

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
December 1, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had a regular meeting on November 17, 2025 at the Town Administration building located at 101 Brownsville Avenue.

Mr. Tipton called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Jerry Kahl, Jeff Lang and Ross Keasling

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Debra Hackman, Indiana Rural Community Assistance Program; Matt Reuss, Jim Franklin, Jerry Strain and Steve Logue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 17, 2025. Mr. Lang supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ORDINANCES

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Amending Ordinance 2024-16 the 2025 Salary Ordinance. Mr. Lang supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-6 the Integration of the Volunteer Fire Department into the Town's Governing Body. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Mr. Keasling abstained as he is a current member of the Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-5 the 2026 Salary Ordinance. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Fire Chief Jim Franklin passed out the monthly activity report. Chief Franklin informed the Council that there were ten (10) runs in November. Chief Franklin also informed Ms. Shepler that the Fire Department's inventory would be completed after the first of the year.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss informed Ms. Shepler that inventory will be completed at the end of the month. Mr. Reuss informed the Council that he spoke with Mr. Steve Sweet, Project Manager of LWC, the firm overseeing the new addition onto the library. Mr. Sweet stated that the Poole Group, LWC and the Public Library do not believe that they are responsible for laying down asphalt on the street that was closed for the construction project. Mr. Sweet did not believe the street should not have been closed at all during the project. After a brief discussion, it was recommended that Mr. Reuss look to see if the Town has any before and after pictures for them to look at.

MISC. BUSINESS

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the Town's Fire Protection Agreement with Brownsville, Center, Harmony, Harrison and Liberty Townships. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed. Mr. Keasling abstained from the vote.

Debra Hackman with Indiana Rural Community Assistance Program appeared before the Council to inform them that the regional Wayne/Union Board that dealt with sanitation and recycling disbanded. Ms. Hackman wanted to re-introduce herself as a point of contact with recycling type grants and other items. She informed the Council that there is a \$ 10,000.00 grant available if dispose of tires if the Council would like to consider. Training is also available to the Fire Department in how to deal with Lithium battery disposal and the containment of fire caused by the batteries.

Jerry Strain appeared before the Council to request an adjustment for house he rehabilitated on Seminary Street. The home inspector had messed with the bi-pass on the water softener and had caused it to leak for three weeks. There is a drain that absorbed the water but he believes it did not go to the sewer. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Town would contact the new owners to see if Matt Reuss can access the basement and run dye through the drain to see if it is attached to the sewer or not. The granting of the adjustment will be determined on the dye test. If the homeowner does not allow the Town access to the drain for testing, the adjustment will not be granted.

In the spirit of transparency, Ms. Shepler informed the Council and the public on hand that Marilyn Miles, who is requesting an adjustment is her mother. Becky Curry, the Town's Utility Billing Clerk had informed Ms. Shepler that her mother's readings were high for a single occupant. Ms. Shepler stated that she put dye strips in her three toilets. Two of the toilets were leaking. Mrs. Miles had Ramey Plumbing fix the issue. Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the adjustment as the procedure was followed according to the ordinance. Mr. Lang supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Steve Logue with the Union County Historical Society requested an adjustment due to a leaking toilet at the depot. Mr. Logue, upon discussion with a plumber and internet research stated that there was not a possibility of the toilet to go through the amount of water the meter had read. After a lengthy discussion and ordinance verification, Mr. Logue stated that he would meet with his board on Thursday to see if the board will put the \$ 100.00 deposit down to check if the meter is calibrated correctly. Mr. Logue will get back with Ms. Shepler on the decision of his board.

The Union County Middle School Honor Society request for a street closure in April for a 5K has been tabled. The Council is seeking a way to have a dedicated course in town for these runs since they are becoming more popular.

ADJOURN

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

Dereck Tipton
Dereck Tipton, Vice 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.