PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
August 17, 2026

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

Mr. Jerry Kahl called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Barry Ritter, Ritter Strategic Services; Aaron Robert, Wayne County Commissioner, Matthew Kaine, Director of Wayne County 911, Erin Campbell, Assistant Director of Wayne County 911; Chris Greye and Mike Williams, Union County Cancer Society; Matt Reuss, Karl Moffett and Todd Dickenson and Donna Beckman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 3, 2026. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ORDINANCES

Mr. Tipton made a motion to amend Ordinance 2025-5 the 2026 Salary Ordinance. Mr. Lang supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-14. Mr. Lang supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-15. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss presented three bids for a dump truck. Mr. Reuss stated that he would recommend to the Council the 2026 Ford F-350 with crew cab from Andy Mohr Ford in Plainfield, Indiana. Mr. Reuss liked crew cab for more room for equipment that should not be outside the truck as well as it is gasoline fuel type rather than the diesel bid by John Jones of Salem. The truck priced from Brown Equipment Company in Evansville, was a 2027 and would not be available until 2027. The trucks total price with the plow mounted and the safety lights are as follows: Andy Mohr $ 89,741.50, John Jones $ 87,883.50 and BEC $ 96,547.53. After a brief discussion, Dereck Tipton made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2026 Ford F-350 with crew cab from Andy Mohr Ford. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Mr. Reuss informed the Council that the himself, Ms. Shepler and Dylan Ripberger, Crew Chief met with Wessler Engineering last week to review the 90% completion of the plans. Mr. Reuss reviewed the timeline with the Council. He also invited members of the Council to walk the site with the insurance representative that is scheduled to look at the site on August 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Police Chief Todd Dickenson notified the Council that the radios have been ordered but are on backorder.

MISC. BUSINESS

Mr. Barry Ritter with Ritter Strategic Services addressed the Council regarding the situation with the dispatching services being moved to Wayne County. A contingent from Wayne County's Commissioners and 911 staff attended the meeting to answer any questions the Town may have moving services to Wayne County. After a conversation, regarding legal, logistics, non-emergency phone calls. etc. Mr. Ritter stated that he would keep the Council informed as to the progress of completely moving dispatching to Wayne County permanently.

Mr. Lang made a motion to approve the renewal of Anthem as the Town's insurance carrier. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the agreement with Dragonbyte for website services. Mr. Lang supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mike Williams and Chris Greye of the Union County Cancer Society attended the meeting clarify the request for street closure that was on the last meeting's agenda. After discussing, the request with Mr. Williams and Mr. Greye, Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the street closure request. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to deny the 4-H Associations request for an adjustment for the fair. Mr. Lang supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Ms. Shepler presented a first draft of the Stormwater Ordinance the fees that will be associated with the Stormwater Fund. Ms. Shepler had photos of the conditions of one of the storm water drains. Most of drains in town, from she and Mr. Reuss can tell are made of flat rock and mortar. The drains are going to start deteriorating and collapsing as was the case of the storm water drain near First Merchants Bank approximately a week ago. Ms. Shepler stated that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has been asking Mr. Reuss about our storm water program every time he talks to them. Ms. Shepler stated that this ordinance needs to get on the books fairly quickly.
Ms. Shepler also stated that they would have to do a public hearing for the storm water fees when the time came.

Ms. Shepler stated that she had to re-do the additional appropriation hearing due to her failing to remember that the criteria for submittal had changed after the first of the year. She reviewed the previous additional appropriations and the additional ones that were being added to the request.

Ms. Shepler reviewed the 2027 Budget numbers that were included in the Council packets. She informed the Council that she is meeting with her DLGF representative at the end of the week. Ms. Shepler reminded the Council that there are only two more meetings left to discuss the budget.

Ms. Donna Beckman requested that the Town pave Roach Road as it is in bad condition. Ms. Shepler explained to Ms. Beckman that Roach Road is out of the Town's jurisdiction and she would have to discuss it with the County. Mr. Keasling gave Ms. Beckman a list of individuals she can contact with the County to discuss it with.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

ADJOURN

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