



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
July 1, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana met in regular session on July 1, 2024 in the Union County Commissioner's Chambers.

Attending members appointed Derrek Jenkins to run the meeting as the President and Vice President were not in attendance.

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana met for an additional appropriation hearing on July 1, 2024 in the Union County Commissioner's Chambers.

Town Council President Keith Bias called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Ross Keasling, Dereck Tipton and Jerry Kahl.

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss, Todd Dickenson, Jim Barnhizer, Rosalyn Spurlock, John and Betty Seibert.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 regular meeting. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-10. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-11. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-12. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Fire Chief Barnhizer informed the Council that all the trucks were repaired and running. Mr. Kahl asked Chief Barnhizer about the status of the new truck that was ordered. He stated that progress has been slow. Mr. Keasling clarified that they are waiting on the chassis.

Police Chief Dickenson informed the Council that Officer Young is over half way through the academy. The department is working through unmanned shifts due to officers having to be off. Officer Moffett will miss two rotations due to minor foot surgery. Officer Creech is dealing with a hand injury that was aggravated while he was on military leave. The part time officers and Reserve Officer Hobbs is helping out when they can. Officers Moffett and Creech will be leaving for their respective military trainings. Chief Dickenson is trying to get those shifts covered. Ms. Shepler informed Chief Dickenson because she had not seen him since before the previous meeting that the Council would like to receive the monthly activity reports that the previous Chief submitted. They would like the first two sheets. They did not need the full packet that was usually submitted. Discussion occurred regarding the rule regarding fireworks.

Utilities Superintendent, Matt Reuss informed the Council that his crew is back to fully staffed as John Teeguarden is back from his surgery.

**MISC BUSINESS**



Ms. Shepler informed the Council that she had been contacted by Dustin Reece of 38 Square requesting to rent the pole yard lot that is located to the North of the Town's Street Garage commencing in 2025. Currently, Whitewater Valley REMC has been renting the pole yard for a \$ 100.00/year. Ms. Shepler and Mr. Reuss believe it was rented at that cost because REMC used to assist the Town by hanging Christmas decorations and banners. Ms. Shepler stated that REMC has paid the rent for this year. Mr. Reece will be using the pole yard for his use as he will be doing work for REMC. Ms. Shepler informed the Council that other utility entities, such as Spectrum, have contacted him to rent the pole yard as well. After a discussion regarding renting the pole yard to Mr. Reece, Mr. Reuss was asked if the Town could use the yard for its own storage. Mr. Reuss stated that it would be beneficial for the Town to use it as he is running out of room at the street garage property. Mr. Bias asked the members if they were opposed to not renting it out and keep it for the Town's use? All were in agreement to keep it for the Town.

Ms. Shepler approached the Council to ask for a No Trespass Order against Jason Long who uses the Town's fill station. Mr. Long has a long history of getting water and not paying for it until after the Town sends him to collections. Ms. Shepler stated that she just sent his account to collections again last week and she is tired of dealing with this. She spoke to the Town Attorney and asked if this was possible for non-payment/delinquency. Mr. Williams she can do it but to get Council approval before doing so. Mr. Tipton spoke to the Council and Chief Dickenson stating that, a discussion he recently had with the prosecutor's office, there was concern the No Trespass Orders were not being done correctly. A decision was made to table filing the No Trespass Order until clarification comes from the prosecutor's office. Discussion occurred regarding the fill station and its costs to update and get away from the "honesty" system. Mr. Reuss and Ms. Shepler informed that Mr. Reuss has been in touch the Union County Co-op to take over the fill station at their property. The Town Attorney said that the Town and the Co-op can enter into a joint venture as long as the Co-op keeps the fill station open year-round and serves the whole public. Mr. Reuss and Randy Fields, Union County Co-op Manager are in discussion on how to make it happen.


After a lengthy conversation, the Council denied Alice Sheehan's request for an adjustment. Although the adjustment negatively impacts Ms. Mildred Sheer's account, the Council did not believe it to be fair to everyone else that has requested an adjustment whose leak spanned over several months. Although, they feel for Ms. Sheer, the costs of the leak are between Ms. Sheer and her landlord.

Mr. Keasling discussed an email he had received from the WUR board regarding the fact that the Town has not had a representative at its board meetings. One of the members has served as the Town's proxy. Mr. Keasling had been on it before and was discouraged by the canceling of meetings once he got there, the meetings only being 15 minutes and the meetings occurring during the work day. The Board would not consider moving the meeting to Union County at least once a quarter to offset the traveling. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Mr. Keasling would inform the board of his resignation and other members of the Council were not interested in serving on the board.

Mr. Reuss informed the Council that the County water and sewer line extension was completed and that RQAW would be in touch with Mr. Bias regarding the Town taking over the water and sewer lines.

#### **ADJOURN**

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

  
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Keith Bias, President

ATTEST:   
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Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer