

TOWN OF ADVANCE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: ADVANCE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

August 19, 2025

7:00 PM

112 N. Main – P. O. Box 67 Advance, IN 46102 Phone: (765) 676-6611 – Fax (765) 676-6696

Email: [advanceCT@townofadvance.com](mailto:advanceCT@townofadvance.com)

Council Members: President Jim Caldwell, Dale Thompson, Amanda Lyles and Sam Mitchell

Clerk Treasurer – Shari Johnson

Marshal: Brad Thomas

**Attendees:** Council Members: President Jim Caldwell, Dale Thompson, and Sam Mitchell

Clerk-Treasurer: Shari Johnson

Others in attendance: Jean Stombaugh, Krista Cromwell, Keith Cromwell, Kyle Schnoor, Kayla Miller, Doug Meissel, Scott Roby, Dom Moore, Jacob Dawes, and Lonny Hosfield

**President Caldwell called to order the Council Meeting at 19:00.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Rules of Order**

**No BIDS were received for police car. Pursuing open market.**

**Engineering Report: CT presented agreements and pay application for CCMG**

CT explained the pavement the road wider than recommendations. Councilman Thompson stated we didn't order that and the town wasn't paying it. CT stated if Councilman Thompson had questions regarding charges, he would need to talk to the town's engineer and not her.

The pay application is being tabled until the next meeting.

CT presented the agreement for updating the ADA/Title VI Plan (Transition Plan). Councilman Thompson stated nothing has changed, and CT stated sidewalks had been updated for the last several years.

**Councilman Mitchell made a motion to approve the agreement with Ladd Engineering for \$1,000.00 to update the ADA/Title VI Transition Plan and for President Caldwell to sign. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Councilman Mitchell to approve the agreement with Ladd Engineering to complete the Town's Street Asset Management Plan for \$880.00 and for President Caldwell to sign. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Councilman Mitchell made a motion to approve Ladd Engineering Agreement to complete scope of work for the CCMG grant for \$1,100.00, to submit to INDOT, and for President Caldwell to sign. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2025. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve claims for August 19, 2025 in the amount of \$173,507.03. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**The council signed off on reconciliation for July 2025.**

**Clerk-Treasurer – Shari Johnson:**

Fund and appropriation reports were presented with no comments.

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve CT adjustments for the month of July 2025, in the amount of -\$182.73. Councilman Mitchell seconded. President Caldwell abstained from approving the fire department adjustment; motion carried.**

No TRECS update.

CT presented the MOU with IHCD A AREAIV assistance for years 2026-2027.

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the MOU with IHCD A AREAIV Assistance for years 2026-2027 and for President Caldwell to sign. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

CT presented the state of the town's budget and recommendations. CT stated police would need to find additional revenue with grants, fines, and fees. President Caldwell stated fines were never enforced. She stated a big area of savings is tightening up vehicle usage. Mileage logs have been requested and none to date have been submitted. CT stated it was very concerning that 26,000 miles was put on the police car. Marshall Thomas refuted that the sheriff's department put many miles on their cars and CT stated the sheriff's department covers the entire county and our town goes out 8 miles.

CT recommended that since mileage logs weren't being utilized, GPS tracking be placed on any current and future vehicles. President Caldwell questioned who would monitor this, and CT advised an APP and her office could. CT also recommended that the deputy

not have a take-home vehicle to save on gas and maintenance. She lastly recommended cuts to the park budget and a 2% salary increase for 2026. President Caldwell persisted if the CT knew exactly what the town would get and she said the town would lose \$16,000.00 this year and hit every year with loss in the future. President Caldwell stated it wasn't going to be that bad and CT said it was. Lastly, she recommended a fiscal analysis be done for the town and President Caldwell stated he agreed with that. CT stated she did not want to see the cash reserves used up. President Caldwell stated the Council would need to think about it. CT pressed that budget needed to be done. CT questioned Marshall why he was against being held accountable where the cars go and stated that the town may not have revenues in 6 years to replace a vehicle.

M. Thomas stated he had made his own recommendations to President Caldwell and he hasn't spent \$16,000.00 each year of his budget unspent and CT stated this was untrue. M. Thomas questioned why he had \$140,000.00 that was unspent. CT advised that the police budget was paid out of the general fund, and the deputy was paid from LIT Public Safety.

President Caldwell stated additional appropriations can be used and everything needs to be reviewed. CT discussed the take home vehicle for deputy and miles used and she as a taxpayer and everyone there should be concerned where tax dollars are being spent.

President Caldwell called for a budget meeting to be held on August 25, 2025 to make recommendations for proposed budget cuts.

CT presented AIM Idea Summit being held October 21-23. CT advised training hours are going to be required in the future from Town Council.

**Councilman Mitchell made a motion to approve the request to travel for CT and another council member to the AIM Ideas Summit with estimated costs of \$895.00 per person. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

CT recommended to the Council to have Krohn and Associates conduct a fiscal analysis for the town through 2030.

#### **Park – Scott Roby:**

Mr. Roby advised Trent needed to check the water heater at the concession stand. A garage sale was held August 2-3. Kayla and Lindsey are working on Bill's Birdhouse project.

A freezer was donated by Boone County Health Department. RC track was re-worked by Hoosier RC Racers. Walking trail was worked. Murals were painted on the concession stand and questioned painting the vinyl on top. Discussion ensued. It was determined if the paint would last being on the vinyl and Mr. Roby advised he would check. Festool is wanting to do a day of service with the Town.

Jeepers Creepers night for trick-or-treating would be October 24, 2025.

CT noted that park meeting minutes needed every vote noted.

#### **UMAC - CT Johnson read report**

For July 2025, both plants running well. Evapar is to install new control board for generator. Gates at water plant are out of alignment and need repaired. Pump and well quotes were sent. Gallons pumped 1,556,000/billed 696,000 for 66% loss. Councilman Thompson questioned hydrant meter usage. CT stated Mr. Elless advised usage is historically higher in the summer. Discussions ensued. Councilman Thompson questioned sectioning off town and checking usage. CT advised boil orders would need to be issued. Council wants determination of where loss is happening. CT advised recommendations were presented by Mr. Elless for M.E. Simpson leak detection and a master meter on the south end of town.

Discussions ensued.

#### **Hopper Excavating – Keith Cromwell:**

Work done in July 2025 were fixing door at town hall, mowing, check for leak and check septic tank.

#### **IMPA/ISC – CT Johnson read report:**

In July 2025 there were 2 service requests, no poles installed, and no emergencies were reported.

#### **IMPA Commissioner's President Caldwell:**

President Caldwell stated that abatements were over as of 09-01-2025 and no more solar parks would be installed by IMPA. Back up generators were discussed as well as keeping energy costs down.

Well pump issues were discussed. CT presented quote.

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve well pump repairs for #3 & #4 to be done by in the amount of \$70,380.00. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

CT advised she would need to do an additional appropriation from depreciation.

#### **Fire – Keith Cromwell:**

For the month of July 2025, the fire department had 13 EMS, 4 MVAs, 3 cancelled en route, 1 fire, and 2 persons in distress.

#### **Police – Marshall Thomas:**

In July there were 9 runs and they were discussed and number of reports made.

M. Thomas stated he has always made himself available and has an issue with being asked to be made accountable after all the years in law enforcement and felt hurt he was being asked to be made accountable. He said this is his town and everyone is his people.

He stated he had a great National Night Out.

CT asked if M. Thomas wanted to discuss vacation time, he answered no.

CT clarified the accountability the only thing requested was mileage and not how he performs his job. M. Thomas stated the Council was his chain of command and CT refuted that Councilwoman Lyles requested this to be done, but she wasn't there to speak to that.

#### **Old Business:**

Comcast Pole Attachments agreements are still being negotiating by attorneys.

Town is still in need of a BZA Appointment

CT presented Grant Administrator agreement. Councilman Thompson questioned why the town would pursue doing this with pending budget cuts. Discussion ensued and President Caldwell advised work would still need to move forward with growth of the county.

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the agreement with Mendenhall and Associates in the amount of \$1,500.00 and for President Caldwell to sign agreement. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

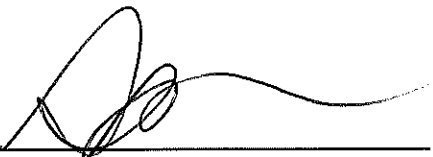
#### **New Business:**

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the attorney agreement for year 2026 in the amount of \$20,000.00. Councilman Mitchell seconded, all in favor, motion carried.**

#### **Billing Disputes:**

#### **Request to Speak:**

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 20:15.**

X   
Clerk Treasurer

X   
President

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Advance Town Council meeting(s). The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025, at (19:00) 7:00 p.m. at the James L. Caldwell Fire Department, 106 E. Wall St., Advance