

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
September 15, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana had regular meeting on September 15, 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 and Derrek Jenkins

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss and Dawn Ripberger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and the additional appropriation hearing of September 2, 2025. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed

DEPARTMENT HEADS

MISC. BUSINESS

The Council approved the UCHS Student Council's Homecoming Parade street closure request.

Dawn Ripberger with Live Liberty appeared before the Council to request a street closure for October 10th to close Union Street between Main and Market Streets. Local musician, Josh Brock and his band 90 Proof Twang is having a special performance in town. She requested the street closure as such since Kehila Coffee is a sponsor of the event and will be getting a special beer and wine license for the event. The band would be situated in front of Kehila Coffee. Mr. Reuss stated that O'Mara is planning on paving the streets on that block the first week of October. After a discussion regarding logistics, the Council approved the original street closure, however, if O'Mara is planning to pave that week, the event will be moved to its usual spot and permission will be granted to close Union Street between Market and Fairground Streets. The Council encouraged Mr. Reuss to communicate with Ms. Ripberger once he talks to O'Mara.

Ms. Shepler presented INDOT's Street Sweeping Agreement. According to the agreement the State will pay the Town \$ 972.00 to street sweep State Road's 27, 44 and 101 twice a year. Mr. Kahl did not agree with the State's calculation on how much the Town should be paid for street sweeping services. After discussion amongst the members of the Council, Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the agreement with the State for Street Sweeping services. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Mr. Bias, Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Tipton voted to approve the agreement. Mr. Kahl opposed the agreement.

Mr. Bias opened the floor for further discussion regarding the 2026 Budget. He informed the Council that this was the last opportunity to discuss the budget before the Clerk-Treasurer has to post it. Ms. Shepler reminded the Council that she will be posting the budget later this month. October 6th will be the first hearing on the budget. October 20th will be the second hearing and adoption. She reminded the Council that once she posts the budget, it can only be reduced, it cannot be added too.

Ms. Shepler reviewed the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield proposal with the Council. She informed the Council that the overall increase is approximately 3% which she found to be acceptable. Currently, the Town has its insurance with Anthem through its relationship with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber decided to use a regional insurance carrier for the coming year. Per Ms. Shepler's discussion with the Town's health insurance representative, VanVleet Insurance, they believe the Town should stay with Anthem and not use the Chamber's insurance as VanVleet believes this new vendor will not be equipped to handle the onslaught of adding the Chamber's membership. Ms. Shepler stated some of the increase could be offset by the fact that the Town pays a substantial amount of money to be a part of the Chamber to get the coverage. The Town would not have to pay that fee now. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the Anthem proposal. Mr. Tipton supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ADJOURN

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

Keith Bias

Keith Bias, President

Melissa Shepler

ATTEST: _____
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.