



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
August 19, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana met in regular session on August 19, 2024 in the Union County Commissioner's Chambers.

Town Council President Kieth Bias called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Dereck Tipton, Derrek Jenkins and Jerry Kahl.

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Todd Dickenson, Jim Barnhizer and Marc Ross.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 5, 2024. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**MISC. BUSINESS**

Marc Ross, Fire Truck Committee member, updated the Council on the issues with trying to purchase a medic truck after being informed that Chevrolet was not making utility trucks for the rest of the year. The Council was in receipt of two quotes. Chris Cooksey, Fire Truck Committee member, had reached out to Indy Dodge, Wetzel Dodge and Riedman Motors for quotes on Dodge utility trucks. After a lengthy discussion with Mr. Ross and Chief Barnhizer, it was decided that the quotes received from Wetzel Dodge and Riedman Motors would be tabled at this time. The Council, Mr. Ross and Chief Barnhizer agreed to update the Council every month as to the status of Chevy's production of utility vehicles as it was the first choice of the fire department and getting a Dodge as a replacement may be settling just to get a truck. More than likely, the Town will have to encumber the funds to 2025 to get the Chevy the department wanted due to a bigger cab size.

Ms. Shepler reviewed the 2025 budget packets that were included in the Council packets. She requested that Council keep this packet during 2025 budget talks so that she does not have to keep printing them unless there are changes. She reviewed the proposed appropriations for next year, the revenue projections, the requests she and Chief Dickenson are requesting for their departments as well as the possible salaries for next year. Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss was meeting with Milestone Contractors earlier in the day to start getting prices on paving in the Wynds subdivision as well as coming up with a two, five and ten year plan for paving and curbs. Ms. Shepler stated that she had met with Mr. Bias and Mr. Tipton and they discussed salaries in respect to the police department as the Town is losing its members due to higher pay from area Sheriff's departments. It was discussed that next year the officers would each get a \$ 10,000.00 pay increase. The Administrative Department and the Utilities Department would each get \$ 5,000.00 to disburse amongst employees based on the employee evaluations. Ms. Shepler stated that the salary ordinance does not have to be adopted until December so conversation can continue to occur. Ms. Shepler informed the Council that she is going to conduct her employee evaluations around the first of September. Mr. Bias told the other members of the Council to be prepared to nail down the budget at the next meeting as Ms. Shepler will have to advertise the budget last week of September for the first budget hearing on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Tipton drew attention to the new hire process for the police department. Historically, the Town has sent the new hires to the Tier 1 certification at the Academy. The Town is losing the Tier 1 officers to Sheriff's departments due to pay. The State allows the Town to have a percentage of their officers be Tier 2 certified, which according to Chief Dickenson, the Tier 2 training is six weeks shorter, however, the candidates still have to pass the written tests that the Tier 1 candidates also take. Mr. Bias stated that he was committed to the Tier 1 program until discussing the situation with several law enforcement members. He is now fine with Tier 2. Even though Tier 2 is condensed the Town can offer a more personalized training with our department as well as others. After a discussion regarding




close Fairground Street, other than to local traffic and emergency personnel, and have US 27/44 closed at the intersection of College Corner Avenue and the divert the traffic to use College Corner Avenue instead of Fairground Street. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.


Mr. Bias asked members of the Council to drive through the alley between High Street and Sycamore Street near the BMV. Mr. Bias had received a phone call regarding the condition of the alley. Once members have viewed the alley, they would address its condition with Mr. Reuss.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the physical fitness test that previous applicants had to pass in order to be considered for a police officer position. It was decided the physical fitness test would be waived for those applicants who are already Tier 1 or Tier 2 certified. The physical fitness requirements will be adjusted as to the Tier 2 expectations as Council has decided that the next hire will attend the Tier 2 certificate.

**ADJOURN**

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

  
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Keith Bias, President

ATTEST:   
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Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer