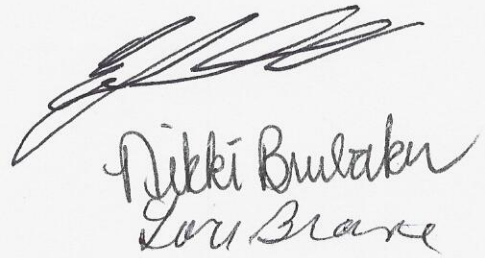


Town of LaFontaine
PO Box 207
13 W Branson St
LaFontaine, IN 46940

Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2026



Nikki Brubaker
Lori Brane

John called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: Lori Brane, John Khrin, Nikki Brubaker, Pam Whitener, Mat Galligan, Jeff Smith, Tracie Hensley, Tina King, Brian Linkenhoker, Ethel Eib, Gary Herring, Connor Hindman, Chris Harrison, Tom Simpson, Wendy Black, and Maria Smyth.

Lori made a motion to elect John Khrin President of the Board for 2026. Nikki 2nd. Approved 1-0, John abstained.

John made a motion to approve December 8, 2025 meeting minutes. Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0.

John made a motion to appoint Lori as the library board representative for 2026. Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0.

John made a motion to make Nikki liaison for the Park Board. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0.

Commonwealth-Chris Harrison

- Chris stopped by the USDA office and spoke to someone about the water project. They are just waiting on the paperwork to be processed. Laura Hammond has taken the director position at state level. She is familiar with the project.
- Chris sat in with Jeff during the state inspection. Overall, he thinks it went pretty well.
- Jeff has been gathering information about the geo bags and an estimated cost for materials, concrete, and annual cost.

Town of Lafayette
PO Box 207
13 Williams St
Lafayette, LA 70504

Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2025

John called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: Tom Baker, John Klein, Nikki Brubaker, Pam Wheeler, Mat Galligan,
Jeff Smith, James Hester, Tina King, Brian Linkenbach, Ethel Ell, Gary Fleming,
Conor Harman, Chris Harman, Tom Simpson, Wendy Black, and Maria Smyth.

John made a motion to elect John Klein President of the Board for 2025. Nikki 2nd.
Approved 1-0. John abstained.

John made a motion to approve December 8, 2025 meeting minutes. Nikki 2nd.
Approved 3-0.

John made a motion to appoint Jeff as the Utility Board representative for 2025.
Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0.

John made a motion to make Nikki liaison for the Park Board. Jeff 2nd. Approved 3-0.

Commonwealth-Chris Harman

- Chris stopped by the USDA office and spoke to someone about the water project. They are just waiting on the paperwork to be processed. Laura Hammond has taken the director position at state level. She is familiar with the project.
- Chris sat in with Jeff during the state inspection. Overall, he thinks it went pretty well.
- Jeff has been gathering information about the gas bags and an estimated cost for materials, concrete, and annual cost.

- Presented a breakdown for park improvement phase one to take under advisement. Phase one would include site clearing and grading, demolishing old structures, and ensuring old structures are secure. So that would include site survey, geo tech, permitting assistance, primary design, final design, and bidding assistance. The total is \$89,000 to take under consideration.
- Last month the board took under advisement a hydraulic study proposal. Chris wanted to know if we wanted to move forward. John says that will have to wait because we have not received any money for the water project.

Marshall's Report-Mat Galligan

- In December there were 22 calls of service, 27 traffic stops, 1 ordinance issue, assisted the sheriff's department with a felony warrant.
- Gatlon Burton is the new part-time deputy.
- John said the residents are happy to see Mat out and at public events.
- John was happy to announce that arrests have been made for the people breaking into cars.

Fire Department Report-Tom Simpson

- Was not able to attend December meeting, so he presented both months.
- In December he had 1 fire and 7 EMS calls
- In January he had 4 fire and 20 EMS calls

Utility Report-Jeff Smith

- There were a couple things elevated from minor to major during the sanitary survey inspection.
1. The sensor that measures chlorine gas in the wall house is supposed to be pointing down.
 2. We need an ordinance on file for cross connects. Chris helped Jeff draft something up for review.
 3. The water tower has not been inspected in eight years. It needs inspected and possibly cleaned. He will get estimates.
- John thinks that there is an ordinance for cross connects. They will follow up.
 - Snow plow is fixed.

- Presented a breakdown for park improvement, please one to take under advisement. Please one would include site clearing and grading, demolishing old structures, and ensuring old structures are secure. So that would include site survey, geotech, permitting assistance, priority design, final design, and bidding assistance. The total is \$83,000 to take under consideration.
- Last month the board took under advisement a hydraulic study proposal. Chris wanted to know if we wanted to move forward. John says that will have to wait because we have not received any money for the water project.

Michelle's Report-Mat Dalgan

- In December there were 22 calls of service, 27 traffic stops, 1 ordinance case, assisted the sheriff's department with a felony warrant.
- Dallon Burton is the new part time deputy.
- John said the residents are happy to see Mat out and at public events.
- John was happy to announce that arrests have been made for the people breaking into cars.

The Department Report-John Simpson

- Was not able to attend December meeting, so he presented four months.
- In December he had 1 fire and 7 EMS calls.
- In January he had 4 fire and 20 EMS calls.

Utility Report-Jeff Smith

- There were a couple things elevated from minor to major during the sanitary survey inspection.
- The sewer that requires changing gas in the well house is supposed to be pointing down.
- We need an ordinance on tile for cross connects. Chris helped Jeff draft something up for review.
- The water tower has not been inspected in eight years. It needs inspected and possibly cleaned. He will get estimates.
- John thinks that there is an ordinance for cross connects. They will follow up.
- Snow blow is needed.

Park Board-Wendy Black

- She submitted a relations annual report to Pam. It covered everything they worked on in 2025.
- There is still an open position on the Park Board. Robert Byle might be interested.
- Wendy will continue working on fund raising and sponsors.
- Gary has been collecting estimates.

Community Alliance Report-Maria Smyth

- Shared the action plan for 2026 which includes:
 1. Mural completed
 2. Increase attendance and volunteers for downtown events
 3. Buy one more bench and flower pot for in front of IOOF
 4. Add two more committee members
 5. Fall block party
 6. Ways to promote small businesses

Clerk's Report-Pam Whitener

- All banks are reconciled balanced and closed for 2025. Payroll and utilities have been closed for 2025. W2s have been mailed. She will start closing fund accounts for 2025 next week. Jeff's wages for the fourth quarter have been submitted to Alliance for reimbursement. SAM renewal has been submitted and approved. Insurance premium for 2026 has been received. The premium increased about \$4,000.
- Lori made a motion to pay bills for \$72,856.88. Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0
- Nikki made a motion to credit account # 2269002 for \$81.65- prior resident's bill.

Old Business

- Need to approve the salary ordinance for Brad's wages because he is in the apprentice program.

Park Board - Wendy Black

- She submitted a relations annual report to Pam. It covered everything they worked on in 2025.
- There is still an open position on the Park Board. Robert Byle might be interested.
- Wendy will continue working on fund raising and sponsors.
- Gary has been collecting estimates.

Community Alliance Report - Mans Zayth

- Shared the action plan for 2026 which includes:
 1. Mural completed
 2. Increase attendance and volunteers for downtown events
 3. Buy one more bench and flower pot for in front of IOOP
 4. Add two more committee members
 5. Fall block party
 6. Ways to promote small business

Clerk's Report - Pam Whitener

- All banks are reconciled balanced and closed for 2025. Payroll and utilities have been closed for 2025. WVS have been mailed. She will start closing fund accounts for 2025 next week. Jeff's wages for the fourth quarter have been submitted to Alliance for reimbursement. TAM renewal has been submitted and approved. Insurance premium for 2026 has been received. The premium increased about \$4,000.

- Lori made a motion to pay bills for \$23,856.88. Nido 2nd. Approved 3-0
- Nikki made a motion to credit account # 2359002 for \$81.65 - prior resident's bill

Old Business

- Need to approve the salary ordinance for Brad's wages because he is in the appearance program.

- John made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1 2026 an Ordinance amending 2026 salaries for employees of town of LaFontaine. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to suspend the rules. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0.
- John makes a motion to pass Ordinance No 1 2026 an Ordinance amending the Ordinance establishing 2026 salaries for employees of Town of LaFontaine. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0.
- John makes a motion to unsuspend the rules. Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0
- Lori makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2 2026 Flood damage prevention Ordinance for Wabash County. Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0.
- John makes a motion to suspend the rules. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0.
- Lori makes a motion to pass Ordinance 2 Flood Damage Prevention ordinance for Wabash County. Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to unsuspend the rules. Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0
- John made a motion to approve Council meeting dates for 2026. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0
- John made a motion to approve Park Board meeting dates for 2026. Nikki 2nd. Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to approve round up payments due to no pennies-to be credited to customer accounts. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0.
- Lori made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John 2nd. Approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina King
Deputy Clerk

- John made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1 2025 an Ordinance amending 2025 salaries for employees of town of Lafontaine, Lon 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to suspend the rules, Lon 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John makes a motion to pass Ordinance No. 1 2025 an Ordinance amending the Ordinance establishing 2025 salaries for employees of town of Lafontaine, Lon 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John makes a motion to suspend the rules, Nikki 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- Lon makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2 2025 Flood damage prevention Ordinance for Wash County, Nikki 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John makes a motion to suspend the rules, Lon 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- Lon makes a motion to pass Ordinance 2 Flood Damage Prevention ordinance for Wash County, Nikki 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to suspend the rules, Nikki 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to approve Council meeting dates for 2025, Lon 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to approve Park Board meeting dates for 2025, Nikki 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- John made a motion to approve round up payments due to no pennies-to be credited to customer accounts, Lon 2nd, Approved 3-0.
- Lon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John 2nd, Approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by

Tina King
Deputy Clerk