

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana held a regular meeting on April 6, 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, Dereck Tipton and Ross Keasling

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss, Todd Dickenson, Karl Moffett, Jim Franklin, Kim Klein, Cory and Shannon Wollyung.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 16, 2026. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Fire Chief Jim Franklin reported that the fire department had twenty-one (21) runs in March. Eleven (11) runs occurred in the Townships and ten (10) occurred in Town. The fire department is meeting to discuss how they want to set up the area that was occupied by the Clerk-Treasurer and Police Department.

Police Chief Todd Dickenson informed the Council that he had a lead on computer stands. Chief Dickenson also informed the Council that the department is need of new car radios due to the switch to 800 mhz. Officer Karl Moffett also attended the meeting as Chief Dickenson is trying to show Officer Moffett different situations; he would be responsible for in the event something happened to Chief Dickenson

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss advised the Council that he, Dylan Ripberger and Melissa Shepler met with the engineer with Wessler regarding the asset management plan that is mandated by HB1459. Adam Sitka with Wessler Engineering will be present at the next meeting with an agreement for the compilation of information they will need to assemble to satisfy the State's requirements. The Town will start with the water utility first as it is the first to be due. The wastewater utility will follow afterwards. Ms. Shepler informed Mr. Reuss that she sent Mr. Sitka the capital asset numbers for the utilities from when Doll Consulting did it a couple of years ago. Hopefully, that can save the Town some money. Mr. Reuss also advised the Council that after the asset management meeting, the group went to Harrison Street to look at the temporary supplying of water due to the massive break that was caused by storms. Mr. Sitka advised that because of the status of the supply line, the Town can get emergency declaration from the State thus bi-passing some of the formal bid procedures that would normally take place. Ms. Shepler is currently working on an easement with Mr. Sitka and Mr. Williams to re-work the water line so it does not go through the woods and the ravine. While working on the water main during the leak, it was discovered that a clay sewer line is exposed while running through the creek. The joint of where the clay pipes join is in the water and manhole that is close is also disintegrating. Mr. Sitka is also going to apply for an emergency declaration to get that clay pipe remediated. Ms. Shepler stated that the water utility cannot afford to pay for the project. Per her conversations with Todd Caldwell of Baker Tilly, they believe that the Edit fund could be used to pay for the project. Mr. Reuss also stated that he had received complaints regarding the parking at the Catholic Church. Vine Street from Main to Flint is no parking on the south side. From Flint Street to 27, basically allow parking on the south side as well as the north side. If parishioners park on both sides, it is a tight fit for vehicles to get through let alone an emergency vehicle. Several years ago, members of the church came to a meeting to discuss the situation. The members stated that they would have it announced not park on the north side of the street. After a quick discussion, it was decided to table further discussion until the next meeting.

**ORDINANCES**

Mr. Keasling made a motion to suspend the rules of order and vote on Ordinance 2026-1 on first reading. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-1. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-8. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

#### **MISC. BUSINESS**

Kim Klein appeared before the Council to discuss the street closure request for June 6<sup>th</sup> for a Senior Citizen Health Expo. After a short discussion, Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the street closure request. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Shannon and Cory Wollyung appeared before the Council to request an adjustment for their rental property located at 219 E. Seminary Street due to a leak. Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the \$ 176.48 adjustment. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Ms. Wollyung then brought up a situation that occurred at a rental they own at 4 Fosdick Street. Ms. Wollyung had requested that the account be switched out of her name on February 27 to avoid duplicate billing. However, the renters came in with their deposit and asked that the utilities be turned on in their name on February 10. Ms. Wollyung received a minimum bill for February 1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The renter received a minimum bill for February 11<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Wollyung believes the town should adjust off the minimum bill for her since she requested it to be off the 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Shepler stated that this a communication problem between the renter and the landlord and not the Town. Also, the Town Code of Ordinances does not allow adjustments for anything other than leaks. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Tipton and Mr. Jenkins believe this to be a clerical error rather than a communication issue between the renter and the landlord. Ms. Shepler stated the only way she can fix this is 1) revise the ordinance on how landlords are communicated with and how to manage the adjustment 2) see if she can find in ordinance that allows for the adjustment if considered clerical. The issue would have to be revisited if the adjustment cannot be dealt with under the clerical argument because the revisions to the ordinance would have to be adopted first before it could be considered again.

The Town's insurance vendor informed the Town that the deductible for wind and hail damage could be reduced from \$ 75,000.00 to \$ 25,000.00 if the Town paid an additional \$ 2,063.00. Ms. Shepler said it would be divided amongst the three entities. Mr. Kahl asked if the premiums fit into the current budget? Ms. Shepler did not have the appropriation report and stated she would bring it to the next meeting.

Ms. Shepler informed the Council that the Town has money from the opioid settlements that needs to be spent. The Town currently has \$ 8,478.30 in the Opioid Unrestricted Fund and \$ 12,965.33 in the Opioid Restricted Fund. She then described the difference between the two and how they can be spent. She is going to bring a resolution to the next meeting stating that the Opioid settlement money will be distributed at the discretion of the Town Council.

Ms. Shepler notified the Council that the Town is going to have to raise the rates for water and wastewater. The water utility lost \$ 55,884.53 in 2025 and lost \$ 10,050.07 in the first quarter of 2026. The wastewater utility lost \$ 44,090.73 in 2025 and \$ 53,938.15 in the first quarter of 2026. The last implementation of the previous rate increases was 2024 for water and 2016 for wastewater. She has already talked to Baker Tilly to start the process of getting agreements together and start the financial analysis.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve February's bank reconciliations. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

#### **ADJOURN**

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