

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

**Town Council Meeting Minutes  
October 14<sup>th</sup> 2025**

In attendance: Jed Derck, Jay Gillespie, Maria Smyth, Ethel Eib, Wendy Black, Conner Hineman, Jerry Whitener, Tina King, Brian Linkenhoker, Tracie Hensley, Mat Galligan, Tom Simpson, Pamela Whitener, Nikki Brubaker, Chuck Cable, Sharon Pattee, Marlan Pattee, John Krhin, and Lori Brane

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

John made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025 Minutes. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0.

John made a motion to approve the September 30, 2025 Minutes. Lori 2nd. Approved 3-0.

Commonwealth did not attend.

Marshals Report – Mathew Galligan

- In September there were 24 calls to service. 18 traffic stop stops, 1 background check, 1 ordinance issue and 5 assists with the Sheriff's Department, 1 felony arrest. In new news, the Flock Cameras are up and operational. He thanked the Town Council for purchasing them. Operation Pull Over is officially approved and he can start working on that at any time. Some blitzes require working a specific time, others he can work whenever. He reported that he was able to participate in the parade that Gary Herring organized during the Corn Fest.

Fire Dept Report - Tom Simpson

- In September they had 4 fire calls and 8 EMS runs.

Utility Report – Pamela Whitener, in absence of Jeff Smith

- The paving for 2025 has been completed. Two extra alleys were paved from Walnut to Renaker, and half to Main to Gruell. The utility building has been painted. Fall clean up when well. The water department will be competing in the Indiana Best Tasting Water Contest next week in Fort Wayne. The winner will receive a sign and a trip to Washington DC. 25 tons of road salt is expected to be delivered sometime in the next two weeks. No sand will be used on the streets this winter. Jeff did receive his water license and is preparing to complete the next exam sometime in November. John let everyone know that Jeff informed

## Agenda Requests:

- Joe Bowman – did not show
- Justing Boss - did not show
- Maria Smyth from LaFontaine Community Alliance. She is the liaison for the Big Clean Up in March of 2026. It is a group of each community and will see if there are streets or areas that we want to clean. Republic Services will be donating reflective vests, roll offs, hats, trash bags, trash receptacles as well as a roll off dumpster. There will be a sign-up sheet and things to think about are where to place the roll off so that it is visible and easily accessible and what we need to focus on for the cleaning effort. Once committees are formed and the date is released, she will send more information. She brought up the LACA meeting at 6pm, discussions will take place concerning the mural. She updated that half of the money has been raised and Erica can start the mural in June of 2026. Maria has asked LaFontaine Community Alliance will be working with the Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department on October 31<sup>st</sup> for the annual Halloween Party. The Eclectic Shoppe will be sponsoring the pumpkin decorating contest and will be helping with the Halloween costume judging that has been brought back this year, thanks to the Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department. There will be prizes, food, and fun. Maria brought up the donated Christmas decorations. After searching, there is just no place to accommodate the number of decorations. There was one offer made but it is upstairs and the bigger items would be difficult.  
She brought up the 250<sup>th</sup> America's Birthday. Music and activities will be Maria also requested an additional \$5000 to go towards the mural. Pam asked the cost of the mural, it is \$14,000.00, of that, \$7000.00 has been raised. Maria has reached out to the Miami Indians to see what type of headdress would represent Chief LaFontaine. On Thursday, a committee will be designated for the mural, she would love to have someone from the council present. There have been discussions on what the mural will be but, at this time, there has not been anything in stone. Wendy brought up reaching out to the history club. John addressed Maria's updates and requests, the council will speak with Pam and hopefully have an answer for the request of funds to the mural. John will try to make it and see some mural ideas and the council will have final approval of the mural.
- Jay explained that he had been working with Jordan on the donation of the property for the park. Most everything is taken care of except for the form he needs completed. He found out last week that an appraisal had to

be completed within so many days of the donation. Kristy Lundquist completed the appraisal and let Jordan know that she will be updating that for Jay, this week. They completed the paperwork. John motioned to accept Resolution 1, 2025 to accept the gift of real estate from LaFontaine Interurban Project LLC. Lori seconded and the vote was 3-0 to accept. Lori thanked Jay on behalf of the town of LaFontaine. John went over the requests that Jay had made in the resolution.

1. A time capsule will be placed on the property at the completion of the park.
2. LaFontaine Interurban needs to be included somewhere or somehow in the name of the park and approved by the donor.
3. Bricks that came off the property should be used some way in the park. Also, tupelo from the top of the building should be used.
4. If nothing is done to the property or developed into a park, in five years, the property will go back to the donor or his agent.

The board again thanked Jay.

- A resident asked who was responsible for the brush and trees that overhang the roadways. Mat said that he will be speaking with Jeff about that because there are several that are close to the road. Some are on the town's side and some are on the resident's side. Mat had dropped off several letters to homeowners.
- A resident asked if all the smoke tests were completed. The council said they would make sure but they had been advised that all of them were taken care of.
- A resident asked about the roof on the town barn because when it was repaired 4 or 5 years ago after a hail storm, they had a 30 year warranty. The Council was not aware of a warranty.
- A resident had a question about their bill. Pam and the board said they would look into it.
- THE LIVE FEED CUT OUT... NO ACCESS – RE STARTED DURING CHUCK CABLE
- Tracie made everyone aware that we lost the live feed for a few minutes.



- A new resident asked for permission to remove pieces of a broken-up sidewalk in front of his home. The board had no issue with it since there were no other sidewalks around it.
- John motioned adjourning the meeting. Lori seconded and the vote was 3-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Tracie Hensley

Deputy Clerk