

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
March 4, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana met in regular session on March 4, 2024 in the Union County Commissioner's Chambers.

Town Council Member Derrek Jenkins called the meeting to order per the approval of Mr. Kahl and Mr. Keasling.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Jerry Kahl and Ross Keasling

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Cheyenne Lance, Liberty Herald; Matt Reuss, Jim Barnhizer and Todd Dickenson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes for February 5, 2024 and February 20, 2024 were tabled to the next meeting.

**ORDINANCES**

Ordinance 2024-3 was presented on first reading. The ordinance was moved for consideration at the second reading.

Mr. Kahl made a motion to suspend the rules and vote on Ordinance 2024-4 on first reading. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-4. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Shepler requested that Resolution 2024-4 be tabled until the next meeting as she was informed another invoice would coming from Wessler for the waterline project.

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. The meetings for the April 15<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> meetings will be moved to the street garage as the County will be using the Commissioners Chambers for early voting.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Chief Dickenson reported that Officer Moffett is back from his year long deployment. Chief will find out from Officer Moffett when he intends to return to the department. The Chief discussed the fleet maintenance and the repair of the cruiser that was wrecked. The Town is still contending with recalls on the Ford Police vehicles.

Chief Barnhizer informed the Council that the new truck is ordered and should arrive in approximately eight weeks. He asked Ms. Shepler if she would be available Thursday or Friday to discuss the future of the fire department payroll. Ms. Shepler informed Chief Barnhizer that she was available either day, however, he would need to call ahead to make sure she is in the office.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss reported that he had nothing at this time.

**MISC. BUSINESS**

Since the representative of Comcast did not show up to discuss providing fiberoptic service to the Town, a short discussion occurred regarding the number of fiberoptic cables already in the Town's right of ways and their placement amongst gas, water and sewer lines. The concern is the ability to fix service lines if the employees have to maneuver around the fiberoptic lines in the future.

Discussion occurred regarding the eclipse that will occur on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Keasling suggested locking down the fill station from Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> through the end of the day of April 8<sup>th</sup>. There is concern regarding the strain the influx of people to campgrounds and other venues will cause on the water system. Also, with Town having the open lot next to the fill station, the possibility is that people will park there to view the eclipse thus causing issues with traffic. Discussion also occurred on how to keep the Town's parking lots in front and behind the Town Hall available for employees and emergency personnel. EMA is projecting that Union County will have an influx of 35,000 people for the event.

Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of Mr. Tipton being replaced as Vice President since his work schedule has not allowed him to attend several meetings. If Mr. Bias is absent from a meeting and Mr. Tipton is as well, then there is no one to run the meeting other than the Council appointing someone who is in attendance.

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

DK R

Derek Tipton, Vice-President  
Keith Bias, President

ATTEST: Melissa Shepler  
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer