

Town of Beverly Shores
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 16, 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: Matrona Malik, Donna Norkus, David Phelps, and Candice Peterson-Smith were present. Also, present: Clerk-Treasurer Ellen Hundt, Marshal Vernon Garard, Attorney Connor Nolan, and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Sally Bagnall. Councilor Geof Benson attended electronically.

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.

Public Presentations

Report from Lakefront Monitor: Brian O'Neil reported the stairs at Reborra Plaza are open and the blowout on the east side of the stairs was replenished. Boat storage is open at Derby Beach. There are 17 open social trails although not all provide beach access. Recommendations included the use of mats, sand replenishment, and beachside trail signs. He inquired as to the reason why there is no parking allowed on certain areas on Lake Front Dr. He also advised residents not to make their own trails down to the beach.

Presentation by Depot Museum and Art Gallery and American Lithuanian Club

Of Beverly Shores requesting a Heritage Trail Marker at Lithuanica Park: Ed Kleese and John Nekus gave presentation. The proposed sign would be part of, and the last of, the Heritage Trail and provide history on the Lithuanians in Beverly Shores. There was a discussion that included existing signs, placement of the new sign, and whether it should be at the park. Councilor Norkus provided a Town Council summary regarding Heritage Trail discussions. She stated there is still missing information that was requested from the Depot years ago. John Nekus offered to put this information together. Councilor Malik motioned to table the discussion to a future meeting. Councilor Norkus seconded. There was a roll call vote. Benson – yes. Malik – yes. Norkus – yes. Phelps – yes. Peterson-Smith – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of May 19, 2026: Councilor Malik motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Vice President Peterson-Smith seconded. There was a roll call vote. Benson – yes. Malik – yes. Norkus – yes. Phelps – yes. Peterson-Smith – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of Police & Street Departments

Violation Report:

15860 – Buschman: Councilor Malik motioned to deny the appeal. Vice President Peterson-Smith seconded. There was a roll call vote. Benson – yes. Malik – yes. Norkus – yes. Phelps – yes. Peterson-Smith – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Report: Marshal Garard gave report. He provided the Council with a quote for a new police car. He reported he received a Memorandum of Understanding from the National Park. Attorney Nolan has reviewed it but it has not ready to be signed.

Street Report: Garard gave report. Seasonal mowing is ongoing. Kemil Road is still closed due to storm and tree damage. A sign inventory has begun. Marshal Garard thanked Dave Wagner for helping him with his new position. He further thanked the chain saw group for their assistance.

Ordinances & Resolutions:

Ordinance No. 2026-08: Ordinance to name the fire station: Attorney Nolan presented on first reading. President Phelps read the ordinance. Councilor Benson motioned to approve the ordinance. Councilor Malik seconded. There was a roll call vote. Benson – yes. Malik – yes. Norkus – yes. Phelps – yes. Peterson-Smith – yes. The motion passed unanimously. The motion was passed on first reading.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Consideration of Claims –CT Hundt presented the May/June 2026 APV register, noting items that were not standard expenses. Councilor Benson motioned to approve the APV as presented. Councilor Malik seconded. There was a roll call vote. Benson – yes. Malik – yes. Norkus – yes. Phelps – yes. Peterson-Smith – yes. The motion passed unanimously. CT Hundt also presented the Fund Report, 2026 Combined May Report, Revenue Report, Appropriation Report, Depository Balance Report, Bank Rec Checking, Bank Rec TrustIN, Bank Rec Water, BOK Financial/2020 Bond Series, May payroll. Councilor Norkus will sign off on reports.

Consideration of Claims for Bonds, 2020 Series: There is one APV to be presented at the RDA meeting.

Reports from Committees/Liaisons:

ADA progress: Nothing to report.

Building & Building Site Committee: There was no meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Councilor Norkus gave report.

Capital Planning Committee: There was no meeting.

Fire & Emergency Management: Councilor Benson reported the Firemen's Ball is Saturday, July 4th.

Greenspace Committee: There was no meeting.

Indiana Dunes National Park: There was no meeting. Rafi Wilkinson suggested the Town meeting with the interim Superintendent.

NIRPC: There was no meeting.

Parks & Recreation Committee: Vice President Peterson-Smith gave report. She reported that the ERG raised money to have the strip at Reborna done and requested the Town Council accept the donation. President Phelps requested she submit the quote for Town Council approval.

Plan Commission: Councilor Norkus gave report.

TDD: There was nothing to report.

Unfinished Business:

Grants updates:

Update from the EPA on technical assistance for waste water treatment: Councilor Benson gave an update. There will be a site visit in Beverly Shores and the Town of Pines0

NWI Thrive Grant: There was further discussion regarding the placement of the sidewalk because of the loss of parking and possible maintenance costs. Placing the sidewalk on the west side of Broadway was discussed. President Phelps reports there will be public hearings in the future.

NWIF: Councilor Norkus reported the Town was not invited to submit a full grant proposal.

New Business

Palmer stairs repair: Councilor Norkus reported the Palmer stairs need to have some work done and presented a quote from Bernal's Landscaping. President Phelps motioned to approve the quote for \$1800 from Bernal's to be paid from the LIT Fund. Councilor Benson seconded. Councilor Malik questioned whether the stairs need maintenance. The Building Commissioner reported there is a tripping hazard if the stairs are not leveled with rock. Vice President Peterson-Smith voiced concern about the Town paying maintenance costs on donated structures. There was a roll call vote. Benson – yes. Malik – no. Norkus – yes. Phelps – yes. Peterson-Smith – no. The motion passed 3:2.

Request permission to serve alcoholic beverages at Lituanica Park at the Summer Solstice event. Councilor Benson motioned to approve the request. Councilor Norkus seconded. President Phelps offered a friendly amendment to make the approval contingent on receipt of the liquor license. Councilor Benson motioned to accept the amendment. Councilor Norkus seconded the amendment. There was a roll call vote. Benson – yes. Malik – yes. Norkus – yes. Phelps – yes. Peterson-Smith – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Written Communications

Request from Save the Dunes for grant support letter: President Phelps presented the request. The grant would install parking detectors to better support the National Park Service with their visitors and traffic. Councilor Malik motioned to authorize President Phelps to write a letter in support. Councilor Norkus seconded. There was a roll call vote. Benson – yes. Malik – yes. Norkus – yes. Phelps – yes. Peterson-Smith – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

There was request for speed control/deterrent on Merrivale. President Phelps will share with Marshal Garard.

Public Comment

Marius Kasniunas, 115 S. Janeth, asked the Council if the Town wanted 150 foldable chairs to be donated from the Beverly Shores Volunteer Fire Department. The request was taken under advisement.

Marshal Garard thanked Dave Wagner for his assistance.

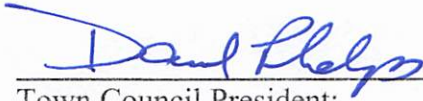
John Nekus, 15 E. Stillwater, thanked the Council for allowing boat storage and Marshal Garard for assisting with beach access at Kemil.

Town Council Comment

Councilor Norkus reminded everyone that June is Pride Month and Juneteenth is on June 19th. Councilor Benson thanked the volunteer tree crew and Marcia Metzcus for her Council meeting reports in Sand Tracks.

Adjourn:

President Phelps adjourned the meeting at 9:01



Town Council President:

Attest:



Clerk-Treasurer

Ellen Hundt