

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
April 7, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had regular meeting on April 7, 2025 at the Town's Street garage building located at 827 N. Market Street.

Town Council President Keith Bias called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Derrek Jenkins, Jerry Kahl and Ross Keasling.

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer, Matt Reuss, Todd Dickenson, Jim Franklin and Aubrie Benge.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 17, 2025. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-7. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-8. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Fire Chief Jim Franklin stated that he had nothing to report.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss presented the notice to bid for the paving project that was budgeted for 2025. Mr. Reuss reviewed the streets that will be paved and the new curbs that will be installed. Mr. Reuss gave a detailed monthly report of the activities the utilities crew had performed in March. Mr. Reuss also presented a quote from Ortman to do an emergency install to repair the casing that is used to pump water to the main line. The had not been inspected in 22 years. The casing is deteriorating with concrete, mud and rock falling into the well which could cause major issues if those items become lodged into the main line. The repair will have to take place in two phases as the water cannot be shut off to the Town. Mr. Reuss is waiting for a quote from Chomel's Roofing to remove a section of the pump house roof so that the casings can be slipped down into the well which is approximately 59'8" deep. While Chomel's cuts a new access point in the roof, Mr. Reuss is having Chomel's bid a new roof for the pump house since it is a flat roof and the access will have to be relocated. Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Ortman's quote of \$ 52,200.00 to perform the repair of the new pump casing. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Ms. Shepler stated this would be paid out of the depreciation fund.

Police Chief Todd Dickenson informed the Council of Officer Trevor Young's resignation. Chief Dickenson requested that part-time Officer Nick Brown be promoted to full-time. Officer Brown will be attending the Tier II class at the Academy. All members were in agreement to promote Officer Brown to full-time. Chief Dickenson reported that Officer Jackson will be attending STOPS class this week. Officer Moffett will be attending the second phase of Defensive Tactics May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Chief Dickenson passed out quarterly activity reports for the department to the Council for review.

**MISC. BUSINESS**

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Aubrie Benge's request for an adjustment of \$ 230.71 on her utility bill. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the Union County Public Library's street closure request. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Ms. Shepler presented Mr. Bias's Conflict of Interest Disclosure statement to the Council. Mr. Bias's son Conner, will be applying the graphics Chief Dickenson ordered for the new police car. Each of the attending Council members signed the agreement.

Ms. Shepler reported that she was informed that the Town's insurance would drop the Town's coverage if employees, other than law enforcement, were permitted to carry fire arms while conducting work for the Town.

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the Baker Tilly services agreement. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Discussion once again occurred regarding the gate on First Street. Mr. Kahl stated that he called and left a message for the superintendent or his representative to attend this meeting to discuss the gate further. Mr. Kahl stated he

believes the Town should “wash its hands” of the situation since neither the superintendent or the representative attended this meeting. It was decided that Mr. Kahl should contact Amy Dishmond, the superintendent’s secretary to discuss one or the other attending the next meeting. Also, Mr. Bias directed Mr. Reuss to go look at the area and see what can be done about installing a sidewalk rather than a gate.

Comcast sent Ms. Shepler drawings of where they are requesting to install fiber optic cables in the Town’s utility easements. The Council table the decision whether to grant permission. This is an extensive project according to the drawings. Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss has concerns that some of the areas they intend to use there is not room for more cabling. The Council has requested a Comcast representative to attend the meeting.

**ADJOURN**

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

*Keith Bias*

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Keith Bias, President

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