FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Date: 10/05/26
Time: 9:00 AM

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1. Call to Order:
Call to order the October 5th meeting of the Fountain County Commissioners.
Commissioners President: Aaron Fruits
Time: 09:00 AM

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2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance:

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3. Roll Call:
Members Present:

☒ Aaron Fruits
☒ KW Rice
☒ Tim Shumaker

Also, Present:
☒ Kim Johnson, County Auditor
☒ Lisa Spiering, Deputy Auditor
☒ Ethan Myers, County Attorney

Approval of Agenda: 10/05/2026

tion Requested: Approve agenda as amended (Changed number 8 New Business from USI to United Consulting)

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote: ☒ Passed 3 ☐ Failed 0

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5. Approval of Minutes:

Meeting Date: 08/17/26

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote: ☒ Passed 3 ☐ Failed 0

Joint Meeting Date: 08/17/26

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote: ☒ Passed 3 ☐ Failed 0

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6. Elected Official & Department Reports:

☒ Auditor, Kim Johnson
☐ Treasurer, Tiffany Wells
☐ Assessor, Amber Roarks
☐ Clerk, Patty Smith
☐ Recorder, Nikki Allen
☐ Coroner, Kayla Holt
☒ EMA Director, Tina Holmes
☐ EMS Director, Wayne Laswell
☐ Health Department, Jenny Eads
☒ Highway Superintendent, Jason Lewis
☒ Landfill, Greg
☐ Jail, Andrew Krout, Deputy Sheriff
☒ 911 Director, Dana Stonebraker
☐ Sheriff, Terry Holt
☒ Wega, Kim Kalweit
☐ Prosecutor, Daniel Askren
☐ Veteran Services

Kim Kalweit, WEGA

Kim gave an update that she's working on featuring small businesses on the Explore Fountain County Facebook page. If anyone has one they'd like to feature, let Kim Kalweit know. She reminded everyone to keep in mind the cost that goes along with our most important assets (water, land, air & each other).

Greg Robison

Greg handed out the application forms to put in a bid for the landfill work. He already gave the commissioners a heads up for when he will be stepping down. He assured them he will get all the information ready and help get things set up. There are things he wants the commissioners to keep in mind regarding the landfill moving forward. This is a very important environmental issue that needs to be kept under control and within state guidelines as it has been. Mr. Bell has been invested since before Greg took it over. He is also a resident that lives down stream from the landfill. He is out there checking things at least once a week. He has even let Greg use his equipment voluntarily. This is something that really needs an environmental engineer opposed to a civil engineer. Right now, it is in good condition and they have a lot of documentation and the state's approval. Greg also handed out a list of his current workload for the landfill. The state requires someone to be able to contact at all times. We did not have that in the past. He believes an environmental engineer is needed. Roger Azar used to contact the state on his behalf as he understood the language. He says there is a 50/50 chance of getting this finalized in late 2028 if everything is kept up on correctly. There is still an issue with the culvert he fills with rock to get through. If they start working on it and come across trash, they will need to stop and get it fixed. There are a lot of environmental requirements to follow to do things correctly.

7. Unfinished Business:

Claims ($510,825.54)

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote: ☒ Passed 3 ☐ Failed 0

Payroll ($353,722.53)

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote: ☒ Passed 3 ☐ Failed 0

Report of Collections –Sheriff September 2026

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Aaron Fruits
- Vote: ☒ Passed 2 ☐ Failed 0

Tim Shumaker abstained as he was unable to review the report.

Public Hearing – AI BESS Moratorium

Beginning Time: 9:16 a.m.

Public Comment – The public would like copies of the information. Priscilla Davis said there is no reason to go if the Commissioners push everything through. KW Rice said we had this public hearing at the last joint meeting. It was also publicized in the newspaper. Kelly Carlson said these documents were also on the county website. Jon Schrock then came up and read the ordinances. There was a question from the public on when the Commissioners anticipate putting together a comprehensive plan. Aaron Fruits said they are working on this. Tim said we have a comprehensive plan. Aaron stated they are updating it. Tim asked who is doing that. Aaron said Jon Schrock, the zoning administrator. Tim said he is not qualified to do that, that you have to be certified for it to be legal. Aaron said he didn't think so, but Tim said he knew. Someone from the audience said a paper said they are approving a moratorium so that they have sufficient time to complete the comprehensive plan. She stated the commissioners are passing what they are doing based on what they are doing in the future. She said it sounds like they don't even have that figured out. Tim said we paid Beam Longest and Neff 3 or 4 years ago around $50,000 to do the comprehensive plan. He said this was mainly to get federal grants. Tim said since it was updated, there is no need to update it. Tom Creek read part of it and asked if he was reading it incorrectly. KW Rice stated we should stop and think about what has changed in the last 4-5 years. He said in order to stay ahead of the ever-changing country, you have to adopt and adapt as you move forward. Tim verified they were talking about the comprehensive plan that was last updated by Beam Longest and Neff. He said that did need to be completed by a certified person. Ethan Myers, county attorney, will look into this. KW said Jon Schrock is not writing the comprehensive plan, just gathering information. Someone from the audience asked if the comprehensive plan was ongoing. KW and Aaron said yes. She asked how they would go about that. KW said they will have a public hearing. It will go to an APC meeting and then a Commissioner

meeting. Jon Schrock said we had already passed this moratorium. The only thing that changed was the margins on the top. The date is through December of 2027.
Bill Brewer said he and Tammy Hinote discussed the water and electricity issues in AI Datacenters. He said in Texas it is stated they can have the center, but you use the water on the property that you are putting it on and you pay your own electricity. Bill said it doesn't sound like we need years to pass something like that. KW said this is why this is in place because everyone is learning.

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Aaron Fruits
- Vote: ☒ Passed 2-1 ☐ Failed 0
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End Time: 9:30 a.m.

Mailings

Public Comment – Jon Schrock read the information regarding the mailings. If there is a rezone, a radius around the property must be notified by registered mail. If an individual or a company does that, there is a cost they have to incur. If they do not pay, the meeting will be unscheduled. Jon said the county would be able to recoup costs.

Beginning Time: 9:30 a.m.

Public Comment –

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote: ☒ Passed 3-0 ☐ Failed 0

End Time: 9:32 a.m.

8. New Business:

United Consulting on Call Service Agreement

Jason said this is just an on-call contract for their bridge #245.

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote: ☒ Passed 3-0 ☐ Failed _____

Linda Reynolds asked if Jason could clean up the bridge near Dixie Bee going out of Covington. She would like the branches trimmed around the dangerous intersection sign also.

Zoning Administrator Contract Termination - Motion died due to no second

Tim Shumaker stated Jon Schrock is being paid entirely too much money for this position. Roger Azar was paid roughly $160,000 his last year. Tim stated he was paid $72,039.05 and $33,000 of that was paid by solar companies. Aaron Fruits said the last year Roger worked a full year, he was paid the $160,000. Priscilla Davis asked Tim if he was upset he was not getting his way or is he more concerned with money. Tim asked her if she wants to pay $150 an hour for consulting with no credentials? Priscilla Davis said if it will protect her interest she sure will. Several people from the audience began to talk. Priscilla stated when she thinks the three commissioners do not care what her situation is and when they are doing whatever they want, she will go with someone who is standing with her as a taxpayer. Aaron Fruits asked her to please go to the podium. She stated at the microphone that she is willing to pay for what the zoning admin is doing. She feels like he is standing for the people and protecting them. She said she doesn't feel like the Commissioners are and they are in the pockets of solar. She said solar panels should be put on roofs, not farmland. Tim Shumaker asked if she owned farmland. She stated she did own land and came from a farm family. Tim asked how she would respond if someone told her and her family what to do with her land. She said she would like to think her neighbors would think enough of her to say I don't want to have next to somebody. Tim said they own the land so it is their legal right to do what they want. Aaron Fruits stopped the conversation after several citizens started talking. He said this is about the contract for Jon Schrock. Priscilla Davis said she is for Jon Schrock.

Paul Offutt said he built Fountain Springs 5 years ago with Brad Crain's assistance. He is close to retirement. He said Longview Bank wanted to come to Indiana. They found some land and went to Brad Crain, thinking it was city limits. He said they worked on it and submitted to the state. They received the permit from the State and from the city. There was a September deadline on the work with the state getting all licenses for the bank. On or about June 1st they brought over a culvert to get access. They talked with the farmer. When bringing over the culvert, they were met with flashing lights. Jon Schrock got out of the truck, walked over to Mr. Offutt and asked what he was doing. He was informed they were putting in a culvert so they could get in and clean up the field. Mr. Offutt was also met with a $2,500 fine from the County. There were three sheriff's cars. Jon Schrock wanted Mr. Offutt to leave immediately, but he was not going to take the semi all the way back. They rolled the pipe into the ditch and asked if they could set it since they had the equipment. Another police car then showed up. Jon Schrock then sat in the cemetery taking pictures. Mr. Offutt rolled the culvert off, loaded the semi and went back home. Paul then contacted the man they were buying the land from and informed him of the situation. He said they lost about 3-4 weeks' worth of work 2-3 different times. Mr. Offutt said he is bonded and insured. He stated Jon Schrock had been contacting the neighbors wanting them to turn the project down. He said he was in limbo in knowing whether it was city or county, but assumed city since they got a city and state permit. There was eventually a meeting with the county attorney. It was worked out. Mr. Offutt gave the money to the county for a permit on a Thursday. On Friday got his crew back over and started working. Mr. Offutt then got a call from Longview Bank that Jon Schrock had driven all the way to Champaign, Illinois to drop off another fine for $50,000. He said people at the bank don't have anything to do with the Indiana building. He said he tried to contact the County attorney but did not receive a call back. He understands he is busy. Mr. Offutt doesn't do social media but heard that he was discussed. Paul stated he can pay for his permits and wants to do it correctly. He said he is trying to be a good neighbor, but having someone drive around and take pictures is harassment to him. Mr. Offutt said he is also part of the covered shelter for the cemetery

and is donating $100,000. Aaron Fruits said that Jon is doing a job and then Covington provided the paperwork that they had their ETJ and the county went away. Aaron said he and KW Rice do not have any objections with the bank coming in. He asked Jon Schrock if he had a problem with the bank coming in and he stated he did not. Paul stated he had 5 notices from the county on stop work orders. Aaron said this is how the rules work and that is what we follow. When you do not follow the rules, you get stop work orders. Aaron said when Covington finally submitted the ETJ and they recorded with the county, it was then stopped immediately. Brad Crain said they have had their ETJ and filed their zoning ordinance in 1983. He said that all ordinances from 1992 on have said that Covington has the 2-mile radius. He said the Commissioners in 2008 passed the zoning map saying that Covington had the ETJ. Brad Crain said they have the zoning all the way to Interstate 74. Aaron Fruits said once the City of Covington provided what was needed, the County stopped. Ethan Myers said he could not find something where the County Commissioners seated something over to Covington. He said the city is saying it is theirs, but he needed something from the county saying yes, it is the city's. He did find a 2008 survey but they needed something better with more detail. Brad said it had been one thing after another. Aaron said he understands. He said the county is following the rules. Brad said when you change rules up by saying you can't build a house on less than 3 acres, it is hard to follow rules. Brad Crain said he didn't have anything personally against Jon, but as a taxpayer he's concerned about Jon's pay. He said Jon made $12,000 in 2 weeks as zoning administrator. Brad said that is more than he makes in 5 months as mayor. Tim said it was $15,000 this pay. Brad asked if that was not a problem for Jon to make $80,000 over 8 months. Brad said he makes $27,000 for the year.

Paul Offutt said he has never threatened anybody or delivered a fine to them. Tim Shumaker said he also did that at the solar farm and was kicked off the property. Aaron asked who was kicked off. Tim said he tried to do a cease and desist up there. Aaron asked him what he was talking about. Who got kicked off? Tim said Jon basically because he went on private property telling surveyors to stop. They didn't stop because they didn't have to. Aaron said that is a fabricated lie and they will not get into litigation. Paul Offutt said he may be the biggest taxpayer in this town. He said he believes in giving it back.

Tom Creek said he supports Jon Schrock being paid what he needs to be paid because he has a backbone. He stands up to Dolphin and the solar people. Tom said Fountain County is not just Covington.

Linda Reynolds said Mr. Offutt isn't a resident and doesn't live here. She said she appreciates Jon Schrock because he works for the residents of Fountain County. She said she does not appreciate Mr. Shumaker attacking an honest man who is trying to do exactly what the law says. She says she wants it proper and legal. She said even if she doesn't agree she will not attack that person like she feels Tim Shumaker does. She said Jon works hard for the residents. She is thrilled to pay him what he is being paid. She still doesn't understand why certain things have been passed without a comprehensive plan.

Bill Brewer said he understands people have feelings against solar. He said everything the Commissioners are talking about does not override the Constitution or the state of Indiana. He said that is what they are trying to do with these ordinances. He said he doesn't care if they don't like them. They cannot tell him what to do with his land. He said he has a right to do with his land what he sees fit to make a living for his family.

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: _____
- Vote: ☐ Passed _____ ☐ Failed _____

Tim said they are paying $150 per hour. Jon is a nice guy, but he is going to make more than the judge. Aaron said he is doing great work. Tim just wanted it on public record.
KW Rice said he would like the county to enter into a new contract considering Jon's contract is technically still forgoing. KW would like a pay scale structure contract. KW would make a motion to give a 30-day notice of current contract termination to give them time to renegotiate a contract with Mr. Schrock at a pay scale. Someone asked if he was going to have to give them a minute by minute of everything he does. KW said absolutely. He said Cameron Seymour does when he sends his invoices to the county. Everything should be broken down and itemized. Roger Azar did that on his invoices. Aaron asked Kelly Carlson if Roger broke down his invoices. KW said Roger's was pay scaled. She said generally they were itemized. KW said they were itemized. Aaron said as far as the termination, there was a motion but no second. Aaron voted no. KW said it isn't an instant termination. It is 30-day notice of the current contract to renegotiate a future contract that is scaled pay. Tim said they need to take into account what others counties pay their zoning people, $30-35 per hour. Aaron asked for a second. Jon will get 30 days whether terminating or not. Tim said his motion is to renegotiate. Aaron said it is termination. KW said his proposal is a contract termination not an individual termination. He said Jon would still be zoning administrator as long as there is an agreement. Brad Crain asked if everyone else had a salary. KW said if they are a county employee, they do have a salary. Aaron asked again if they had a second. Tim made a motion to terminate the current contract. KW said he wants to make it clear he is not seconding an immediate termination. It's a 30 day notice of contract termination. They will work on a structure pay scale contract to renegotiate. Aaron asked KW if he would like to second, he declined.

Commented [KC1]:

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9. Correspondence & Announcements:

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10. Council Member Comments:

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11. Public Comment:

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12. Adjournment:

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote: Passed 3-0

- **NEXT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING: Monday October 19, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**
  - **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday October 13, 2026 9:00 AM**
  - **NEXT JOINT MEETING: Monday October 19, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

in the Commissioner's Meeting Room

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Kim Johnson

ATTEST