

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
October 6, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had a regular meeting on October 6, 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 and Jim Franklin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 15, 2025. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Mr. Keasling abstained as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2025-3 The 2026 Budget, was held over for second reading.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to suspend the rules and vote on Ordinance 2025-4 on first reading. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-4. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Fire Chief Jim Franklin passed out activity reports for the department. Chief Franklin stated that with one month left in their reporting year, the department is down 51 runs from last year so far. Chief Franklin requested information from the Council as to what was going to happen with the Town hall offices that are now empty due to the move to the new building. He stated that he had heard several rumors on what the Council was going to do. Mr. Kahl asked Chief Franklin what were the rumors he had heard? Chief Franklin said that he had heard that the Council was going to rent it out, let the fire department have it or the dispatchers would occupy the space. Mr. Bias informed Chief Franklin that discussion has not occurred regarding what the Town will do with the building. Mr. Kahl asked for the fire department to come up with a written plan as to what they want to do with the building and present it to the Council. Mr. Bias stated that if any other group such as the dispatchers are interested, then they should also present their request in writing as well.

Chief Dickenson stated that with the retirement of Officer Pike, he would like to start the hiring process. Chief Dickenson informed the Council that the position would be advertised. Chief Dickenson asked the Council what should he do with the 2017 pursuit vehicle that is out of service due to the purchase of the Durango? The car has several issues. After discussion, it was decided that the Town would take bids on the purchase of the car, however, if no interest was received, the car would be hauled up to the recycling center. There is an older police car that has been sitting at the street department garage for years. It is believed that someone had successfully bid on the vehicle but never picked it up. The Town will advertise it for bid and if no bids are received then it will be taken to the recycling center as well.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss informed the Council that the hydrants will all be painted red in the near future with flow testing starting this month. Leaf pick up has started. Mr. Keasling stated that he would like the trees that are near the sidewalk on Woodruff's Grocery property to be trimmed. Mr. Reuss told the Council that he is coming up with two lists: trees that need to be cut down and trees that need to be trimmed.

MISC. BUSINESS

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

Ms. Shepler notified the Council that she has been working with Officer Pike preparing for his upcoming retirement. After discussions with the Town Attorney and with Baker Tilly, she informed the Council that she will bring resolution to the Council before the final payroll of the year to buy out any remaining vacation time Officer Pike has. Chief Dickenson brought to her attention that Indiana Code allows officers who have been in law enforcement for 20 years or more can receive their service weapon upon retirement. She asked the Council if they would allow this

as she would like to put that in the resolution as well. All members were agreeable to allowing Officer Pike to be gifted his service weapon.

Mr. Bias discussed his resignation from the Council that will become effective October 21st.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on a motion made by Mr. Kahl and supported by Mr. Jenkins 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 for the meeting as well. The meetings will appear on the website for as long as the website can support the video.