

REGULAR SESSION, COMMON COUNCIL, July 28, 2025

Be it Remembered that the Common Council of the City of Plymouth, Indiana, met in regular session on July 28, 2025. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers, on the second floor of the City Building, 124 N. Michigan St., Plymouth, Indiana, and was called to order at 6:47 p.m.

Councilman Ecker offered prayer, and Mayor Listenberger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Listenberger presided over Council members Duane Culp, Don Ecker Jr., Kayla Krathwohl, Shiloh Carothers Milner, Dave Morrow, and Linda Starr, who were physically present. Council Member Randy Longanecker was absent. City Attorney Jeff Houin and Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Gorski were also present. The public was able to see and hear the meeting through Microsoft Teams and streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofPlymouth>.

Council members Starr and Milner moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the regular session of the Common Council on July 14, 2025, as presented. The motion carried.

City Attorney Houin introduced Ordinance No. 2025-2244, Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees, Fire and Police Personnel of the City of Plymouth, Indiana for the Year 2026 on second reading.

Milner stated she found a small error and had discussed it already with the Clerk-Treasurer. She stated the Promotions of the City Coordinator line was not divisible by 24 so they needed to omit the .08 to make it divisible by 24.

Council members Milner and Ecker moved and seconded to amend Ordinance No. 2025-2244, Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees, Fire and Police Personnel of the City of Plymouth, Indiana for the Year 2026. The motion carried.

Council members Ecker and Starr moved and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2025-2244R, Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees, Fire and Police Personnel of the City of Plymouth, Indiana for the Year 2026 on second reading as amended. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Councilman in Favor: Culp, Ecker, Krathwohl, Milner, Morrow and Starr

Councilman Opposed: N/A

Councilman Absent: Longanecker

City Attorney Houin introduced Ordinance No. 2025-2244R, Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees, Fire and Police Personnel of the City of Plymouth, Indiana for the Year 2026 on third reading.

Council members Ecker and Starr moved and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2025-2244R, Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees, Fire and Police Personnel of the City of Plymouth, Indiana for the Year 2026 on third reading. The motion passed by roll call vote.

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Starr stated her class reunion was last Saturday night at Opie's Deli and several people who had not been to Plymouth in over 10 years came from different states and made it a point to say how happy they were to see the improvements downtown.

Mayor Listenberger stated they hosted a Young Adults gathering on Friday evening from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM with 20 young adults and a few of them who were not young adults there. He stated the enthusiasm from the younger generation was appreciated. He stated they were eager to continue meeting and they would be joining the Comprehensive Plan as a subcommittee working in tune with the Empowerment Subcommittee. He stated if they want their voices heard that this would be the easiest and quickest way by channeling it through this program. He stated they had great suggestions and some actionable items that they could now put through a committee progress to get them implemented.

Krathwohl added that she was there, and it was great to listen to people her age and younger who were coming back from college voicing items they wish Plymouth had. She stated one of the things they figured out was that they do not do great marketing.

Clerk-Treasurer Gorski explained that the city had received two donations: Both in the amount of \$1,250.00 each. She stated the first was from Emily & Matthew Haskins and the second was from Hunter Transit, LLC to be used for Sponsorship Decals on Police Department Squad Cars. She asked if they wished to accept the donation with the restricted terms, conditions, and purpose attached to the donation. She added the donations would be receipted into the Monetary Gift Fund.

Council members Ecker and Starr moved and seconded to approve the donations as presented. The motion carried.

City Attorney Houin introduced Resolution No. 2025-1165, A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Plymouth to Approve the Application of Heartland Arts Center for a Commercial Revitalization Rebate Program Grant. Anna Kietzman was in attendance to speak on behalf of this resolution.

Kietzman stated they were requesting support through the Commercial Revitalization Rebate Program to help with the cost of the roof on the Heartland Arts Center.

Ecker asked which vendor they planned on using.

Kietzman replied that they received two bids at the same amount.

