

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
January 21, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had regular meeting on January 21, 2025 at the Town's Street garage building located at 827 N. Market Street.

The Town Council meeting of January 6, 2025 was cancelled due to the county being under a Level 3 travel advisory for snow.

Town Council President Keith Bias called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

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

PRESIDENT AND VICE NOMINATIONS FOR 2025

Mr. Tipton made a motion to nominate Mr. Bias as Town Council President. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to nominate Mr. Tipton as Town Council Vice President. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2024. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-1. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-2. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

MISC. BUSINESS

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the Union County Development Corporation's agreement for 2025. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Ms. Shepler updated the Council on a situation regarding an implied utility easement that is located off Fairground and Campbell Streets. Ms. Shepler had contacted a surveyor two years ago to vacate the easement as not utilities are located there and neighbors to the easement have encroached or built over the easement. After trying to get the local surveying company to look at the situation on several occasions, she reached out to Wessler Engineering to see if they have a surveyor on staff. David Lauer, Wessler Engineering's surveyor, Joe Rhett's, Defur Voran Attorney and Beth Baker of Union County Title Company have started the research and surveying of the easement. Ms. Shepler told the Council that the vacation of this utility easement needed to occur as the neighbors of said easement are in a disagreement over property lines, fences, etc.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the November bank reconciliations. Ms. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the December bank reconciliations. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Bias informed the members of the Council and Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss that he was approached by the school's superintendent regarding issue of buses, students and vehicles using First Street as their primary way to and from school. This has been an area of concern as there are no sidewalks on either side of First Street and it is heavily used. Discussion occurred regarding trying to put a sidewalk in. Mr. Keasling made a suggestion that the street be made one way from South to North. After more discussion regarding making that street one-way, it was decided to discuss the situation further at the first meeting of February.

Ms. Shepler informed the Council that she met with Staci Abernathy Schlichter and the appraiser from Muncie at the REMC building this past Friday. Following the spirit of the rules of purchasing of real property despite the building and the grass area tracts being auctioned, she stated that she has two appraisers working on the appraisal of the building and the tracts. The first appraiser has already done an appraisal of the building for REMC and has received permission to revise to current standards and give it to the Town. Ms. Shepler stated that this building would be a game changer for her office as well as the police department. The Council members asked if they could tour the building as well? Ms. Shepler stated that she would get with Abernathy Auction and Real Estate to see if she could get them in the building before the next meeting. She would have to have members go in two at a time in order to not violate the Indiana Public Access Laws.

Mr. Kahl asked Ms. Shepler what was the status of the O’Toole Building? Ms. Shepler explained that Jeff Mathew, Area Plan Director, has started the Unsafe Building Process on the building. She went on to explain that the Unsafe Building process is lengthy and they may not see any progress on the building for a little while.

ADJOURN

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

Keith Bias
Keith Bias, President

ATTEST: Melissa Shepler
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer