

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 26, 2026**

A Caucus was held prior to the meeting to discuss Agenda items. Council members Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite were present.

The following individuals addressed Council with a public comment: Reverand John Beaty, Reverand Dr. Joyce Penfield, Emily Carson, Theresa Augustin, and Kent Quade.

The following items were addressed before Council at the Caucus:

- 2026-011 Heidi Swindell from the Engineer's Office addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-012 Tommy Smoot from the Division of Public Safety-Emergency Management Agency addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-013 Brian Harnak from the Law Department addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-014 Phil Montgomery from the Executive's Office addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-015 Phil Montgomery from the Executive's Office addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-022 Marvin Evans from the Law Department addressed Council on this first reading passage request.
- 2026-024 Tommy Smoot from the Division of Public Safety-Emergency Management Agency addressed Council on this first reading passage request.

The Council Regular Meeting was called to order at 04:45 PM in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL- Present: Mrs. Darrow, Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Donofrio, Mr. Ford, Ms. Higham, Mr. Kacyon, Mr. Licate, Mrs. McKenney, Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Walters, Mr. Wilhite; Absent:

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MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Ms. Walters moved to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting(s) held January 5, 2026.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

The Minutes were approved 11-0.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL INTEREST:

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE:

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICEHOLDERS:

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## **MOTIONS FOR COUNCIL**

**M-004-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Council President Erin Dickinson (replacing Councilwoman Rita Darrow) with Councilwoman Christine Higham as alternate to the Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Trustees.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Ms. Walters moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-004-2026 was adopted.

**M-005-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Council President Erin Dickinson (replacing Councilwoman Rita Darrow) to the Summit County Audit Committee.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Mr. Wilhite moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-005-2026 was adopted.

**M-006-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Council President Erin Dickinson (replacing Councilwoman Rita Darrow) with Councilman David Licate as alternate (replacing Councilwoman Erin Dickinson as alternate) to the Criminal Justice Advisory Board.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Ms. Higham moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-006-2026 was adopted.

**M-007-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Council President Erin Dickinson (replacing Councilwoman Rita Darrow), with Councilman John Donofrio and Mark Potter as alternates to the County Information Technology Board.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Ms. Higham moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-007-2026 was adopted.

**M-008-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Council President Erin Dickinson (replacing Councilwoman Rita Darrow) with Mark Potter as alternate to the Investment Advisory Board.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Mr. Schmidt moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-008-2026 was adopted.

**M-009-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Council President Erin Dickinson (replacing Councilwoman Rita Darrow) with alternates Mark Potter and Monique Willis to the Records Commission.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Mr. Licate moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-009-2026 was adopted.

**M-010-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Council President Erin Dickinson (replacing Councilwoman Rita Darrow) with Mark Potter as alternate to the Tax Incentives Review Council.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Ms. Higham moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-010-2026 was adopted.

**M-011-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Wendy Rickerd (replacing Karen Frantz) with Stephanie Kempton as first alternate and Dr. Anita Tamirisa as second alternate to the Child Fatality Review Board.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Ms. Walters moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-011-2026 was adopted.

**M-012-2026 A Motion of Council confirming the appointment of Captain Mike Brooks (replacing Captain Dan Garrett) as alternate to District Chief Chris Karakis to the Child Fatality Review Board.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Mr. Ford moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-012-2026 was adopted.

**M-013-2026 A Motion of Council establishing the standing committees of the Council of the County of Summit for the year 2026.**

Movant - Ms. Dickinson

Mr. Schmidt moved to recommend passage.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Motion M-013-2026 was adopted.

## **FIRST READINGS**

2026-011     **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with Cargill, Incorporated, at Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing pricing, for road salt for the 2026 snow and ice control season, in an amount not to exceed \$524,000.00, for the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Mr. Wilhite moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licata, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Wilhite moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licata, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-011 was adopted.

2026-012     **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with Steele Industries, Inc., for two night vision projects for various Special Operations Teams in Ohio Homeland Security Region 5, for an amount not to exceed \$69,197.50, for the Executive's Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Agency, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Mr. Licata moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licata, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Licata moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licata, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-012 was adopted.

2026-013     **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute a settlement agreement and release, in an amount not to exceed \$115,000.00, to settle any and all claims arising out of or concerning issues raised in the lawsuit, W.H., a minor, and A.H., Guardian of W.H., v. Anthaun Cheatom, et al., for the Executive and the Court of Common Pleas – Juvenile Division, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Mr. Schmidt moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Schmidt moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-013 was adopted.

2026-014     **A Resolution appropriating carryover balances for various operating and capital funds for 2026, as set forth in Exhibit A, for the Executive’s Department of Finance and Budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Mr. Donofrio moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Donofrio moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-014 was adopted.

2026-015 **A Resolution appropriating funds in order to meet projected expenditures for the balance of 2026 as set forth in Exhibit A, for the Executive’s Department of Finance and Budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Mr. Donofrio moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Donofrio moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-015 was adopted.

2026-016 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a professional service contract with Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. to perform a cost-of-service study of the County’s sanitary sewer rates, for an amount not to exceed \$88,200.00, for the Executive’s Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-017 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute any documents necessary to accept the award of the Opioid Remediation Grant from the Ohio Attorney General, in the amount of \$134,240.00, with no local cash match, and awarding a professional service contract to Oriana House, Inc., as a Best Practical Source, for Opioid Remediation services, for a one-year term, in an amount not to exceed \$134,240.00, for the Executive and Sheriff, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-018     **A Resolution authorizing the Prosecutor, or his designee, to initiate, through the State of Ohio’s County Financial Information System, the acceptance by the Prosecutor’s Child Support Enforcement Agency of inter-county transfers of surplus funds from other Ohio counties, and to release surplus County of Summit funds to other Ohio counties in exchange for those accepted funds, for a two-year period, from 1/1/26 through 12/31/27, provided that the collective funds released in a given calendar year do not exceed the collective funds accepted in that calendar year, for the Prosecutor, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-019     **An Ordinance amending Section 113.12 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Summit, entitled “Engineer and Planning and GIS Division Map Fees,” to make certain updates and revisions to the fee schedule, for the Executive’s Departments of Law and Risk Management and Community and Economic Development – GIS Division, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-020     **A Resolution approving the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with The Computer Solution Company of Virginia, LLC, dba Forensic Advantage Systems, as a Sole Source, for maintenance of Forensic Advantage software, for a five-year term, for the period of 2/1/26 to 1/31/31, in an amount not to exceed \$124,702.22, for the Office of Information Technology, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-021     **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute grant agreements with various Summit County nonprofit organizations and State mandated entities, for the year 2026, in a total amount not to exceed \$828,900.00, as set forth in Exhibit A, for the Executive’s Department of Finance and Budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

Mr. Schmidt moved to amend the Agenda to add Late Filings.

Voice Vote on the motion

For: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

11-0

### **FIRST READINGS LATE FILINGS**

2026-022     **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute a collective bargaining agreement between The Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc. (Deputy Unit), and the County of Summit, for the period of 1/1/26 through 12/31/28, for the Executive and the Sheriff, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Ms. Higham moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Ms. Higham moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-022 was adopted.

2026-023     **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation and to appropriate funds for the construction costs for the relocation of the sanitary sewer line due to the bridge deck replacement on State Route 91, located in the City of Munroe Falls, in Council District 3, for the Executive's Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Committee First Readings

2026-024     **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a purchase contract with ICOR Technology, Inc for three tactical robots for various Special Operations Teams in Ohio Homeland Security Region 5, for an amount not to exceed \$179,885.88, for the Executive's Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Agency, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Mr. Licate moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Mr. Licate moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed - Voice Vote: 11-0

Resolution 2026-024 was adopted.

**Routine Agenda Motion(s)**

Mr. Schmidt moved to suspend Council Rule 8.01 (A): the requirement of three readings at a Regular Council meeting.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed

Mr. Schmidt moved to adopt.