Council members Ecker and Culp moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-1165, A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Plymouth to Approve the Application of Heartland Arts Center for a Commercial Revitalization Rebate Program Grant as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

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Councilman in Favor: Culp, Ecker, Krathwohl, Milner, Morrow and Starr

Councilman Opposed: N/A

Councilman Absent: Longanecker

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-1165

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH TO APPROVE
THE APPLICATION OF HEARTLAND ART CENTER, LLC
FOR A COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION REBATE PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, the City has established the Commercial Revitalization Rebate Program to encourage property owners to renovate existing buildings and to make other real property improvements. The encouragement is in the form of a rebate to the property owner of an amount not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the actual project costs directly related to the eligible improvements, not to exceed Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), and

WHEREAS, Heartland Art Center, LLC has made application to the Plymouth Common Council for a Commercial Revitalization Rebate Program grant to assist in the renovation of commercial property at 214 N. Michigan Street to replace the roof. The Council met in a public meeting on July 28, 2025, and heard evidence on the application demonstrating eligible expenses for the renovation with a bid totaling \$200,000.00. The purpose and intent of this resolution is to approve the application as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Plymouth as follows:

Section 1. Heartland Art Center, LLC's application for a Commercial Revitalization Rebate Program grant for 214 N. Michigan Street, Plymouth, Indiana is hereby approved

Section 2. The Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to disburse from the appropriate fund, and in accordance with established procedure, a rebate to the applicant consisting of Twenty Percent (20%) of the actual cost incurred by the applicant for eligible expenses for the renovation completed on 214 N. Michigan Street, Plymouth, Indiana. In no event shall the rebate to the applicant exceed Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00).

Section 3. The Clerk-Treasurer is further authorized to transfer money from the City Development Fund to the Community Improvement Fund in an amount necessary to cover the costs of the eligible expenses approved by this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of July, 2025


Robert Listenberger, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lynn M. Gorski, Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Listenberger stated he would like to leave the REES Theatre Request on the table to allow for more time to investigate it.

Greg Hildebrand of Marshall County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) provided a quarterly update. He listed the following:

- \$87 million in Capital Expenditures in Marshall County this year.
- Hoosier Tire asked for a tax abatement for \$16 million in personal property.
- Sequel Wire and Cable in Argos, Indiana was having a large expansion of another 100,000 square feet for the building they were presently in and bringing in additional equipment there. He added that it was a \$23 million expansion. He stated they were starting a sister company doing similar wire extrusion, but it would be lower voltage applications and that was \$25 million. He stated it was competitive as they were looking at locations in Wisconsin, so he was happy that they were able to stay in Marshall County.
- He listed changes in Business Personal Property Tax. Tax Abatements uniform across the county. Floor has been removed for what could be depreciated with it previously being able to go down to 30%. He stated now that the floor had been removed, he suggested going to a 5-year phase in, instead of the previous 7-year phase in standard for personal

property tax abatements. He believes once they can find some steady income to replace the business personal property tax that it would go away after.

- \$86,000 was the limit on exemption for personal property and it had now been increased to \$2 million. He stated the first \$2 million of personal property is no longer taxable. He stated that they would now remove a lot of those \$1-2 million projects that they had done in the past.
- ChatRX.MD by Dr. Stillson was developed here in Marshall County. He stated the AI behind it are 95% accurate at making diagnostics, while a human doctor was only 70% accurate. He stated it was free to use, and it could only prescribe antibiotics.

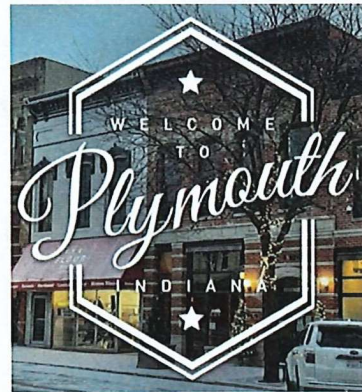
Paul De Benedictus and George Schricker of Wild Rose Moon gave a presentation asking for monetary support.



