

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA**  
March 18, 2024

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana met in regular session on March 18, 2024 in the Union County Commissioner's Chambers.

Town Council President Keith Bias called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Jerry Kahl, Derrek Jenkins and Ross Keasling

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Cyrus Johnson, UCDC and Matt Reuss.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

Ordinance 2024-3 was presented on second reading. Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-6. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**MISC. BUSINESS**

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the three year agreement with Waste Management for the sludge removal at the wastewater plant. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Matt Reuss, Utilities Superintendent, received an email from Alliance asking any utilities that had single axle trucks, that were able and willing, to assist the City of Winchester with the devastation of the tornado. He did not have the specifics as to what was needed but in a previous discussion with Ms. Shepler and Mr. Bias, they supported the assistance if the Town's insurance was ok with sending a truck and one of our employees to be with that truck. After a brief discussion, it was decided that once Mr. Reuss could nail down the specifics of what is needed and if the Town's insurance approved, Mr. Reuss could send the truck and an employee for however long Mr. Reuss could handle being down one employee.

Cyrus Johnson of UCDC appeared before the Council to clarify the confusion of the street closures for "Live in Liberty." Mr. Johnson stated that although he preferred the event to occur on the courthouse square, Dawn Ripberger, who is the organizer, wanted the event to stay at the Foundation/Library building due to the awning protecting the performers from the sun. Mr. Johnson also discussed the upcoming eclipse and the events that are scheduled for the eclipse. Mr. Bias thanked Mr. Johnson for his hard work.

Ms. Shepler presented to the Council her request to add a third deputy to her staff. She included in the Council packets a customer count of how many people, who are not employees, come into her office per month, the salary, benefits and equipment costs to hire another person and new job descriptions for the current staff and the new hire. Mr. Bias informed the Council that hiring a third person will allow Ms. Shepler to move more of the responsibilities she does to her main deputy so that she can be more active in reviewing financials and dealing with the increased interests in Capital Asset and Inventory Reporting. After discussion, Mr. Kahl made a motion to allow Ms. Shepler to hire a third deputy. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Ms. Shepler informed the Council that the State has informed municipalities that meetings will have to be livestreamed commencing July 1, 2025. Discussion occurred regarding how to livestream, costs of equipment and someone to man the camera during the meeting. Further discussion will occur as more information is being sent to the Clerk-Treasurers.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, on a motion made by Mr. Keasling and supported by Mr. Jenkins the meeting was adjourned.



Keith Bias, President

ATTEST:   
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer