

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
April 21, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had regular meeting on April 21, 2025 at the Town's Street garage building located at 827 N. Market Street.

Town Council Vice President Dereck Tipton 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, Darah Finch and Taylor Bryson, Kehila Coffee; Dawn Ripberger, Live in Liberty; Jeff Cerqua, UCCCJSD; Nikki Atherton and Aaron McKenzie, Comcast; Andrew Fanin, Malachi Williams, Mark Olivier, Veritas (Comcast Subcontractor); Olivia Chewning, Allison Webb, Union County Foundation and Josh Sparks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 7, 2025. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-9. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

MISC. BUSINESS

Darah Finch and Taylor Bryson with Kehila Coffee requested permission from the Council to build a pergola type structure and a bench type seat in front of their business. Ms. Finch and Ms. Bryson explained their vision and believed that the structure would still allow plenty of space for foot traffic to walk under the pergola. The features would be surface mounted to the sidewalk. After a brief discussion, it was decided to table the decision until members of the Council and M. Reuss could physically look at the space as well as allowing Ms. Shepler time to get with the Town Attorney to discuss any concerns he may have regarding the structure.

Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve Josh Spark's request for an adjustment of \$ 117.72. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Jeff Cerqua, the head of maintenance for Union County College Corner Joint School District, appeared before the Council to discuss the possible gates on First Street. He stated that the superintendent was only willing to pay \$ 1,700.00 for their part of the gate but the school would take care of the maintenance such as painting, rollers, etc. It is still unclear of who would be responsible opening and closing the gate in the morning. The SRO would be able to do the afternoon. After discussion occurred, it was decided to table the action until Ms. Shepler talks to the town Attorney. Ms. Shepler that she would have Mr. Williams draft an interlocal agreement for each party to review.

The Poole Group's request to close Market Street from Seminary Street to Vine Street from April 21, 2025-August 30, 2025 was tabled due to questions the Council had regarding getting emergency services through the street, etc. The Council requested a member of the Poole Group attend the next meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Keasling made a blanket motion to approve all of the street closure requests for Live in Liberty. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Members of Comcast and Verita presented their request to run fiber optic cabling in the Town's utility easements to provide services to the Town. Utility Superintendent, Matt Reuss discussed some of the areas that are of concern to him due to the room to put the cabling. After a lengthy discussion, the Council informed the group that Mr. Reuss would be in charge and it is up to him and the design team to work together to figure out the easements that will have issues with handling the cables. They are to report back at a later meeting to discuss design.

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

Ms. Shepler reviewed SB1 results with the Council. Ms. Shepler that although the Town's funding from property taxes will be cut, she is not overly concerned at this point due to the fact that the Council has always been conservative with its budgeting over the past ten year and that process will serve them well moving forward.

Mr. Keasling asked for an update on the purchase of the REMC building. Ms. Shepler is still waiting for a closing date. It was supposed to occur the Thursday after the auction due to the Town not having to finance the purchase but there were some issues with the deeds. Per the agreement signed at the auction, the closing date is set for May 12, 2025 at the latest.

ADJOURN

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

Derrek Jenkins
Derrek Jenkins, Acting President

ATTEST: Melissa Shepler
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer