

Burns Harbor Town Council
Regular Meeting
June 11, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Burns Harbor, Porter County, Indiana met in its regularly scheduled session on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 in the Town Hall and streamed electronically with Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Council President Jennifer McHargue at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Toni Biancardi----- Present
Councilwoman Roseann Bozak ----- Present
Councilwoman Lisa Draves ----- Present
Councilman John (Jack) McGraw ----- Present
Councilwoman Jennifer McHargue --- Present

Clerk-Treasurer Nicholas Loving and Deputy Clerk treasurer Madiline Parker were present. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present Attorney Clay Patton, Town Marshal Jeremy McHargue, GM/Street Superintendent Brandon Downey, Fire Chief Ryan Nowacki, Building Commissioner Joe Lawson and Park Board President Kylane Tumblin

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman Bozak made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 14, 2024. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Draves – Aye, Councilman Jordan – Absent, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye. **Motion Passed.**

Scholarship Board:

Councilwoman Biancardi and Connor Wenzel of the Scholarship Board presented checks in the amount of \$1,500 to six recipients. Pictures were taken briefly in the parking lot with the recipients.

Reports:

Clerk-Treasurer Nicholas Loving thanked his predecessor Nicole Migliorini and informed the council that it has been a positive transition in the Clerk's office. Payroll training was completed and there are now 3 people in the office who can run payroll. Clerk Loving also informed the council that he had sworn-in Councilwoman Biancardi following her appointment.

Sue Neff, the Porter County Assessor, then informed the council of Cleveland Cliffs intent to appeal their assessment. She provided details regarding an MOU that would allow Porter County, Duneland Schools, the Porter County Library and The Town of Burns Harbor to defend the challenge. The financial ask for the Town of Burns Harbor is \$23,000. Councilwoman Biancardi asked if the property was physically assessed. Assessor Neff stated that it was. Councilwoman Bozak asked what happens if the appeal is successful and what happens if the current valuation is found to be too high on appeal. Assessor Neff stated that the assessment cannot go up. Attorney Patton asked if the Town of Burns Harbor would get the funds back from the court if the defense was successful. Assessor Neff stated that the town would not. Councilwoman Biancardi advised that she would like to speak with Cleveland Cliffs directly before the town would commit to the \$23,000. Attorney Patton confirmed with Assessor Neff that there would be different appraisers valuing the property. Councilwoman McHargue asked what happens if the Town says no to the request. Assessor Neff advised that the three other entities would be forced to pay the additional costs. The conversation concluded with the council, Attorney Patton and Assessor Neff agreeing that Cleveland Cliffs has been a good neighbor and that discussions would continue. The MOU was tabled until the July meeting.

Councilwoman Biancardi informed that she would be looking at the cell-phone tower lease. Councilwoman McHargue that appointed Councilwoman Biancardi as the Street Department Liason.

Town Engineer Jeanette Hicks informed the council that CCMG is underway, discussed the ADA compliant ramps in Corlin's Landing subdivision and stated that the salt dome is completed and work is underway for Lakeland Park Rd.

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Building Commissioner Joe Lawson asked the Council if a decision has been reached on the building at 1182 Salt Creek. Council advised that they would discuss. Lawson then presented the Council with a request for a raise. Councilman McGraw advised that it was not in the budget for 2025. Councilwoman Bozak then inquired about the fine for Rig Doctors from a judgement from 10 years ago. Lawson advised that he would work with Rig Doctors to set up a plan.

GM/Street Superintendent Downey informed the Council brush pickup is ongoing on Mondays and that the street sweeper will be back out on June 23-25th to clean areas missed during the first sweeping. Councilwoman Bozak asked if the Town was currently mowing areas not owned by the town, Downey advised that he was not.

Police Chief Jeremy McHargue advised that officer Grant Vawter had graduated from his Police Training and commended Clerk Watkins for her efforts on the new phone system in town. He also stated that he was working with the Park Department on the 5k Route to ensure roads are safely closed. The Council and Chief McHargue then offered their condolences to Officer Grant Vawter on the loss of his mother.

Fire Chief Ryan Nowacki informed the council that the ladder truck is having mechanical issues and the mobile mechanic was able to repair for \$2,697.00. Councilwoman Biancardi made a motion to pay the \$2,697. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.** Chief Nowacki also informed the council that the incident that occurred on May 14th with the truck door has been fixed internally and there was no additional expense. Chief Nowacki then asked that the council approve five additional sets of bunker gear at \$3,300 each. Councilwoman Draves made a motion not to exceed \$16,500. Councilwoman Biancardi seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Park Board President Kylan Tumblin informed the Council that the playground equipment for Corlin's Landing will be delivered in August 2025. The Footloose 5k will start at 6pm with the fun run starting at 5:15.

Redevelopment Commission President Bozak informed the Council that the RDC is moving forward with grant applications and the RDC is closing out the SS4A, 90% on Phase 1B.

Correspondence:

None

Presentations, Resolutions, Ordinances and Remonstrance:

None

New Business:

Staff anniversary recognition:

Council recognized and thanked Clay Patton for his 10 years of service to the Town.

MS4:

Presentation on MS4 to be followed with Facebook post and information campaign about keeping stormwater clean.

Cleveland Cliffs CF-1 Forms:

Councilwoman Biancardi made a motion to approve Cleveland Cliffs CF-1 forms. Councilwoman Bozak seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Global Engineering Salt Dome Invoice:

Councilwoman Bozak made a motion to approve payment of \$180,972.00. Councilwoman Biancardi seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Global Engineering Invoice:

Councilwoman Draves made a motion to approve payment of \$6,135.32. Councilwoman Biancardi seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Town Rummage Sale:

The Town Rummage Sale will be held on July 25-26th from 8:00am-2:00pm

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Keystone Invoice:

Councilwoman Biancardi made a motion to approve payment of \$9,640.34.
Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Disposal of Old Phones:

Brandon Downey was authorized to dispose of the old telephones at the Porter County Recycling site. Councilwoman Bozak made a motion. Councilwoman Biancardi seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Approval of May 2025 financial report:

Councilwoman Bozak made a motion to approve the May 2025 financial report.
Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilman Jordan – Absent, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye. **Motion passed.**

Approval to pay vouchers with 3 or more signatures:

Councilwoman Bozak moved to approve vouchers with three or more signatures.
Councilwoman Biancardi seconded the motion. Councilwoman Biancardi – Aye, Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Abstain, Councilwoman McHargue – Aye. **Motion passed.**

Approval of purchase orders submitted with 3 or more signatures:

Councilwoman Bozak made a motion to approve all purchase orders submitted to the Council with three or more signatures. Councilwoman Draves seconded the motion.
Councilwoman Biancardi – Aye, Councilwoman Bozak – Aye, Councilwoman Draves- Aye, Councilman McGraw – Aye, Councilwoman McHargue – Abstain. **Motion passed.**

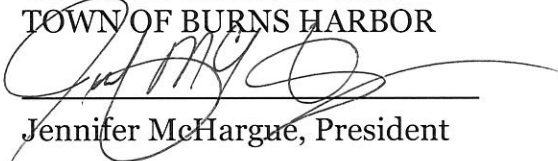
Old Business:

The council agreed to set dates for budget meetings at the July council Meeting.
Councilwoman McHargue asked that the Police and Street Departments coordinate no-parking sign placement

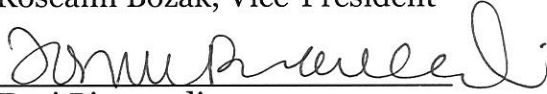
Chief Nowacki thanked Clerk Watkins for her help in obtaining a grant.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 9:13 p.m.

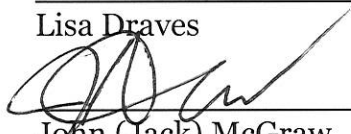
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF BURNS HARBOR


Jennifer McHargue, President

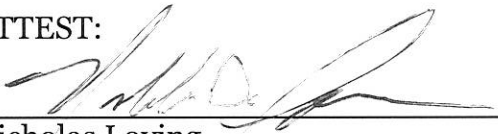
Roseann Bozak, Vice-President


Toni Biancardi

Lisa Draves


John (Jack) McGraw

ATTEST:


Nicholas Loving
Clerk-Treasurer