

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
December 16, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had regular meeting on December 16, 2024 in the Union County Commissioners' Chambers of the Union County Courthouse.

Town Council President Keith Bias called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Dereck Tipton, Derrek Jenkins and Ross Keasling.

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer and Matt Reuss

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 2, 2024. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

Mr. Keasling made a motion to suspend the rules and vote on Ordinance 2024-17 on first reading. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-17. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-20. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**MISC. BUSINESS**

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve an adjustment of \$ 95.61 for 102 E Sycamore Street. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Ms. Shepler presented the capital assets financials to the Council. She informed them that this was a two-year project due to the gathering of information for Doll Consulting to comprise the documentation. It will be entered into the 2023 AFR and she will give them the 2024 purchases after the first of the year.

Ms. Shepler informed the Council that Ed Schulte filed a complaint with the State Attorney General's office due to the non-approval of his adjustment. A State Administrator, Ms. Carlita Hobert informed Ms. Shepler, by documents received in the mail, to give all of the documentation Mr. Schulte sent to the State to the Town Attorney for him to clarify which Ms. Shepler did. Ms. Shepler received a call from the Ms. Hobert on Monday asking what the situation was with Mr. Schulte as he was calling their office quite frequently. Ms. Shepler informed Ms. Hobert that Mr. Schulte was upset his adjustment was not granted by the Council and will not accept that the meter readings and calculations point to a leaking toilet. Ms. Hobert was going to call Mr. Schulte and inform him that all of the information has been sent to the Town's Attorney. Ms. Shepler informed Mr. Williams of the situation and he stated he would draft a letter to Mr. Schulte regarding the situation.

Ms. Shepler informed the Council that she was approached by Terry Abernathy of Abernathy Auction and Real Estate regarding the Town being interested in the recently vacated Whitewater Valley REMC property. Ms. Shepler has discussed the purchasing of the property with Todd Caldwell of Baker Tilly, Mr. Williams and Mr. Bias due to the possibility of the property going to auction on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Shepler informed the Council that State Code does not deal with municipalities purchasing real property at auction. It was recommended by Mr. Williams that the Town still follow the procedure of purchasing real property and the Town will only go as high as the median price that will be established by the appraisals. The Council stated that they would be interested in the office building and the green space area for the possibility of building a firehouse on the lot. The pole barn that is located across the street is not of interest to them at this time. The Council gave Ms. Shepler permission to hire the three appraisers to appraise the building and the green space.


Mr. Reuss presented a cost analysis of what it costs for his employees to deal with red tags each month and for the year. Without Ms. Shepler's breakdown of her costs included, the approximate cost is \$ 1,303.42 per year to pass out red tags.


Mr. Tipton informed the Council that at the first meeting of 2025 he does not want to be considered for the President's or Vice President's positions on the Council. He stated that it was someone else's turn to step up. Mr.

Bias stated the same thing however he would be the vice president if needed. Mr. Keasling stated he did not want to be considered for either as well. Nominations will occur at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**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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, President

ATTEST:   
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer