

NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
JULY 2, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:01p.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 4th regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the July 2, 2025 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the July 2, 2025 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Perrin opens the Public Hearing at 5:03pm regarding Ordinance 2025-07 to increase the sewer availability fees. Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock refers to the report from LWG, which he has submitted to Council. Page 13 of the report recommends a new sewer availability fee of \$2,290.00, which is less than what was advertised.

Dee Appleton, 103 Sawmill, is present and asks if the developer will be paying the increased sewer availability fees in the new Pleasant Creek development. Councilman Purdie replies yes, that is part of the cost of building. Being no other questions or comments, the Public Hearing is closed at 5:14pm. Attorney Robbins presents Ordinance 2025-07, the Ordinance Increasing Sewer Availability Fees. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Ordinance 2025-07 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

Golf Cart Usage

Council President John Perrin recalls a golf cart discussion a couple of years ago and asks that Councilmembers bring their thoughts regarding an ordinance to the August meeting. He has looked at other municipality's ordinances and notes that Speedways is the most restrictive.

Karen Frankenberger, 1082 Berwyn, shares with Council that golf carts, motor bikes, electric scooters, and go-carts have been an issue in her neighborhood. Children are operating them at fast speeds and not paying attention. She is concerned for their safety.

Off-Duty Employment for PD

Police Chief Joe Rynerson reminds Council that they have restricted our officers to only accept off-duty employment in Johnson County. He states that this limits the officer's opportunities for off-duty employment and adds that we are the only municipality in Johnson County to restrict officers in this way. Chief Rynerson presents a letter that several of the officers put together and signed to present to Council asking that they reconsider the decision to limit off-duty employment to Johnson County. 4 officers are present in support of this consideration. Chief Rynerson shares that a lot of places are begging for security help. Council President Perrin notes that communication used to be an issue and factored in to the prior decision. Officer Vahle states that is no longer an issue. Councilman Purdie asks who accepts liability if one of our officers is injured? Chief Rynerson shares that the paperwork includes an indemnity form and states that

those hiring our officers are responsible for any issues. Councilman Waltz asks if this would make our officers overworked and raises the question of adequate sleep before shifts. Assistant Chief David Brooks states that officers are required to have an 8-hour window of time both ways. That way no one works 24 hours straight. They are also not permitted to work in bars. Councilman Combs moves to change the requirements to allow off-duty employment of our police officers to include the donut counties only and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

SRF Funding for Dewatering Project

Joe Teirney with GRW refers to the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) submitted at the May 7th meeting which Council approved at that time. The PER was submitted to IDEM in April with the application. We qualify for the pooling fund which currently has an interest rate of 4-5% and is based on median household income and user rates. Mr. Teirney shares that based on several factors he does not feel that New Whiteland would be able to move up out of the “pooling fund” designation. Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock states that this project needs to be done and would rather not delay by waiting to see if we get a better ranking in the future. He suggests that Council approve going ahead with allowing GRW to complete the design phase of tasks 1 and 2 as well as the Geotech. The cost for the design services is \$155,000. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the design phase of the dewatering project as described and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Wheel Tax

Town Attorney Lee Robbins shares with Council that he has learned more about House Bill 1461, which is now in the final version. Municipalities are now not required to adopt their own wheel tax ordinance as a requirement to get community crossing grant money. He also learned that it is in fact a double tax. Attorney Robbins states that Adam Stone will be at our Special Meeting on Jul 16th to share about the impact of SB1. He also knows a lot about the wheel tax. Attorney Robbins notes that Council will probably want to repeal the wheel tax ordinance that they approved on May 7th however he suggests waiting to decide until after they’ve heard Adam Stone’s presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Budget Hearing Dates

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss shares that she filed the Pre Budget Report on June 30th. Our budget public hearing is set for September 3rd. The Adoption meeting is set for October 1st. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss asks if Council would like to have a budget workshop special meeting with department heads as we have done in the past. Council would like to have this special meeting on Wednesday, September 17th.

Annual Health Insurance Renewal

Bob Piha, with ??? is here to explain the changes to the health insurance policies. He notes the following increases if we stick with the same plans that we currently have:

Anthem, Health	4.5% Increase
Delta, Dental	11.5% Increase
Delta, Vision	6.6% Increase

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin asks Council to keep the same plans because we are still under the “legacy” program. If we step outside of that we would see a substantial increase. He also shares that in the past Council has agreed to split the increase in premium cost 50/50 with employees. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve keeping the same health plans with the increases noted above and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Employee Resignation

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares with Council that Public Works employee Mike Ryle resigned as of 4pm yesterday. He is asking Council if he can seek to fill the position. Council approves.

Fee Schedule for Fire Inspections

Fire Chief Dave Curin states that Fire Marshal Kerry O’Haver submitted a fee schedule for inspections and asks what the next steps are. Attorney Robbins states that an ordinance will need to be created and adopted at a future meeting.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2025-01

Non-Emergency Calls

Ordinance 2025-01 was introduced at the March 5, 2025 regular meeting in an attempt to alleviate the number of non-emergency calls placed from a long-term care facility that was having staffing issues. Since that time, they have resolved their staffing issues and the number of non-emergency calls have been reduced. After discussion Council agrees that it would be best to go ahead and have this ordinance in place in case there are issues again in the future. Council would like to decrease the fines to \$300 per incident, noting they can always increase the amount in the future. Councilman Combs moves to pass Ordinance 2025-01 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2025-07

Discussed and approved during public hearing.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Doug Alvey, 65 Pine Ct, states that there is an easement behind his property and he does not know where his property line ends. He shares that the neighbors behind him let the weeds take over. He has sprayed what he can. Mr. Alvey also shares that one of his neighbors installed a chain-length fence that has made it difficult for him to access the area he needs to mow in the easement. He states that the fence appeared a couple of weeks ago. Attorney Robbins states that he will discuss how to proceed with these issues with the police department and Public Works superintendent Duane McCauslin.

Dee Appleton, 103 Sawmill Rd, shares that the property the developers purchased across the street from her on Sawmill Road has weeds growing into the road. Council President Perrin states that needs to be addressed and agrees the Town will address it.

Ms. Appleton also states that there used to be cameras at the house on the property before it was used for fire training. The cameras would deter kids from trespassing the area. However, that has become a problem again.


Ms. Appleton also reminds Council that she brought to their attention at a previous meeting the flooding that occurs in her front yard due to her yard being 12 inches below the road. Council President Perrin states that there is a roundabout project going in at Sawmill and Whiteland Road and a lot of those issues will be taken care of as part of that project and that it would be a waste of tax dollars to address it at this point.

Ms. Appleton asks Council what to do about a neighbor that is in continuous violation of the noise ordinance. There is a house on the corner at Bel Aire that has a Doberman that barks all day and night. She has called about it states she could call every day and asks if there is a better way to handle the issue. Attorney Robbins states that the only thing she can really do is to call the town each time.

Ms. Appleton asks what is an expected timeframe for a board member to get back to a citizen who has reached out. Attorney Robbins notes that there is no requirement to respond. It was noted that the Councilmember did respond to Ms. Appleton however she had not seen the response. Council President Perrin notes that the best way to communicate with Councilmembers is to attend the meetings and speak during public comment.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President