

NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
JUNE 3, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Schilawski, John Purdie, Dennis Combs, and Chad Waltz. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss. Town Attorney Lee Robbins was absent. Councilman Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the May 6th regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Purdie moves to approve the minutes of the May 18th special meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the June 3, 2026 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the June 3, 2026 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Perrin opens the Public Hearing at 5:02pm regarding sewer rates. Robert Reynolds from LWG CPAs & Advisors distributed to Council the Financing Options and Rate Impacts document. He states that rates are up to 4.79% now. Rate were 4.71% in April. This will increase the debt service and also increase the rate. Mr. Reynolds provides different scenarios. There are options which include reimbursing engineering payments already made for the project and having the utility absorb those costs. There are also options which include the town using \$1,000,000 from the sale of the water utility in 2012 and not using those funds for this project.

Council President John Perrin asks if anyone is here from the public with comments or questions regarding the sewer rates for the public hearing. Dennis Shelton, 6149 N 25 W, Whiteland addresses Council. He states that he is concerned due to the almost 40% jump in rates at one time. Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock adds that rates have not been increased since 2018. Robert Reynolds states that the rate increase is not just because of an increase in the cost of daily operations, but also due to the large project and upgrades which are necessary. No one else from the public is present to ask questions or comment on the sewer rates. That being noted the Public Hearing is closed at 5:12pm.

Council discusses the various options presented by Robert Reynolds. Council President Perrin notes there is a \$3 difference in the rate increase if they use \$1,000,000 from the sale of the water utility. He suggests using some of that money to benefit the people of the Town so they do not have to absorb as much of the increase. Councilman Schilawski asks Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock if his utility funds will be okay if he is not reimbursed for the \$156,650 in engineering fees. He states that will be fine and refers to Robert Reynolds to explain further. Mr. Reynolds says that he looked at the next 5 years and the utility funds will be sufficient, even with absorbing the \$156,650 in engineering fees.

After discussion, Council approves for the Town to loan the utility \$1 million for the project. Council also approves for the engineering fees of \$156,650 to be paid for directly from the utility's own funds instead of wrapping that into the project and further raising rates.

OLD BUSINESS

Golf Cart Ordinance

Councilman Schilawski states that he has received a few comments regarding the Town's golf cart ordinance recently however he is not sure it's enough expression of support to change direction. Council President Perrin states that a lot of people want them. Franklin and Bargersville are not having issues with them. The concern is that we have several main roads. This discussion will be continued at the July 1st meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Quote Opening for I&I Project

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock reminds Council of the I&I issues recently at Ashland and Berwyn that will need to be addressed. At the February 4th meeting Nick Lyons with Wessler Engineering reviewed findings from the sanitary sewer CCTV inspection with Council. They also provided a 239-page Technical Memorandum with proposed projects to take care of the issues found. The Memorandum described both priority 1 and priority 2 project suggestions. Council approved engineering professional services for the priority 1 projects. At this time Utility Supt. Gillock states he has received 3 sealed quotes for the priority 1 projects. This will be for the actual work, not the professional services which were already approved. He states there is no decision needed tonight but he wants Council to know the engineers will review the 3 quotes and they will go to town attorney Lee Robbins to also review. He will come back to the July meeting with a recommendation regarding the quotes.

Engagement Letter for Sewer Financing

Robert Reynolds with LWG CPAs & Advisors shares with Council that he submitted an engagement letter in November however he noted it has not been adopted yet and is a requirement in order to proceed with his work for the town. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the engagement letter from LWG CPAs & Advisors and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

S&P Rating

Robert Reynolds with LWG CPAs & Advisors states that we should get our rating with S&P by the end of the week. The Town will have to sign a contract for the loan before the bonds. That can be done at the July 1st meeting. He expects everything to close around July 20th. There will be a 90-day window to reach out to the IFA.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2026-01 / Sewer Rates

Amending Rates

Council discussed matters pertaining to sewer rates during the public hearing and will formally vote on Ordinance 2026-01 at the July 1st regular Council meeting.

Ordinance 2026-02 / Bond Ordinance

For the Issuance and Sale of Revenue Bonds

Council President Perring presents Ordinance 2026-02 to Council. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Ordinance 2026-02 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. Ordinance 2026-02 is passed with unanimous consent and unanimous vote of all five (5) members of the Town Council present.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sheri Reed, 327 Southlane, shares that she attended a meeting this past winter and spoke with Council at that time about the poor condition of the sidewalk in the half-circle on Southlane. Council President Perrin states that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowners. Ms. Reed states that the sidewalk in question is in the island in the half-circle and no homeowner's property touches it. Council President Perrin states he will drive by and take a look at it. Ms. Reed also states that she is in favor of having golf carts in Town.

Ronald Vaught, 347 Melrose, states that there was a paving crew, Freije Paving, near his home Friday morning. There were 10 trucks along the street near the intersection of Parkview and Melrose and he could not access his driveway. After 15 minutes a worker came up to him. There was a heated exchange of words. Mr. Vaught called the Town office, then spoke with Officer Chelsea Finley, then spoke with Police Chief Joe Rynerson. Mr. Vaught states he was not pleased with the outcome of the conversation with the police department. Chief Rynerson stated that he has no authority over the paving company and suggested Mr. Vaught call the paving company directly. Mr. Vaught also stated that he is concerned about allowing golf carts in Town and says that Franklin has had a lot of issues with them being driven around the cemetery and parked in people's yards for concerts and events.

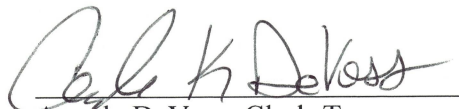
Jamie Rainey, 103 Sawmill Rd, shares with Council that he has lived at his home in New Whiteland for 4 years now. There is often water standing in his front yard and in yards immediately to the right and left. He has done what he could. He installed a French drain. However, there are still issues.

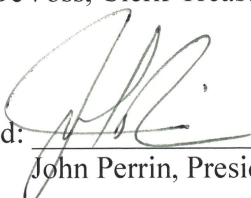
Dee Appleton, 103 Sawmill Rd, also comments regarding the standing water in the front yard. She says they have brought this issue to Council at previous meetings and was told they would look into it and no one has. She describes wading in mud in her front yard due to the standing water.

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock states that the issue is the swell or ditch on the east side of the road. He states that with the new development on the east side of the road and the roundabout project at Whiteland Road and Sawmill Road, they plan to address their drainage issues further either in conjunction with or after the other projects are underway. Ms. Appleton asks when he anticipates doing that and Supt. Gillock responds that they plan to put a small inlet there in the next few months. Mr. Rainey asks that the Town keep them informed of the timeline.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President