

## NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

JULY 1, 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 were Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Combs offered the opening prayer.

#### MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the June 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the July 1, 2026 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the July 1, 2026 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Golf Cart Ordinance Discussion

Councilmember John Schilawski notes that he has spoken with some of his neighbors about this topic. Councilmembers discuss what other communities are doing and options regarding updating our current Golf Cart Ordinance (2022-07). Police Chief Joe Rynerson states that he is in support of updating our ordinance but would like to do more research. Attorney Lee Robbins suggests that we postpone this topic until the next meeting and present another draft then. Council President John Perrin asks if any members of the public are here to discuss this topic.

Rejeana Luttrell, 829 Westview Drive, states that many people in Town are not aware of the various rules and ordinances. They see golf carts on the roads but don't know the rules.

Council President Perrin states that when people move in to the Town they are given a welcome packet with various information.

##### S&P Engagement Letter

Council President John Perrin shares with Council that the Town received an "A Stable" rating with S&P, which is a higher rating than we anticipated. In order to receive that rating, which we received on June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Town had to approve the engagement letter with S&P. Council President Perrin approved the engagement letter on June 10<sup>th</sup> due to the sense of urgency. Tonight Council is asked to ratify that decision. Councilman Purdie moves to ratify the approval of the S&P engagement letter and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

##### Bond Financing Insurance

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock shares that the bond financing insurance is an insurance for the bondholders that guarantees them their money. We qualify for the insurance because of the "A Stable" rating. Attorney Lee Robbins states that it will buy down our interest rate and encourage more buyers of the bonds. The insurance premium is \$17,159 however it ends up saving us over \$30,000 which makes it hard to conceive not doing it. Councilman Purdie notes that in his experience some buyers will not buy bonds without insurance, so this would encourage buyers. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the bond financing insurance and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

##### Bids for I&I

This topic is postponed to the August meeting.

#### Roundabout

Councilman Schilawski asks Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin for an update regarding the Whiteland Rd/Sawmill Rd Roundabout. Supt. McCauslin states that everything has been awarded through the IMPO. The project has a 3-year timeline and won't start until the Spring of 2028.

#### Dewatering Project

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock shares information from GRW regarding the Dewatering project. Council had previously authorized GRW to do the design phase, plan and specs review, and bidding. There were 2 things left on their proposal that required Council approval and that is the construction and administrative portion of the project and construction observation and inspections. That is all built into the total cost of the project however he is needing a signature to move forward and Council approval. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the construction and administrative and construction observation and inspection phases of the Dewatering project and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Health Benefits

Bob Piha, Advisor with LHD Benefits, shares 2026 renewal options with Council and explains. He states the Town is unfortunately facing a less favorable renewal this year with a 28% increase which is directly related to claims and projected future claims. He suggests a dual option which would allow employees to be able to choose between a PPO or HSA. Mr. Piha discusses the various options with Council regarding HSA. Councilman Schilawski shares that it is better to have one vendor for HSA instead of allowing each person to find their own vendor. Councilman Combs notes that Police Chief Rynerson had asked in the past about offering HSA to the police officers. Mr. Piha reminds Council that we are still in the "Legacy" plan and that the dual option is part of the Legacy plan. He also recommends moving the dental and vision insurance from Delta to Principal. He states that a decision needs to be made tonight so that the August payroll deductions are ready. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the dual health insurance program offering employees a \$250 lump sum and match to their HSA this year and \$500 next year using IMCU as the HSA vendor, along with switching dental and vision from Delta to Principal and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Property & Liability Insurance

David Wheatley with Gibson Insurance distributes a Commercial Risk Management & Insurance Proposal booklet to Council and presents recommendations for the Town's property and liability coverage for tonight's discussion. He noted we had different effective dates for the various types of insurance the Town needed (Package & Auto Policy, Property, Flood, Cyber, Workers Compensation, Police & Fire Accident) and they are working to get all effective dates together in one place which will be July 7<sup>th</sup>. With the Tokio Marine policy expiring, Gibson is recommending to take that and split the property insurance with Cincinnati and Bliss McKnight. Bliss McKnight is a municipal carrier only and has been AIM recognized for over 40 years. Gibson also recommends going with Provident for the Police & Fire Accident policy as they have stronger benefits for families of first responders. Jess Rudy with Gibson discusses Flood coverage with Councilmembers. Gibson recommends covering 4 areas with Flood Insurance. After discussion of various potential risks, Council opts to cover the Dewatering Building and Garage with Flood Insurance. Councilman Waltz moves to remove the suggested flood coverage for the salt shed and sand shed and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Perrin moves to approve the recommended insurance program structure presented by Gibson tonight and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Grainger Emergency Purchase

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock refers to an email he sent Council on June 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding an emergency purchase he needed to make at Grainger for a cooling tower for the UV electrical panel at a cost of \$8,261.93. The purchase needed to be made right away as the panel was overheating and shutting down the UV system, which in turn would make us violate IDEM effluent limits. Councilman Schilawski ratifies approval of the expense and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### 2027 Budget Hearing Dates

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss shares a 2027 Budget Process Timeline with Council that includes suggested meeting dates related to the budget. She is proposing the public hearing occur on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Department Head Budget Workshop on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Final Adoption on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Audit of 2024-2025

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss shares that the Audit Report for the audit of 2024 and 2025 is now public and she is now able to share that the Town's audit was successful and favorable.

#### Fiscal Plans for M&I Homes

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares that the Town is needing a Fiscal Plan for the potential M&I Homes subdivision. Adam Stone has provided a proposal to create this fiscal plan and Supt. McCauslin asks Council to approve the proposal. Attorney Robbins states that M&I Homes has agreed to pay for the fiscal plan. Councilman Combs moves to approve Adam Stone's proposal and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### BOK Financial

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock shares that in order for things to proceed with the sale of Bonds later this month, Council is needing to make a decision on the registrar and paying agent. Robert Reynolds with LWG has made the recommendation to go with BOK Financial with an acceptance fee of \$300 and an annual fee of \$400. Councilman Purdie moves to approve BOK Financial as the registrar and paying agent for the sale of the bonds for the Dewatering project and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### LWG Parity

Robert Reynolds with LWG had emailed Council a draft engagement letter to provide a parity report with regard to the sale of bonds for the Dewatering project. There is no additional cost however he needs formal approval to expand his services to act in this role. In order to stay in conformity with AICPA standards, the final letter for John Perrin's signature will not be available until after the bonds sell. However, Council will need to approve tonight since there will not be another meeting prior to the closing. Councilman Schilawski approves the engagement letter from LWG for the parity report and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2026-01

Sewer Rates

Town Attorney Lee Robbins shares that at the last meeting Council conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed sewer rate increase. They made the decision to use \$1,000,000 of the Town's own money from the sale of the water utility in 2012 along with having the utility absorb the \$156,000 in engineering costs for the Dewatering project in order to reduce the impact of the increased rates. What we have here with Ordinance 2026-01 is a rate increase that reflects those decisions. Appendix A shows that Phase I increases rates \$7.46/100 cu ft per month and Phase II will be \$8.35/month. Councilman Combs moves to adopt Ordinance 2026-01 and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Resolution 2026-03

Committing Funds to Project

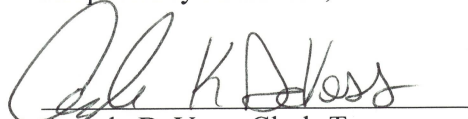
Town Attorney Lee Robbins states that Resolution 2026-03 formalizes the Council's decisions from the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to use \$1,000,000 of the Town's own money from the sale of the water utility in 2012 along with having the utility absorb the \$156,000 in engineering costs for the Dewatering project in order to reduce the impact of the increased rates. Councilman Purdie moves to adopt Resolution 2026-03 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

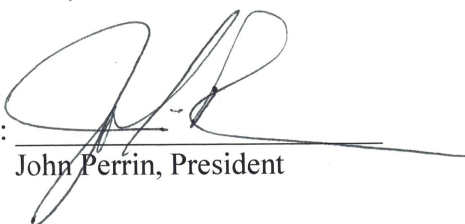
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Dee Appleton, 103 Sawmill Rd, reminds Council of the drainage issues she has had at her home and shares concerns about the increase in traffic issues on Sawmill Road. Attorney Lee Robbins states that a traffic study was conducted and that more significant road improvements will take a while to complete. Ms. Appleton states that with regard to the drainage issues she often has mud in her yard when she mows her grass. However, there are tall weeds that have not been taken care of at the development across the street. Utility Supt. Gillock states they will say something to the developer again about maintaining that area.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:   
John Perrin, President