Wild Rose Moon: Showcasing Plymouth Across Michiana

A sponsorship proposal for the City of Plymouth to support a cultural gem that brings regional recognition and visitors to our community.

by Paul de Benedictis and George Schricker



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Our Request

What We're Asking

We are requesting \$25,000 a year in sponsorship support from the City of Plymouth for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

This investment will enable the Wild Rose Moon to showcase and market the city of Plymouth across Michiana through our radio and television programming, bringing visibility and visitors to our community.



About Wild Rose Moon

Established in 2015, the Wild Rose Moon is a highly regarded 501c3, non-profit performing arts center in downtown Plymouth.

We function as a "dynamic cultural center" for Marshall County and the broader Michiana region, known for our intimate listening room experience and diverse programming.

The Moon is perceived as a "cultural gem," an "incubator and showcase for regional talent," and a vital force in local arts development.



Wild Rose Moon is a cornerstone partner to PBS Michiana-WNIT. The *Wild Rose Moon Hour* ... allows our local station to present productions that stand shoulder-to-shoulder with national-level programming.

Amanda Miller Kelley, President & General Manager, WNIT



Our Regional Reach

10K

Monthly Audience

Each episode of our show reaches approximately 10,000 people across Michiana through WVPE 88.1 (NPR) and WNIT (PBS Michiana).

96%

Positive Reviews

Local sentiment towards Wild Rose Moon is "overwhelmingly positive," with 96% of reviewers on Facebook recommending the venue.

"The *Wild Rose Moon Radio Hour* has been a staple of the WVPE programming diet for almost a decade.

Tony Krabill Program Director, WVPE

WVPE 88.1
Coverage Map



Public Perception

The Wild Rose Moon is far more than just a venue. It's a home for the arts, an educational space for young creatives, and a driver of cultural vitality in Plymouth.

Our impact is reinforced by success stories like hosting "Girl Named Tom" (winners of NBC's *The Voice*), solidifying our image as a "launchpad for regional talent and a place where the arts flourish locally."

With broad demographic engagement, consistent media appreciation, and heartfelt public feedback, Wild Rose Moon is regarded as a "cornerstone of community and culture, beloved by those it serves and instrumental in shaping the artistic landscape of the area."



Bringing People to Plymouth



In 2024, 550 people attended Wild Rose Moon performances, with over half traveling from outside Marshall County.

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Sponsorship Benefits

1 Radio Recognition

The City of Plymouth will be highlighted verbally and marketed in the radio show opening on WVPE 88.1 (NPR).

2 Television Exposure

The television program on WNIT (PBS Michiana) will include both verbal and visual recognition/marketing of the City of Plymouth.

3 Collaborative Messaging

We will work directly with the city on the marketing message and brand image for these programs to ensure alignment with Plymouth's goals.



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Return on Investment

Visibility

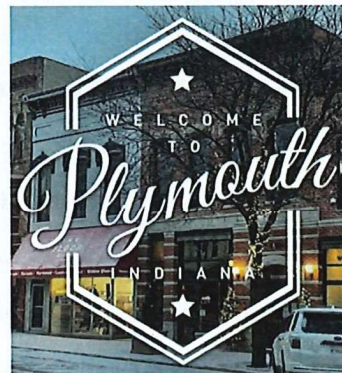
Your twenty-four-month commitment will provide repeat marketing exposure, across Michiana, reaching 10,000 viewers and listeners monthly.

Destination Marketing

Reinforce and expand the message of Plymouth as an arts and entertainment destination.

Economic Impact

Bring visitors from across the region and beyond to Plymouth who will patronize local businesses, contribute to the local economy and may become future residents.



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The Wild Rose Moon is already transforming the artistic and cultural skills, knowledge, and ideas in Plymouth into economically productive goods, services, and places.

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Our Request: A \$25,000 Sponsorship per year for FY 2026 and FY 2027

We are asking for a \$25,000/year sponsorship in FY 2026 and FY 2027 from the City of Plymouth for the Wild Rose Moon to continue producing and showcasing Wild Rose Moon programs and market our community across Michiana.

This investment will allow the Wild Rose Moon to highlight Plymouth as an (arts and entertainment or cultural) destination through our radio and television programming, bringing recognition and visitors to our city.

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Racheal Holzer (10019 Upas Road, Plymouth, IN 46563)

Holzer stated her son got an internship at the Wild Rose Moon and it was such a family environment. She stated it was a wonderful place.

Krathwohl asked where they could find upcoming events.

Benedictus replied they were online on their website, on Facebook, and plastered across the street on their windows with posters. He said it was unique for the city.

Mayor Listenberger stated if they were to do something that it would have to be rolled into his budget for Promotion of the City. He said the budget only goes so far and he told the Wild Rose Moon that he did not have enough in his budget to keep supporting so that was why they were here that night.

Culp stated this downtown was thriving because of the REES Theatre, Heartland Arts Center, and Wild Rose Moon. He stated he would like to do this, but it would be best to see where their

budget was. He stated he would like to table this to see if it could financially fit into the budget or not. He stated he was in support of it but with the tax breaks in the next couple of years, he wanted to be sure they could afford it. He stated it was a hard sale like the REES but when they are hearing the money would be cut and they want local municipalities to start taxing on other items that the city must first wrap their head around those types of things before they do that.

Mayor Listenberger stated he did not know how to share the budget anymore than they have already with council members as far as where the balances are. He stated it would be good to go over it again.

Council members Culp and Krathwohl moved and seconded to table the request. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Councilman in Favor: Culp, Ecker, Krathwohl, Milner, Morrow and Starr

Councilman Opposed: N/A

Councilman Absent: Longanecker

City Attorney Houin updated the board on ONE Marshall County. He said the various subcommittees had been working through their own focus areas and presenting them to the ONE Marshall County Board with their own goals and action plans. He stated they were all being combined into a strategic plan and very soon some representatives would be in to introduce themselves and provide updates.

City Attorney Houin updated the board on the Comprehensive Plan Committees. He echoed what the Mayor said earlier about the Young Adult Engagement as it was a good representation of some young adults in our community. He stated one of the important items that came from that was that there were a lot of great ideas but most of the young adults just do not know how to take action on those ideas while some of them who are not as young may know proper channels to bring their ideas forward. He stated it would be a great partnership, and they should see some positives come out of that soon. He stated some zoning & marketing updates should come soon.

Mayor Listenberger stated the Comprehensive Plan had done a lot in the last year and a half and now they were at a level where the items they were bringing forward now take longer to accomplish.

Houin stated they started with the easier items first and developed some momentum. He stated it was a lot. He added that he did not want them to think that just because it was not a detailed update that there was not a lot happening. He stated there are some days where it was too much to condense into a brief presentation here.

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Kietzman stated she served on the Marketing Subcommittee and wished to add that they launched an online dashboard for the public. She added they planned on setting up at the Mayor's Summer of Music. She believed it was a nice digestible way for the public to learn what it was that the city was doing and accomplishing. She stated they provided hyperlinks of city jargon, so it becomes educational as well.

Council members Starr and Krathwohl moved and seconded to accept the following communications:

- Minutes of the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting of July 14, 2025
- July 28, 2025 Check Register
- June 2025 Clerk-Treasurer Financial Reports
- REES Theatre – Supporting Documentation
- Wild Rose Moon Supporting Documentation
- enFocus Quarterly Report Q1 & Q2 2025
- July 22, 2025 Technical Review Committee Minutes
- June 18, 2025 Urban Forest and Flower Committee Minutes

The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council members Milner and Starr moved and seconded to adjourn. Mayor Listenberger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.


Lynn M. Gorski
Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED


Robert Listenberger, Mayor