

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

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had the regular meeting on November 4, 2024 in the Union County Commissioners' Chambers of the Union County Courthouse.

Town Council Vice President Dereck Tipton called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Derrek Jenkins and Jerry Kahl.

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss, Todd Dickenson, Jim Barnhizer and Ed Schulte.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the minutes of the Firehouse Feasibility Grant Hearing, the second hearing of the 2025 Budget and the regular meeting of October 21, 2024. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-18, approving the transfer of property from Union County to the Town of Liberty. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Fire Chief Jim Barnhizer reported that the new fire truck was offsite and the new bed had been installed. Ms. Shepler informed Chief Barnhizer that the fire truck needed to be brought back into Town for a VIN check as she has not been able to get the truck registered since it was taken to the fabricator.

Police Chief Todd Dickenson reported to the Council that he will be down three vehicles next week due to one recall, one warranty repair and fuses that are not working in Officer Young's vehicle. He is trying to have the vehicles worked on while the officer driving it is off.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss informed the Council that leaf pick up has started and it will run through the first week of the December.

Ms. Shepler informed the Department Heads that the purchasing of supplies and equipment at this stage in the fiscal year should only be done if the items can be received and paid for at the last meeting of December. Anything being ordered now but unable to be paid for this year, will come out of their 2025 appropriation. She stated she will not encumber funds to 2025 because the departments waited until the last minute to start buying.

**MISC. BUSINESS**

Mr. Tipton reviewed his discussion with Mr. Reuss regarding the meter that tracks Mr. Schulte's water usage. Mr. Reuss stated that he had shared the data log information with Scott Dunlap, the Utility Supply representative that deals with the radio read meters. It was his determination by the calculations he had done based on the readings, that Mr. Schulte had a leak, most likely a toilet, that had possibly corrected itself. Mr. Reuss and his utility employees did daily data logs and manual readings at different times during the day to check the meter and the usage. The members were given the information in their packets. Mr. Tipton stated that his ten years of experience working for the Town's utilities, meters do not run just to run. There had to have been an issue. Mr. Jenkins agreed with Mr. Tipton's assessment. Mr. Kahl reminded the Council that historically, since the adoption of the amended Town ordinance, if evidence of repair has not been documented, they have not approved the adjustment. There was not evidence of repair presented to the Council by Mr. Schulte. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to deny Mr. Schulte's request for the adjustment. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Mr. Schulte stated he did not agree with the findings and he would take matters into his own hands.


Ms. Shepler explained to the Council that Mr. Bias asked Mr. Reuss to obtain pricing on cameras for the Street Garage area. Mr. Reuss had included three types of systems in the packet. After a short discussion, the decision whether to purchase was tabled so that Mr. Bias can participate in discussing the equipment.

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve September's bank reconciliations. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Ms. Shepler presented a street closure request that was given to her at approximately 3:00 that afternoon. Julie Jolliff, Director of the Union County Public Library, submitted the street closure to conduct a Christmas themed 5K for December 7<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jolliff had been waiting on Cyrus Johnson of UCDC to let her know when UCDC would host "Christmas in our Hometown." UCDC was not planning on coming up with a date until their board meeting on Wednesday. Ms. Jolliff was anxious to confirm the date of her event so she could start marketing it. Discussion occurred regarding participant safety and the route. Mr. Reuss stated that if Ms. Jolliff had volunteers to man the main intersections to regulate the traffic and the runners, he could probably come up with enough yellow vests for them to wear. The Council approved the requests and started discussing other streets to close to prevent traffic entering the route.

**ADJOURN**

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

  
Dereck Tipton, Vice President

ATTEST:   
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer