

**Town of Beverly Shores**  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 20, 2026  
Administration Building – 500 S. Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.  
*(This meeting was a hybrid meeting and broadcasted live via Google Meets and was recorded.)*

**Roll Call** - Council Members: Councilors Geof Benson, Matrona Malik, Donna Norkus, David Phelps, and Candice Peterson-Smith were present. Also, present: Clerk-Treasurer Ellen Hundt, Marshal Ed Clapp and, Attorney Connor Nolan. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Sally Bagnall was absent.

**Title VI Survey Availability**

President Phelps announced the availability of the Title VI public involvement survey. This survey is available online via the Town's [website](#).

**Town Council Elections**

*President:* Councilor Benson motioned to elect David Phelps as President. Councilor Norkus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Vice President:* Councilor Benson motioned to elect Candice Peterson-Smith as Vice President. Councilor Norkus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Presentations**

*Request to Vacate an Alley - Kendall/Brandstrader-Griggs (continued from December 2025)*

Attorney Christian Bartholomew presented the requested information from the last meeting. He requested an alley vacation conditioned on a subdivision granted by the Plan Commission and Brandstrader-Griggs selling their half of the vacated alley to Kendall. Jackie Griggs, 2 W. Ripplewater spoke in favor of the vacation. No one spoke against. Councilor Benson motioned to close public comment at 7:18p.m. Councilor Norkus seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion on how the request could create more issues for the Town. Attorney Bartholomew requested a 30-day continuance. Councilor Norkus motioned to grant the continuance. Councilor Malik seconded. Councilor Norkus added a friendly amendment that the continuance go until the February 17<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. Councilor Malik seconded the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Approval of December 16, 2025:* Councilor Benson motioned to approve minutes as presented. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously

**Report of Police & Street Departments**

*Violation Report:* Nothing to report

*Police Report:* Marshal Clapp gave a wrap up report for 2025.

*Street Report:* Clapp gave report.

**Appointments for Committees**

*Building & Building Site Committee:* Councilor Malik motioned to reappoint Mark Lies III, Jim Nolan, Brian O’Neil, Naomi Pollock, and David Wagner for 1-year terms. Councilor Benson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Capital Planning Committee:* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint Paula Tillman (Parks & Rec), Marshal Clapp (BSPD), and Jay Hennessey (BSVFD) for 4-year terms and Vice President Peterson-Smith (Town Council), Larry Stanton (Plan Commission), and Craig Tompkins (Citizen Volunteer) for 2-year terms. Councilor Norkus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Green Space Committee:* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint Dave Pizza, Jim Hoey, and Dale Nichols for 3-year terms. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Parks and Recreation Committee:* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint Tom Abrahamson and Andre Daugavietis to 3-year terms. Councilor Norkus seconded. There was a discussion. The motion passed 4-1.

*Plan Commission:* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint Sharon Carnes, Donna Norkus, and David Phelps for 1-year terms. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Presidential Appointments to Committees:**

*None*

**Annual Appointments and Contracts**

*Attorney:* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint Harris, Welsh, & Lukmann. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Street Superintendent and Marshal:* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint Ed Clapp. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Monthly meeting days and times:* Councilor Benson motioned to have meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday a month. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Newspaper for Legal Notices:* Councilor Benson motioned to use NWI Times. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Bank of Record:* Councilor Benson motioned to use First State Bank of Porter, Pines Branch. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Animal Control Contract:* Councilor Benson motioned to use Porter County Animal Control. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Building Commissioner:* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint Dave Wagner. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*NIRPC Commissioner-* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint David Phelps. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Town's RDA Officers:* Councilor Benson motioned to appoint Ellen Hundt, David Phelps, and Candice Peterson-Smith. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Council liaisons:*

Vice President Peterson-Smith motioned to keep all liaisons the same as the previous year. Councilor Benson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*ADA:* Malik

*Building & Building Site Committee:* Malik

*BZA:* Norkus

*Capital Planning Committee:* Peterson-Smith

*Greenspace Committee:* Peterson-Smith

*Indiana Dunes National Park:* Norkus & Phelps

*Parks & Rec Committee:* Peterson-Smith

*Plan Commission:* Norkus

*Police Dept:* Malik

*Volunteer Fire & Emergency Management:* Benson

**Ordinances & Resolutions:**

*2026-01 Rainy Day Transfers for 2025:* Attorney Nolan presented the ordinance. Councilor Benson motioned to approve on first reading. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Councilor Benson motioned to consider on second reading during the same meeting as it was introduced. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Attorney Nolan presented on second and final reading. Councilor Benson motioned to adopt ordinance. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*2026-02 Amending Portions of the Town Code (fees):* Attorney Nolan presented the ordinance. Councilor Benson motioned to approve on first reading. Councilor Malik seconded. There was a discussion. Councilor Norkus stated the increase was too much. The motion passed 4:1. Councilor Benson motioned to consider on second reading during the same meeting as it was introduced. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Attorney Nolan presented on second and final reading. Councilor Benson motioned to adopt ordinance. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed 4:1.

*2026-03 Amending Portions of the Town Code (parking violation fee):* Attorney Nolan presented the ordinance. Councilor Benson motioned to approve on first reading. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Councilor Benson motioned to consider on second reading during the same meeting as it was introduced. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Attorney Nolan presented on second and final reading. Councilor Benson motioned to adopt ordinance. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Clerk- Treasurer's Report**

*Consideration of Claims* –CT Hundt presented the December 2025/January 2026 APV register, noting items that were not standard expenses. Councilor Benson motioned to approve the APVs as presented. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously. CT Hundt also presented the Fund Report, 2025 Combined December Report, Revenue Report, Appropriation Report, Depository Balance Report, Bank Rec Checking, Bank Rec TrustIN, Bank Rec Water, BOK Financial/2020 Bond Series, November Payroll. Councilor Norkus will sign off on reports.

*Approval of Automatic Transfers for 2025:* Councilor Benson motioned to approve. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Consideration of Claims for Bonds, 2020 Series:* None.

**Reports from Committees/Liaisons:**

**ADA progress:** Councilor Malik reported the Nurse's Closet has been active recently.

**Building & Building Site Committee:** Councilor Malik gave report.

**Board of Zoning Appeals:** Councilor Norkus gave report.

**Capital Planning Committee:** There was no meeting.

**Fire & Emergency Management:** Councilor Benson gave report.

**Greenspace Committee:** Vice President Peterson-Smith gave report.

**Indiana Dunes National Park:** Councilor Norkus reported she and President Phelps met with NPS and discussed how to move forward on beach access, closed roads and hiking trails, and stairs on NPS property.

**NIRPC:** There was no meeting.

**Parks & Recreation Committee:** Vice President Peterson-Smith gave report.

**Plan Commission:** There was no meeting.

**TDD:** Nothing to report.

**Unfinished Business:**

*Grants updates:* Councilor Norkus gave report. Smith Group continues to look for more grant opportunities.

*Comprehensive Plan Updates and Progress:* The Plan Commission will present 2025 progress at the next meeting.

*Discussion on Town Signs:* Vice President Peterson-Smith presented on sign ideas for Beverly Shores permit parking. Resident Doug Wolfe created the presentation and designs for the new signs. Peterson-Smith requested input from Council and residents. CT Hundt will post the presentation on the website.

**New Business**

*ABSR request to use Town Hall for 2026 (2):* Councilor Benson motioned to approve the requests. Vice President Peterson-Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Request by the Building Commissioner to remove and trim trees which impact the*

*the right of way on Lakefront and Forest Ave:* Councilor Benson motioned to approve the requests. Councilor Malik seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Nancy Nichols, ABSR President, thanked CT Hundt, Marshal Clapp, and the Town Council for their continued partnership and support with the ABSR.

**Written Communications**

Received correspondence from NPS regarding Strengthening Coordination with Gateway Communities.

**Town Council Comment**

Marshal Clapp warned residents of the upcoming freezing temperatures. Residents should always call 911 in an emergency.

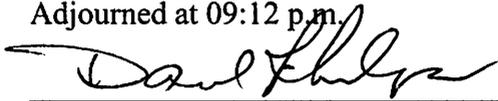
Marshal Clapp reported that NPS will be removing old foundations south of the West end of Beverly.

Councilor Malik reported that Bud Ogle, long time resident of Beverly Shores, has a connection to Martin Luther King and the 1968 Peace Conference.

**Adjourn:**

Councilor Malik motioned to adjourn.  
Councilor Benson seconded.  
Unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 09:12 p.m.



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Town Council President:

Attest: 

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Clerk-Treasurer  
Ellen Hundt