

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
February 17, 2026**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana held a regular meeting on February 17, 2026 at the Town Administration building located at 101 Brownsville Avenue.

Mr. Jerry Kahl called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Derrek Jenkins, Jeff Lang, Dereck Tipton and Ross Keasling

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss, Jim Franklin, Ashley Reister, Jill Hamilton and Kennedy Jenkins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lang made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2, 2026. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Keasling made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-6. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

MISC. BUSINESS

Mr. Kahl opened the three sealed bids for the 1999 International Fire Truck, old Unit 64. Doug Skaggs submitted a bid of \$ 1,200.00. Trevor Hoog submitted a bid of \$ 200.00. Nicholas Dingler submitted a bid of \$ 4,175.00. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the bid of Nicholas Dingler for the amount of \$ 4,175.00 for old Unit 64. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Further comment and discussion occurred regarding Kennedy Jenkins' request for stop signs to be added to High Street where Fosdick Street t's into it. After a lengthy discussion regarding the stop signs and the impacts it could have the residents in the general vicinity of the stop signs, Mr. Kahl asked for a roll call to inquire as to who was in favor of installing the stop signs and who was not so the Clerk-Treasurer can draft ordinance adding the stop signs if roll call dictated it. Mr. Keasling, Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Lang supported installing the stop signs. Mr. Tipton did not support the installation of the stop signs at Fosdick and High Streets. Ms. Shepler will bring an ordinance to the Council at the next meeting.

Ms. Jill Hamilton appeared for the Council requesting that sewer rates be considered to be pro-rated as she disagrees with the idea that she pays the same amount for 700 gallons of usage as someone who goes through 2,000 gallons. Ms. Shepler informed Ms. Hamilton that the current rates cannot be changed as the deadline to discuss the current rates had long passed. The only way the Town could change the rates was to do a rate study and go through the rate change process which could cost the Town around \$ 10,000.00. Ms. Shepler explained to Ms. Hamilton that the only time rate studies occur is if the utility is losing money so rates could be increased. Both utilities lost money this past year so Ms. Shepler informed Miss Hamilton and the Council that she is going to determine after the midway point of the year if the Town will need to possibly consider rate increases for water and sewer. Ms. Shepler informed Ms. Hamilton that is time to dispute rates if a rate increase is determined to have to occur.

Darrell and Betty Richardson's request for an adjustment was tabled as they did not present receipts or appear to discuss their request.

In the Council packets, a 5K race route was presented for Council approval. Mr. Reuss and Chief Dickenson laid out the race route as to have least amount of impact on residents trying to maneuver Town. They also wanted to avoid the area of where College Corner Avenue t's into Union Street as it has been an issue before. This would also allow consistency with the layout and what barriers would be needed. All members of the Council agreed to the new route.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the Union County Development Corporations street closure request with the assumption that their Certificate of Insurance will be updated and presented to the Clerk-Treasurer's office as it expires before the first street closure request occurs. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the Live in Liberty's street closure requests. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the Liberty Lion's Club street closure request for their annual car show with the caveat that the club does not close Market Street where the alley behind the Liberty Restaurant is located so people can get to High Street. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Mary "Michelle" McClure's request for a water and sewer tap in, in the amount of \$ 5,509.62. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Ms. Shepler informed the Council that she had received a request from Doug Wolber of Amp, to rent the pole yard lot. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Town would not rent the pole yard. It would only be used for the Town's needs.

Ms. Shepler presented to the Council the 2025 Annual Financial Report documents that she will be submitting on the Gateway Portal by March 1st. Mr. Kahl signed the acknowledgement that Ms. Shepler had entered the financials accordingly and to the best of her knowledge.

Mr. Tipton inquired as to why the Council had not discussed the stop signs at Columbia and Sycamore Street as a part of the stop sign discussion earlier in the meeting? Mr. Kahl stated that Ms. Hill did not show up to discuss it. He had asked her to make a tally sheet as to how many times a day she believes people are speeding past her house. It will be discussed when she comes to a meeting.

ADJOURN

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

Jerry Kahl
Jerry Kahl, 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.