Voice Vote on the motion.

Yes: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

Motion passed

Routine Agenda was adopted 11-0.

**ROUTINE LEGISLATION UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO BY COMMITTEE**

2025-361     **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to advertise for bids for construction of Project Q-165-1 Akron-Cleveland Road Sanitary Sewer Extension, located in the City of Cuyahoga Falls and Boston Township, in Council Districts 1, 2 and 3, for an amount not to exceed \$3,794,222.72, that will be partially funded by American Rescue Plan Act funds and a loan from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, for the Executive's Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Resolution 2025-361 was adopted.

2025-362     **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to advertise for bids for the construction of Project Q-186 Elimination of Hudson Sanitary Sewer Overflow Area L, located in the City of Hudson, in Council District 3, for an estimated total cost not to exceed \$1,161,692.28, for the Executive's Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, and declaring and emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Resolution 2025-362 was adopted.

2025-363 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute a Member Community Infrastructure Grant Program Agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00, with no local cash match requirement, and to authorize the Executive to apply for and execute a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Loan Agreement for a loan in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00, to finance the engineering design and construction for Project Q-186 Elimination of Hudson Sanitary Sewer Overflow Area L, located in the City of Hudson, in Council District 3, for the Executive's Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Resolution 2025-363 was adopted.

2025-364 **A Resolution approving and adopting the Summit County Cybersecurity Policy and confirming the applicability of confidentiality provisions under Section 9.64(E) of the Ohio Revised Code, for the Office of Information Technology, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Resolution 2025-364 was adopted.

2026-005 **A Resolution confirming that the Engineer may proceed with tree cutting on land owned by Summit County in preparation for the Idle Brook Bankfull Wetland Project, located in Bath Township, in Council District 5, for the Engineer and the Surface Water Management District, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Resolution 2026-005 was adopted.

2026-006 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a professional service contract with The Thrasher Group, Inc. for the design of the Krumroy Road Resurfacing Project, located in the Village of Lakemore and Springfield Township, in Council District 8, in amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, for the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Resolution 2026-006 was adopted.

2026-007     **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a construction contract with Krumroy Cozad Construction Corporation for the Medical Examiner’s Garage Addition Project, located in the City of Akron, in Council District 4, for an estimated total cost not to exceed \$597,400.00, for the Executive’s Department of Administrative Services–Physical Plants, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Mark Potter, (330) 643-2726, mpotter@summitoh.net

Resolution 2026-007 was adopted.

2026-008     **A Resolution declaring the month of February 2026 as Black History Month in Summit County, recognizing the incredible accomplishments made by Black Americans in the face of adversity, as well as acknowledging the challenges of the present, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro, Councilman Ford, Council as a Whole

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Resolution 2026-008 was adopted.

2026-009     **A Resolution adopting the Capital Improvements Program for 2026-2031 for the County of Summit and appropriating funds as set forth in Exhibit A, for the balance of projects in the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan, for the Executive’s Department of Finance and Budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Sponsor - Executive Shapiro

Staff Contact: Kent Starks, (330) 643-2074, kstarks@summitoh.net

Resolution 2026-009 was adopted.

Presentation of New Business:

Presentation of Petitions to address Council:

**Executive Session**

Motion By: Mr. Schmidt

Seconded By:

Motion Type: Roll Call Vote

For: Mrs. Darrow, Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Donofrio, Mr. Ford, Ms. Higham, Mr. Kacyon, Mr. Licate, Mrs. McKenney, Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Walters, Mr. Wilhite

Against:

Abstain:

Absent:

Outcome: 11-0

Call To Order: 5:13 PM

Reason: Personnel matters pursuant to ORC Section 121.22 G1

Adjournment: Council adjourned at 5:44 pm. The next regular meeting will be held February 9, 2026 at 4:30 pm

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this County Council were conducted in an open public meeting this 26th day of January, 2026.

Signed by:

*Monique Willis*

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by:

*Erin Dickinson*

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL