

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
September 2, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had regular meeting on September 2, 2025 at the Town Administration building located at 101 Brownsville Avenue.

Mr. Bias called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss, Todd Dickenson, Jim Franklin and Tom Poole with the Pool Group.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 18, 2025. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-14. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Police Chief Todd Dickenson informed the Council that he has been notified by Officer John Pike that he will be officially retiring in March. He will be physically working until the end of the year but will use up his vacation days that will put him officially retired sometime in March. The new pursuit vehicle is in service. The GPS has been installed in the vehicle.

Fire Chief Jim Franklin passed out run reports to the members of the Council. The department has responded to 136 runs this year. The Fire Department's reporting year end in November. The overall runs should be down from last year which was 200 runs.

The Council and Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss further discussed the tree list that had been presented the previous two meetings. After discussion, it was decided that lists that Mr. Tipton and Mr. Keasling created with notes about each tree would be used by Mr. Reuss to come up with a plan to notify residents to trim the dead sections of certain trees and/or notify the resident that the tree needs to come down completely.

**MISC. BUSINESS**

Tom Poole with the Poole Group requested that the Council extend their previous request to keep Market Street closed between the library and the Methodist Church due to masonry work, curb and sidewalk work and landscaping work needing to be completed. After discussion, the Council decided to allow the Poole Group to keep the street closed until October 3<sup>rd</sup>. If the street closure needs to be extended further, Mr. Poole agreed to come to the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to request more time.

Ms. Shepler reviewed the 2026 Budget with the Council members. She advised the Council that she had revised the budget as she had been informed by the County Auditor that the County would seek to increase the EDIT tax rate rather than the Public Safety LIT tax rate. After discussion with Baker Tilly on what can be paid for out of the EDIT Fund, she moved the Dispatcher's salaries contribution to Edit and out of Public Safety. The Edit tax revenue would increase approximately \$ 227,000.00 per year. It would allow a little more "breathing room" in regards to the Public Safety LIT. Ms. Shepler informed the Council of different strategies other communities using to offset the funding decrease. The Town's 2026 budget is keeping inline with what other communities are doing as well. She notified the Council that the next meeting is the last opportunity to discuss the budget as she will have to advertise it the last week in September. If the Council has questions or needs clarity, she told to see her at the office.

Mr. Reuss presented three quotes to install cameras at the street garage. Robinson Communications presented a quote of \$ 4,316.51. CEI presented a quote of \$ 6,100.50. Koorsen presented a quote of \$ 9,895.85. After a brief discussion, Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Robinson Communications quote of \$ 4,316.51. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Reuss informed the Council of the passage of House Bill 1459 which requires utilities to come up with an extensive asset management plan. If this plan is not implemented by the Town, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission will take control of the rates that the Town charges for its' utility services. Mr. Reuss outlined the possible costs involved as Wessler Engineering would have to assist with the Town's plan. This plan becomes effective January 1, 2027. Mr. Bias informed Mr. Reuss to stay on top of this and keep the Council informed going forward.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Tammy Richardson's adjustment request of \$ 94.12. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

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

Ms. Shepler informed the Council that she will be closing the office to the public on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to transition to the new building. The office will still be taking payments through the depository and online. Mr. Bias recommended having an Open House at some point so that the public can see what they paid for. Mr. Shepler stated that she thinks the first part of the month of December would be good as it will give them time to get in and settled plus the office will be decorated for the holidays.

#### **ADJOURN**

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

Keith Bias  
Keith Bias, 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](http://libertyin.gov) for the meeting as well. The meetings will appear on the website for as long as the website can support the video.