

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
January 5, 2026**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had a regular meeting on January 5, 2026 at the Town Administration building located at 101 Brownsville Avenue.

Mr. Dereck Tipton called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Jerry Kahl, Jeff Lang and Ross Keasling

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss, Todd Dickenson, Jim Franklin, Mike and Debbie Messer.

**NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR 2026**

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

Mr. Keasling made a motion to nominate Mr. Tipton as Town Council Vice President. Mr. Lang 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 15, 2025. Mr. Lang supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 2026-1 was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Lang made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-2. Ms. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Mr. Tipton made a motion to appoint Todd Dickenson as Police Chief, Matt Reuss as Utilities Superintendent and Jim Franklin as Fire Chief for 2026. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Fire Chief Jim Franklin presented the fire department's activity report and reviewed the numbers with the Council. Chief Franklin also presented to the Council a list of reasons why the Fire Department needs to be the occupants of the old Clerk-Treasurer's office and the old Police Department. After discussion, it was decided that the Fire Department could use the Clerk-Treasurer's office that is located behind Unit 61 for their meetings until the Council decides on what to do with the old offices. Mr. Tipton asked Chief Franklin if he is aware of the NERIS System for reporting and to get federal grants? Chief Franklin and Mr. Keasling that the fire department uses a State based reporting system not the federal.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss informed the Council that the two entities requesting adjustments at the last meeting, paid their balances in full rather than come back and discuss the adjustments again. Mr. Reuss did research on what it would cost to get a new bench test for the meters. He stated that it would cost approximately \$ 7,000.00. After discussion, it was decided to have Mr. Reuss research how much it would cost to send a meter to be tested and then the ordinance would be modified to offset the costs.

Police Chief Todd Dickenson passed out the department's activity report. Chief Dickenson informed the Council that Officer Brown started the Academy today and would be attending for ten (10) weeks. Mr. Tipton asked Chief Dickenson if he was aware of the NIVRS System for reporting to get federal grants? Chief Dickenson was not aware of this system.

**MISC. BUSINESS**

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Police Interceptor would be put out for bid again as no one submitted a bid.

Mike and Debbie Messer appeared before the Council to have concerns addressed regarding their treatment by Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss while plowing snow for several of the businesses on Union Street. Mr. Messer stated that he and Mr. Reuss had words. Mr. Reuss had contacted the Police Department directly for their assistance. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Kahl stated that he would talk to the other individuals such as Mr. Reuss and Officer Jackson as to what occurred and he would contact the Messer's after he was done with that.

Mr. Reuss and Ms. Shepler that they had received prints from Frontier to install fiber optic in Town. Part of the fiber would be bored and the other part would be coming off their poles. Mr. Reuss is concerned that there will not be room in some right of ways for more cabling due to them already being full and the Town has to consider that they have already approved Comcast to install fiber in town. Ms. Shepler stated that she would inform the Permitting company that sent her plans that they should contact Mr. Reuss regarding the plans.

#### **ADJOURN**

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

*Dereck Tipton* \_\_\_\_\_  
Dereck Tipton, Vice President

ATTEST: *Melissa Shepler* \_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Liberty Council meeting. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/@LibertyIndiana> or visit the Town of Liberty website, libertyin.gov for the meeting as well. The meetings will appear on the website for as long as the website can support the video.