

Regular Meeting Minutes

September, 2025

Present: President Terry Richey, Vice President Jason Hillenburg, Members Chad Wilson, and Jamy Greathouse, Clerk Treasurer Danieta Foster and Atty Matthew Lorenzo. Member Mark Wilkerson was unable to attend.

Budget and Financial Updates

2026 Budget Public Hearing

- Jamy Greathouse made a motion to open the Public Meeting. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carried 4-0.
- Reuben Cummings was present to discuss the 2026 budget.
No one from the public had questions.

Annexation Impact: A recent annexation resulted in an automatic percentage increase in the levy and budget; an additional appeal is possible for a further levy increase based on actual costs attributed to the annexation, such as hiring a new police officer and installing streetlights.

- **Budget Recommendations:**
 - The general fund is recommended to be reduced to approximately \$575,000 from the \$586,000 that was requested.
 - The public safety local income tax is recommended to be reduced to about \$35,000 from the \$45,000 requested, primarily due to a large unspent number from the previous year, which affects next year's math.
- **Budget Adjustments:** Options were discussed to reduce the current year's budget for the second half of the year to a number that allows next year's budget to fully work; paperwork will be prepared based on the council's decision.
- **Annexation Levy Appeal:** The appeal must be completed and signed by October 31; harder figures will be finalized and submitted, requiring sign-off from the council.
- **Law Enforcement Costs:** The total cost for one full-time law enforcement officer, including salary, insurance, retirement, operating a car (estimated at \$9,000 annually), and electricity for lights, is \$124,257; the vehicle purchase itself is a capital expense and is not included in operating costs.

Chad Wilson made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Jason Hillenburg 2nd. Carries 4-0.

Regular Business Meeting Actions

President Terry Richey opened the Regular meeting with the pledge.

- **Agenda Amendments:** The first reading of the ordinance for the 2026 budget, Ordinance 2025-1, was added to new business, item j. Jamy Greathouse Motion. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carries 4-0.

- **Approvals:**
 - September 2nd Agenda. Chad Wilson motion. Jason Hillenburg 2nd. Carries 4-0.
 - August 5, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Chad Wilson motion. Jason Hillenburg 2nd. Carries 4-0.
 - August claims. Jason Hillenburg motion. Jamy Greathouse 2nd. Carries 4-0.
 - Allowance docket. Jamy Greathouse motion. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carries 4-0.
- **Mower Purchase:** Approved up to \$5,000 for a mower attachment (such as an articulating head or skid steer attachment) to maintain annexed roadside areas, parks (like the disc golf course and trails), and Coleman Ditch; quotes are expected to be under \$5,000. Jamy Greathouse motion. Jason Hillenburg 2nd. Carries 4-0.

Infrastructure and Utility Projects

- **Contractor Pay Applications:** Three pay applications were approved:
 - Division A (Mitchell & Stark): \$2,375. Jamy Greathouse motion. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carries 4-0.
 - Division B (Mitchell & Stark): \$100,818. Jamy Greathouse motion. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carries 4-0.
 - Division C (McGuire): \$39,270. Jamy Greathouse motion. Jason Hillenburg 2nd. Carries 4-0.
- **Change Order for CSO Site:** The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requires the replacement of the discharge line from the CSO with a pressure-rated pipe for a well permit, as they consider it sewer discharge despite arguments that it is treated water. The replacement cost is approximately \$100,000, which is less expensive than lining the pipe at \$140,000. Further negotiation with IDEM is planned, leveraging relationships with "READI" people. Jamy Greathouse motion. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carries 4-0.
- **CCMG Projects:** The application period for Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) projects opens from October 1 to October 29.

Economic Development and Tax Abatements

- **Aisin Drive Train:** A property investment is scheduled to begin later this month and continue through the end of 2026, noted as likely the first of multiple investments.
 - If abatement is granted, the company will still pay more than \$1.1 million in taxes over the 10-year life, based on the current tax rate.
 - This project is expected to create 45 new positions, paying just over \$2.8 million in annual salaries, while retaining the current workforce of 518 associates and maintaining a payroll of over \$35 million. Approved. Chad Wilson motion. Jamy Greathouse 2nd. Carries 4-0.
- **Aisin Chemical Expansion:**
 - A request for a 10-year abatement on new equipment totaling \$3,233,229 was made and approved.
 - This expansion will add 3 new associates with salaries of \$398,000, contributing to an annual payroll of more than \$6.2 million. Jamy Greathouse motion. Jason Hillenburg 2nd. Motion carries 4-0.

Utility Updates

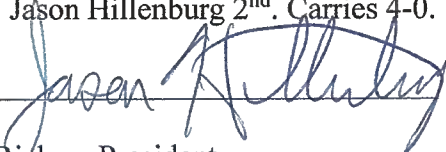
- **Water Plant Survey:** A discussion was held regarding discontinuing fluoride addition to the water system, as it is not required by the state and could lead to cost savings.
 - Public input is solicited over the next month, and the decision will be revisited in October.
- **Field Trip:** A group of school children is scheduled to visit the sewer plant on September 18 for a field trip.
- **Building Progress:** The new building at the water utility site is progressing well, with trusses installed and painting now being discussed.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- **Salary Ordinance 2025-1:** The second reading of the ordinance setting salaries for calendar year 2026 was held. It was clarified that the second deputy position will be eliminated in January, with that individual moving into the first deputy spot, resulting in an increase for her due to the position change. Jason Hillenburg motion. Jamy Greathouse 2nd. Carries 4-0.
- **Elected Officials' Pay:** Discussion occurred regarding separating elected officials' pay from full-time employee pay into a separate ordinance for easier future amendments, allowing for flat amounts instead of percentage increases.
- **Ordinance 2025-4:** This ordinance directs all Financial Institute Tax and Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax distributions to be placed in the general fund, as required by the state. Jason Hillenburg motion. Jamy Greathouse 2nd. Carries 4-0. Suspended rules for an immediate second reading. Jamy Greathouse motion. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carries 4-0. Second Reading. Jason Hillenburg motion. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carries 4-0.
- **Ordinance 2025-5:** Regarding the use of public records for commercial purposes, requiring requesters to sign an agreement not to sell information obtained. 1st Reading: Jamy Greathouse motion. Chad Wilson 2nd. Carries 4-0.
- **Ordinance 2025-6:** The first reading for the 2026 Budget. Approved. Jamy Greathouse motion. Jason Hillenburg 2nd. Carries 4-0.

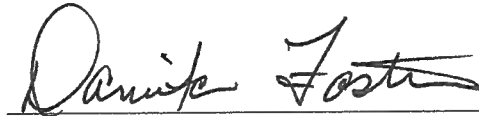
Community Engagement and Public Services

- **Reach Alerts:** 287 residents have signed up for the free community notification service.
 - A plan is in place to include a QR code and sign-up information (including an 800 number) in utility bills to increase participation.
- **Trick-or-Treat Hours:** Set for October 31, from 6 PM to 9 PM. Chad Wilson motion. Jason Hillenburg 2nd. Carries 4-0.



~~Terry Richey, President~~

Jason Hillenburg
Vice President



Danieta Foster, Clerk Treasurer