We have a motion, and a second for Red Stone for Vice President. Do we have a third? Okay, any other nominations?

Mr. Rivas, I'll nominate Greg Simms.

Mr. Vasquez, We have a nomination for Greg Simms, do we have a second?

County Attorney Scott McClure, So when you do roll call, just say the name you are voting for.

Mr. Bozak, There was no second on Greg Simms.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Was there a second?

Mr. Vasquez, No

County Attorney Scott McClure, I thought there was. I'm sorry, I thought somebody yelled second.

Mr. Rivas, Is there a second required on nominations?

Mr. Vasquez, I don't know, is there Scott?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Yes a second is required on a nomination.

Mr. Vasquez, Going once, going twice, going three times, not hearing a second for the motion. The motion dies for lack of a second. All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Vasquez, Congratulations Mr. Stone.

Mr. Stone, Thank you.

Mr. Vasquez, Oh, by the way we have a new parking space for the Council Vice President.

Mr. Stone, Thank you.

Mr. Vasquez, But it's probably too small for your truck.

Attorney Contract – Attorney Harold Harper

Mr. Vasquez, Okay, we have an RFP (Request for Proposal), hopefully everybody has one of these RFP's from our acting Council Attorney Scott McClure. The RFP (see below) is our proposal, we are going to go ahead and take care of that and post that on the website. Scott could you talk a little bit about that? We had a discussion briefly in regards to this.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Yes, this is a Request for Proposal (RFP) for attorneys to submit their application. We outlined the scope of services, as far as the Council being fiscal, and it being around the Council fiscal matters. There is the minimum qualifications of what we would like to see as far as a resume turned in. Basically, it's set-up specifically for this Fiscal Body for Porter County, and I think at

this point it's just a matter of dealing with this. I think we've dealt with the Terms...excuse me the Fees, as far as... and that discussion is when you would like the submissions returned to you. I think we need to add that and then I would again stay with the same general parameter of a monthly retainer that covers attendance at meetings, meeting prep, getting the members prep for the Council meetings on a regular... on that monthly basis, also taking into consideration the Budget meetings. I think there's roughly six (6) to eight (8) of those per year. So you're roughly having sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) meetings a year. That's kind of how you start the math to back your way back into the monthly retainer. And then we've identified in the RFP those things that would be extraordinary, that any litigation the Council would be involved in. If we have a large tax increase, or both a large tax change, things of that nature that would cause additional work. Then and only then would the reduce hourly rate would apply.

Mr. Stone, Mr. President, can I ask a question?

Mr. Vasquez, Yes sir.

Mr. Stone, What's your suggestion on the date so that we can get someone in here soon than later? Four (4) weeks, a month, three (3) weeks, two (2) weeks? I mean, I would like to get a date nailed down. So we can get it on here and kind of move forward.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Yeah, I think three (3) weeks. I think you can set it up in a way that you can have their resumes in three (3) weeks so that it's prepped, and you can at least review, and maybe make a decision at your next meeting.

Mr. Stone, Okay.

County Attorney Scott McClure, That's how I would set it up.

Mr. Bozak, Is there an interview process where they come in front of us? Or is it just based on one?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Once you get the resume's in, then it's up to the Body to decide if there's...

Mr. Bozak, What the process is?

County Attorney Scott McClure, What the process would be. Again, I'm not assuming that process, because I don't know how many. You could get fifteen (15) requests, and there might be a process to go through to weed them down, or you might get two (2) requests and you interview both.

Mr. Vasquez, May I ask a question in regards to this RFP? Do we need to vote on this?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Yes.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay, hopefully everybody is reading it right now, or I'll give you a couple of minutes to read it. I know you are very fast readers, and I know that Michelle has already read it twice.

Ms. Harris, Yes sir.

Mr. Vasquez, Because, I would like to take care of this tonight.

Mr. Bozak, This was put together by Scott?

Mr. Vasquez, Yes sir.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL ATTORNEY SERVICES

1. PURPOSE - The Porter County Council, in its role as the fiscal body of Porter County, is soliciting proposals from qualified attorneys or law firms to provide legal counsel in support of the Council’s fiscal duties and responsibilities under Indiana law. The selected attorney will provide legal services to the Council related to fiscal matters, distinct from legal representation provided to other county offices. All proposals are subject to disclosure under the Indiana Access to Public Records Act
2. BACKGROUND - Under Indiana law, the Porter County Council serves as the fiscal body of the County and is responsible for budgeting, appropriations, and related legislative actions. The Council seeks legal counsel experienced in Indiana local government law to assist with matters within the Council’s statutory authority.
3. SCOPE OF SERVICES - The County Council Attorney shall provide legal services to assist the Porter County Council in carrying out its fiscal responsibilities, which may include: Attendance at regular and special meetings of the Porter County Council, as requested; Legal advice concerning: Budgeting, appropriations, and fiscal controls; Fiscal ordinances and resolutions; Statutory interpretation relevant to the Council’s fiscal authority; Drafting and review of fiscal ordinances, resolutions, and related documents at the request of the Council; Legal research and written opinions related to fiscal matters; Guidance regarding compliance with the Indiana Open Door Law and the Indiana Access to Public Records Act, as applicable to Council proceedings
4. TERM/FEES - The initial term of service shall be determined by the Porter County Council, with the option for renewal upon approval of the Council; The Council reserves the right to terminate the engagement at any time upon 30 day written notice. The Council pays a monthly retainer of \$_____ dollars to cover the time associated with review, preparation, and attendance at monthly Council meetings and budget hearings. The Council pays \$195.00 an hour for time billed and not contemplated by the monthly retainer.
5. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - Respondents must: Be licensed to practice law in the State of Indiana; Be in good standing with the Indiana Supreme Court; Have demonstrated experience in Indiana local government law
6. PROPOSAL CONTENT REQUIREMENTS - Proposals should include the following: Cover Letter; Attorney or firm name and contact information; Qualifications and Experience; Relevant experience advising governmental or legislative bodies; Availability for Council meetings and general responsiveness; Conflict Disclosure - Disclosure of any actual or potential conflicts of interest; References - Two references from governmental clients preferred.
7. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS - Proposals must be submitted no later than the: ____ day of _____, 2026. Submissions shall either be hand delivered or emailed to: council@portercountyin.gov. Late proposals may not be considered.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion to approve the RFP.

Mr. Stone, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion and a second.

Mr. Bozak, This is kind of what we would have put out for you?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Correct.

Mr. Bozak, Thank you.

Mr. Vasquez, Did you say that we are hiring Scott?

Mr. Bozak, That's my next motion.

Mr. Vasquez, Alright.

(Laughter)

Mr. Vasquez, Okay, we have a motion and a second accepting this RFP (Request for Proposal). All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Vasquez, We are going to use this. Now if we are hiring Scott I am all for that. But we know we can't do this, so let's move on.

Surveyor Agreement – Kevin Breitzke

Mr. Vasquez, Next we have the Surveyor's Agreement Kevin Breitzke. Kevin is not here. Unfortunately, he had to go to a scheduled educational Annual Convention for ISPLS (Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors) that he had to go to.

AGREEMENT

This agreement is entered into this 27th day of January 2026, by and between the Porter County Council and Mr. Kevin Breitzke in his capacity as the Porter County Surveyor. These parties are desirous of memorializing the terms and conditions of their joint commitment to establishing a full-time position of County Surveyor in Porter County Government. It is further the intent of these parties that the terms and conditions of this agreement shall enable Mr. Kevin Breitzke to commit his full time, talents and efforts at performing the duties and responsibilities of the Porter County Surveyor. In order to assure timely and professional county surveying services for the taxpayers of Porter County, these parties have agreed as follows:

1. That the Porter County Council shall authorize, approve and establish an annualized salary for calendar year 2025 for Mr. Kevin Breitzke in his capacity as the Porter County Surveyor in the amount of One Hundred Thousand and Forty-two Dollars (\$100,042.00). The aforementioned salary represents an increase in salary over what Mr. Kevin Breitzke would have been paid by the Porter County Council if he had not agreed to commit his full time, talents and efforts at performing the duties and responsibilities of the Porter County Surveyor.
2. That in return for the aforementioned salary increase, Mr. Kevin Breitzke agrees to the following:
 - A. Commitment of his full-time professional efforts to the task of performing the duties of the Porter County Surveyor during regular business hours and on regular business days of county government.
 - B. Avoidance of outside employment which will create a conflict of interest and/or require his non-participation in any decisions of the Porter County Plan Commission, Porter County

Board of Zoning Appeals, Porter County Surveyor's Office or the Porter County Drainage Board.

3. That the term of this agreement shall be for the calendar year 2026. The parties specifically

acknowledge their respective rights to amend, modify or terminate this agreement upon 30 day written notice. Specifically, the Porter County Council reserves the right to reduce the salary of the Porter County Surveyor position after calendar year 2026 should these parties fail to agree on the terms and conditions of subsequent agreements or should the Porter County Council determine that the Porter County Surveyor position should revert to less than full-time commitment.

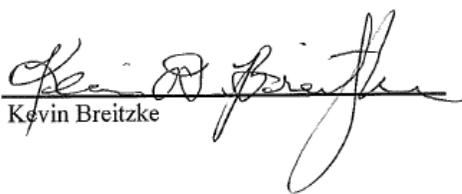
ALL OF WHICH having been agreed to this the 27th day of January, 2026.

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL

PORTER COUNTY SURVEYOR



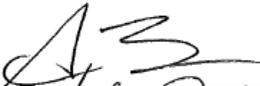
President



Kevin Breitzke



Vice President



Member



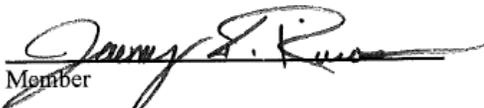
Member



Member



Member



Member

Mr. Bozak, Make a motion to approve Survey Agreement.

Mr. Simms, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, Motion and a second. Do we have any discussion?

Mr. Bozak, It's the same thing we do every year.

Mr. Vasquez, You are right, it's the same thing we do every year. We have a motion and a second, any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say Aye? All opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Appointments

2025 Citizen Appointments

PC Redevelopment Commission – Current Appointment Ralph Neff
Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC Board) – Current Appointment Thomas Swihart
Board of Zoning (BZA) – Current Appointment Jim Clarida (4 Year Term)
Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) – Current Appointment David Ondrovich
Board of Health Appointment – New Appointment (4 Year Term)
Chesterton EDC Position – Current Appointment Lloyd Kittredge
Portage EDC Position – Current Appointment David Goshay (4 Year Term)
Porter EDC Position – Current Appointment Margo Machnik
Valparaiso EDC Position – Current Appointment Patrick McGinley
Town of Hebron EDC Position – Danielle Roeske-Hogg

Citizen Appointments

Porter County Redevelopment Commission

Mr. Vasquez, Next we have our citizens appointments, we all have them in front of us I believe. What you have is the citizens appointments that are highlighted in yellow who are people have been on the Board, and have a desire to stay on there.

I believe, we normally go through each and every one of these. Okay, the first one for the Redevelopment Commission. We have Ralph Neff, George Topoll has withdrawn his name, and John Stewart.

Mr. Bozak, I'll make a motion for Ralph Neff, he is our current guy.

Ms. Harris, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, We have a motion and a second, any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor Aye? All opposed same sign? Congratulations Mr. Neff, were ever you may be.

Mr. Bozak moved to nominate Ralph Neff to the PC Redevelopment Commission 1 year term to expire December 31, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Harris.

Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Mr. Vasquez, We have the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Commission) Board. Thomas Swihart is he only person on there

Mr. Stone, I make a motion to for Thomas Swihart.

Ms. Harris, Second

Mr. Vasquez, Motion and a second, any discussion? Even though he is the only one on there. All in favor of signify by saying Aye? All opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stone moved to nominate Tom Swihart to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Harris.

CRV – Indiana Dunes Tourism

Mr. Vasquez, Indiana Dune Tourism.

Mr. Stone, I make a motion for to nominate Andy Vasquez for Indiana Dunes Tourism.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion, do I have a second?

Ms. Harris, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, Thank you. Any discussion? I was the only one on there. All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stone moved to nominate Andy Vasquez to the Indiana Dunes Tourism Board 2-year term would expire December 31, 2027. Seconded by Ms. Harris.

Park Board (D)

Mr. Vasquez, Park Board.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion for Robert DeRuntz for the Park Board appointment.

Ms. Harris, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion and a second for Robert DeRuntz.

Mr. Bozak, Mr. DeRuntz.

Mr. Vasquez, Mr. DeRuntz. He told me just to call him Bob. Any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Vasquez, Welcome sir.

Mr. Bozak moved to nominate Robert DeRuntz to the Park Board (D) 4-year term would expire December 31, 2029. Seconded by Ms. Harris.

Porter County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA)

Mr. Vasquez, PTABOA, I yield the floor to Mr. Red Stone.

Mr. Stone, I make a motion for David Ondrovich.

Mr. Vasquez, Motion.

Ms. Harris, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, And a second. Any discussion? So I do have something to say about this. We had an individual Linda Zyla who has a Level I Assessors. And we had a lot of really qualified applicants with educational backgrounds, but once again we have a nomination for Mr. David Ondrovich.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion for Brent A. Wilson.

Mr. Vasquez, You are making a motion for Brent Wilson?

Mr. Bozak, Yeah, can I do that now or...

Mr. Vasquez, Okay. Yeah, you can. So now we are going to have to do a Roll Call.

Mr. Bozak, We don't have a second on it yet.

Mr. Vasquez, Oh, I'm sorry. Do we have a second for Mr. Brent Wilson? Going once, twice? Hearing none, for lack of a second motion dies. Mr. David Ondrovich, we have a motion and a second. All in favor say Aye? All opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stone moved to retain David Ondrovich to the PTABOA Board 1-year term would expire December 31, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Harris.

Chesterton Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Mr. Vasquez, We have the Chesterton Economic Development Commission (EDC). We have Jake McEvoy and Thomas H. Smith

Ms. Harris, Is that Jack?

Mr. Vasquez, Jack, I'm sorry.

Mr. Bozak, Is that Jake?

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, It is Jake

Mr. Bozak, I'll make a motion to reappoint Jake McEvoy. He is our current appoint and also our Park Superintendent.

Mr. Vasquez, We have a motion, do I have a second?

Mr. Bozak, I don't see Jack here.

(Laughter)

Mr. Stone, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? I do have something to say, Mr. Smith was another individual who had a lot of years on the Westchester Board. So we had a lot of really qualified candidates. All in favor signify by saying Aye for Jake/Jack McEvoy? All opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bozak moved to retain Jake McEvoy to the Chesterton EDC Board 1-year term would expire December 31, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Stone.

Porter Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Mr. Vasquez, Red Stone and Andy Bozak, we did not have an individual for Porter Economic Development Commission (EDC).

Mr. Bozak, Do they have meetings?

Mr. Vasquez, I have no idea.

Mr. Bozak, Because, I think in the past they weren't meeting. They may or may not even have meetings so we need to find out.

Mr. Vasquez, Gentlemen, that is your area, up north...

Mr. Bozak, Not in my area.

Mr. Vasquez, I have heard that before. So, if you gentlemen would be so kind to take care of that I would appreciate it.

Mr. Stone, Yes.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay thank you.

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Margo Machnik moved to Chesterton, so she couldn't apply because she didn't qualify.

Mr. Bozak, Okay is there any requirements, Democrat or Republican? Does it matter if it's specific or not?

Mr. Vasquez, It didn't say.

Mr. Bozak, Great, so we have an open position for the Town of Porter.

Mr. Vasquez, Is anyone here from Porter? Okay we are going to move on.

Porter EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2026. No one applied or was appointed.

Valparaiso Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Mr. Vasquez, Valparaiso EDC, we have Patrick McGinley and Vincent Dory. Can I get a motion for one or the other?

Mr. Brickner, I make a motion for Patrick McGinley.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion for McGinley, do I have a second?

Mr. Stone, I'll second.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion and a second. Any other nomination? Hearing none. All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Welcome again Mr. McGinley.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Brickner moved to reappoint Patrick McGinley to the Valparaiso EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2026. Mr. Stone seconded.

Town of Hebron Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Mr. Vasquez, Town of Hebron.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion for Danielle Roeske-Hogg.

Mr. Stone, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bozak moved to reappoint Danielle Roeske-Hogg to the Town of Hebron EDC, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2026. Mr. Stone seconded.

Council Appointments – 1 Year

Mr. Vasquez, Council Appointments.

Mr. Stone, Do you want the agenda like this, or how are you going? Just so I know how you are reading it.

Mr. Vasquez, Is that any different than that?

Mr. Stone, Well yeah, I don't know if it's different, but I just want to make sure I'm on the same page.

Ms. Harris, I have Council Appointments on mine.

Mr. Vasquez, Council Appointment 1 year.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Red that is it right there.

Mr. Vasquez, Any changes...

County Attorney Scott McClure, Go back one, right there.

Mr. Stone, Okay, I've got it.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay. Does anybody want to change with anybody?

Mr. Simms, Andy, Harold has to come off whatever he's on. So, Community Corrections Advisory Board.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay.

Mr. Bozak, Are you guys good on the Opioid Board, Andy and Greg?

Mr. Vasquez, Yes. So, nobody wants to change anything?

Mr. Bozak, If one of you are interested in coming off, I would be interested in coming on, but it's not a big deal. And Greg I'm not actually suggesting you, I think that's right up your alley. I didn't know if Andy wanted to do it or not?

Mr. Vasquez, No man, I like it.

Mr. Bozak, Okay, that fine if you want to stay on it.

Mr. Vasquez, Yeah, I like it. So, no one wants to change anything around?

Mr. Stone, I would like to say, I'm on EMA if anyone would like to do that?

Mr. Vasquez, We have Mike Brickner and Red Stone. Would anyone like to volunteer with Mike to be on EMA?

Mr. Bozak, Greg's kind of an EMA guy?

Mr. Simms, I know, I have been on it before. I can go back on if no one else wants it.

Mr. Stone, Because, I have some Plan Commission meetings and I feel bad not going to the meetings to represent us.

Mr. Simms, Yeah, and I know that they have a hard time getting a quorum.

Mr. Stone, Yeah, getting a quorum is difficult... exactly.

Mr. Simms, Yeah, I can go on it.

Mr. Vasquez, I believe once we make changes we need to do a voice vote, am I correct?

County Attorney Scott McClure, You are.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay thank you. We had...

Mr. Stone, Storm Water Advisory Board.

Mr. Vasquez, Storm Water Advisory Board, that is correct. There's no proxy, and Mr. Stone would you like to be a proxy for that?

Ms. Harris, For E-911?

Mr. Vasquez, No, for Storm Water.

Mr. Bozak, Michelle is proxy.

Ms. Harris, I'm the proxy.

Mr. Stone, Oh no...

Ms. Harris, However Mr. Stone, I would love for you to be proxy.

Mr. Stone, Boy I walked into that one.

Ms. Harris, Yeah.

Mr. Stone, That's fine.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay

Mr. Stone, Mike, Michelle's your proxy FYI.

Mr. Bozak, Okay, so I make a motion to keep everything the same except remove Harold Harper from Community Corrections. Remove Red Stone from EMA and add Greg Simms. And remove Michelle Harris as a proxy for Storm Water and add Red Stone.

Mr. Vasquez, Well Michelle wants to stay there.

Mr. Bozak, That's my motion.

Ms. Harris, Red is proxy now.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay, go ahead with the motion, no problem. Anyone else? We have a motion?

Mr. Bozak, Yes.

Mr. Vasquez, Do we have a second?

Mr. Bozak, Not yet.

Mr. Stone, I'll second it.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, So, the move is that we're going to keep everyone with the exception of Harold.

Mr. Bozak, Remove Harold.

Mr. Vasquez, Remove Harold Harper.

Mr. Bozak, Remove Red Stone from EMA, and add Greg Simms.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay.

Mr. Bozak, And remove Michelle Harris as a proxy for Storm Water, and add Red Stone.

Ms. Harris, Does someone need to go on the Community Corrections Advisory Board, or is that the Attorney?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Whoever the new attorney is will take the place. You can...

Ms. Harris, Okay.

Mr. Vasquez, All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Everybody's on.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Community Corrections Advisory Board

The Board moved to appoint Mike Brickner to the Community Corrections Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2026.

NIRPC - Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission

The Board moved to appoint Andy Vasquez to NIRPC, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Plan Commission

The Board moved to appoint Red Stone to the Plan Commission, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Recycling & Waste District

The Board moved to appoint Greg Simms to the Recycling & Waste District Board, term to expire December 31, 2026.

EMA

The Board moved to appoint Mike Brickner and Greg Simms to the Emergency Management Agency, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Porter County Council on Aging

The Board moved to appoint Greg Simms to the Council on Aging Agency Board, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

The Board moved to appoint Michelle Harris and Andy Vasquez to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Storm Water Advisory Board

The Board moved to appoint Andy Vasquez to the Storm Water Advisory Board and Red Stone as proxy, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Opioid Board Committee Board

The Board moved to appoint Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez to the Opioid Board Committee, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Attorney

Mr. Vasquez, Okay, we don't really have an attorney, because we are in between attorneys right now. Scott's understanding...

E-911 Policy Board Policy Board

E-911 Policy Board (President of the Council) Andy Vasquez – (Proxy)

Mr. Bozak, What about this?

Ms. Harris, What about E-911?

Mr. Vasquez, Oh, I'm sorry.

Mr. Stone, You see that's why I want to make sure that were on the same page.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion to keep Andy Vasquez on E-911 as president of the Council it's his position to be on the E-911 Policy Board.

Mr. Stone, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion and a second.

Ms. Harris, I would like to be your proxy if you need one.

Mr. Vasquez, Yes I do Michelle.

Ms. Harris, I'll do it.

Mr. Bozak, I will amend my motion to add Michelle Harris as a proxy.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay the motion that we have is to keep Andy on the Board and Michelle as a proxy. Can I get a second?

Mr. Stone, Second.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, Okay any discussion? Hang on I've got a case of the giggles....
All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Vasquez, Thank God we're not at a funeral.

The Board moved to appoint Andy Vasquez to the E-911 Policy Board and Michelle Harris as proxy, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Porter County Redevelopment Commission

Porter County Redevelopment Commission (President of the Council) Andy Vasquez – (Proxy).

Mr. Vasquez, Okay, Porter County Redevelopment Commission.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion that the President of the Council Andy Vasquez be on it.

Mr. Stone, We also need a proxy on that and I was the proxy. I'll go to all the meetings unless you want to do it?

Mr. Brickner, Sure.

Mr. Bozak, I amend my motion to make Andy Vasquez as the RDC Appointment, and Mike Brickner as proxy.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion and a...

Ms. Harris, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, Appointing me on the RDC Board with Mike Brickner as proxy. Any discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

The Board moved to appoint Andy Vasquez to the Porter County Redevelopment Commission and Mike Brickner as proxy, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Council Liaison Appointments

Mr. Vasquez, Council Liaison Appointments.

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion to keep it the same.

Mr. Stone, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, Hold on.

Ms. Harris, Hold on one second.

Mr. Vasquez, There is a discussion here.

Ms. Harris, Do we pull Memorial Opera House off?

Mr. Simms, We still...

Mr. Vasquez, We still own the building.

Ms. Harris, Okay.

Mr. Vasquez, Any more discussion?

Ms. Harris, Just wanted to make sure if there's any other items.

Mr. Vasquez, Any other discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

The Board moved to keep the Council Liaisons appointment the same, term to expire December 31, 2026.

Adult Probation

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Greg Simms

Airport

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Greg Simms

Animal Shelter

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Assessor

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Auditor

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris, Jeremy Rivas and Red Stone

Circuit Court

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

General Courts

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Superior Court 1

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Superior Court 2

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Superior Court 3

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Superior Court 4

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Superior Court 6

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

IV-D Court

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Clerk

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Jeremy Rivas

Commissioners

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Andy Vasquez

CRV - Tourism

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Coroner

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

E-911

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner and Michelle Harris

Election & Registration Board

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak, Michelle Harris and Jeremy Rivas

Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner and Greg Simms

Expo Center

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Extension Office

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Greg Simms

Facilities

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Family Youth & Services Bureau

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Andy Vasquez

Health Department

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris, Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Highway

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Red Stone

HR

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Andy Vasquez

ITS

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak, Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Jail/Sheriff & Sheriff's Garage

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner, Greg Simms and Red Stone

Juvenile Detention

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner and Andy Vasquez

Juvenile Probation

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner and Andy Vasquez

Memorial Opera House

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Greg Simms

Museum

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Greg Simms

Opportunity Enterprises

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Greg Simms

Parks

Council Liaisons are Mike Brickner, Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Plan Commission/Building Department

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Greg Simms

Portage Township Assessor

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Jeremy Rivas

Porter Starke

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Greg Simms

Print Shop

Council Liaison Greg Simms

Prosecutor

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Andy Vasquez

Public Defender

Council Liaisons are Jeremy Rivas and Andy Vasquez

Recorder

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak and Greg Simms

Recycling and Waste Management

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Greg Simms

Soil and Water

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Andy Vasquez

Development and Storm Water Management

Council Liaison Jeremy Rivas

Surveyor

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Jeremy Rivas

Treasurer

Council Liaisons are Michelle Harris and Jeremy Rivas

Veterans

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Andy Vasquez

Voters Registration

Council Liaisons are Andy Bozak, Michelle Harris and Jeremy Rivas

Weight and Measures

Council Liaisons are Greg Simms and Red Stone

Council moved to keep the same Council Liaison Appointments, 1 year term to expire December 31, 2026.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Vasquez, Council Liaison continues ... we did that.. Now Attorney's report?

County Attorney Scott McClure, I have nothing at this time.

Mr. Vasquez, Thank you, sir.

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

- 2025 Encumbrances – Auditor's Office

Mr. Vasquez, Any other matter that may come properly before the Council. Anyone?

Auditor Deputy Ryan Kubal, Okay.

Mr. Vasquez, Yes sir, how may we help you today?

Auditor Deputy Ryan Kubal, The Auditor's Office is submitting the Encumbrance report from 2025 to 2026 for a total of \$427,749.43.

Mr. Bozak, Do need a motion on that?

Mr. Stone, I have a question? Does that mean the encumbrances that we're actually approving for payments going out to whatever for encumbrances.

Auditor Deputy Ryan Kubal, So this is taking the leftover budget from 2025, and making sure that stuff that got either ordered or done in 2025 is paid with that money. And so this is just keeping track of that kind of carryover.

County Attorney Scott McClure, But the encumbrance itself may be encumbered, and it still may not be paid. And I believe that there are a few encumbrances that are yet to be paid.

Mr. Stone, Okay, that's not... thank you very much, sir.

Auditor Deputy Ryan Kubal, Sorry, I'm not a lawyer.

(Laughter)

Mr. Stone, I just wanted to make sure.

Mr. Vasquez, Just because it's there doesn't mean it was actually paid.

Auditor Deputy Ryan Kubal, That's why I'm not the County Attorney.

(Laughter)

County Attorney Scott McClure, That's why I stayed at the Holiday Inn Express...

Mr. Stone, The Holiday Inn.

(Laughter)

County Attorney Scott McClure, Yeah, it's a commercial.

CARRY FORWARD APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION										January 27, 2025
Be it resolved by the Porter County Council of Porter County, Indiana, that the following appropriations have been obligated in 2025 and are hereby authorized to be carried forward allowing payment of prior year activity in 2026.										
Fund	Acct	Acct Title	Obj	Loc	Department	Vendor	Amount	Total by Line Item	Total by Fund	
1000	39910	Other Services		7	Coroner	Porter Hospital	2,750.00		2,750.00	
1000	39300	Dues & Subscriptions		11	Extension	Consumer Reports	32.10		32.10	
1000	39300	Dues & Subscriptions		11	Extension	Times Newspaper	132.00		132.00	
1000	39300	Dues & Subscriptions		11	Extension	Nikky Witkowski	50.00		50.00	
1000	39300	Dues & Subscriptions		11	Extension	Purdue University	160.00		160.00	
1000	44400	Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100		11	Extension	Simko Signs	735.00		735.00	
1000	44400	Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100		11	Extension	Purdue University	690.89		690.89	
1000	44400	Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100		11	Extension	Purdue University	1,141.78		1,141.78	
1000	31300	Training & Education		11	Extension	Purdue University	50.00		50.00	
1000	31300	Training & Education		11	Extension	Nikky Witkowski	50.00		50.00	
1000	31300	Training & Education		11	Extension	Nikky Witkowski	369.00		369.00	
1000	32100	Travel		11	Extension	Purdue University	1,541.10		1,541.10	
1000	11200	Hourly		61	County Council	Joy Blakely	8,250.00		8,250.00	
1000	39500	Contractual Services		61	County Council	Joy Blakely	46,540.00		46,540.00	
1000	22500	Other Supplies		62	Election Board	Amazon	399.00		399.00	
1000	21100	Office Supplies		62	Election Board	Amazon	172.47		172.47	
1000	21100	Office Supplies		62	Election Board	Amazon	3,315.69		3,315.69	
1000	31300	Training & Education		232	Circuit Court	JP Morgan	2,796.00		2,796.00	
1000	22200	Uniforms & Clothing		308	Weights and Measures	JP Morgan	216.00		216.00	
1000	33100	Printing other than Office Sup		308	Weights and Measures	JP Morgan	349.56		349.56	
1000	24200	Shop Supplies		308	Weights and Measures	JP Morgan	57.95		57.95	\$ 69,798.54
1112	39500	Contractual Services	70	68	Commissioners	Mechanical Concepts	8,800.00		8,800.00	
1112	36100	Maint. Agreements	70	68	Commissioners	South Shore Framing	8,085.00		8,085.00	
1112	23500	Bldg Maintenance Supplies	70	68	Commissioners	Jaguar Buildings	109,000.00		109,000.00	
1112	36100	Maint. Agreements	70	68	Commissioners	Gatlin Plumbing and Heating	9,500.00		9,500.00	
1112	36100	Maint. Agreements	70	68	Commissioners	Mechanical Concepts	10,300.00		10,300.00	
1112	23500	Bldg Maintenance Supplies	70	68	Commissioners	Eastwater Woodworking	4,800.00		4,800.00	
1112	36100	Maint. Agreements	70	68	Commissioners	Per Mar Security Services	2,069.28		2,069.28	
1112	36100	Maint. Agreements	70	68	Commissioners	Per Mar Security Services	2,742.00		2,742.00	
1112	36100	Maint. Agreements	70	68	Commissioners	Per Mar Security Services	1,500.84		1,500.84	
1112	22200	Uniforms & Clothing	70	68	Commissioners	C&W Embroidery dba EmbroidMe	812.76		812.76	\$ 157,609.88
1119	44400	Training & Education		1	Clerk	Amazon	7,219.62		7,219.62	
1119	21100	Office Supplies		1	Clerk	Amazon	313.45		313.45	7,533.07
1135	39500	Contractual Services		79	Planning Commission	Superior Construction	53,000.00		53,000.00	
1135	39500	Contractual Services		79	Planning Commission	Specialties Company	23,550.00		23,550.00	76,550.00
1191	12410	Longevity		7	Coroner	Doris Amling	86,000.00		86,000.00	86,000.00
2101	21100	Office Supplies		274	Adult Probation	JP Morgan	335.16		335.16	
2101	44100	Office Equipment over \$100		274	Adult Probation	JP Morgan	4,923.78		4,923.78	5,258.94
4017	36200	Building and Structures R&M		68	Commissioners	VideoTec	24,999.00		24,999.00	24,999.00
TOTAL CARRY FORWARD APPROPRIATIONS:									427,749.43	

Mr. Vasquez, When we vote on this, it will not mean that all this money is being paid out. It will have the availability to be paid out.

Auditor Deputy Ryan Kubal, Correct.

Mr. Vasquez, Any questions? Can I get a motion?

Mr. Bozak, I make a motion to accept the Auditor's 2025 Encumbrances.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Hearing none. All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Motion carries. Thank you, sir.

Auditor Deputy Ryan Kubal, Thank you.

Mr. Vasquez, Is there Any other matter that may come properly before the Council?
Hearing none.

Mr. Bozak moved to approve 2025 Encumbrances. Second by Mr. Brickner. 2025 Encumbrances approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Vasquez, Motion to adjourn?

Mr. Stone, So moved.

Ms. Harris, Second.

Mr. Vasquez, Motion and second. Alright see you back in about five (5) minutes.

Motion to adjourn carried on a unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Andy Vasquez

Red Stone

Jeremy Rivas

Mike Brickner

Greg Simms

Andy Bozak

Michelle Harris

Attest: _____
Karen Martin, Auditor