

## APRIL 21, 2026

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at the Trail Creek Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana. Mr. Schacht, Council President led the pledge of allegiance.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Mrs. Saenz to approve the meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Ms. Janes. Motion unanimously carried.

**Approval of Fund Report:** Clerk Treasurer, Crystal Frever provided copies of the Fund Report for March 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the fund report; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Saenz. Motion was unanimously carried.

**Approval of Claims:** Clerk Treasurer, Crystal Frever provided copies of the bills to the council for March 15, 2026 – April 14, 2026, in the amount of \$204,027.51 (TWO HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND TWENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND FIFTY-ONE CENTS).

A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the bills as presented; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Saenz. Motion unanimously carried.

**Correspondence:** Clerk-Treasurer reported receiving a complaint from a resident on Raven regarding Borden Waste removing personal trash cans. Residents were advised to contact Borden directly and reminded that personal cans are not guaranteed for pickup.

**MS4:** No Report

**Attorney:** Attorney Christopher Willoughby not in attendance. Attorney representative Jack Walton attended on behalf of Attorney Christopher Willoughby and provided updates:

- A letter was sent to Region Gutters and Curbs regarding Johnson Road. No response has been received at this time.
- The Harding property was sold again as tax sale. Efforts are ongoing to identify and contact the purchaser regarding future options for the property.
- Previous issues involving sticks, limbs, and branches have been resolved.
- No response has been received from the owner of 1929 East Coolspring Avenue. Court action remains a possibility.

Additional discussion took place regarding the former FOP property on Johnson Road concerning fencing and ongoing concerns.

**Engineer:** Engineering Presentation

Representatives from Schneider Geomatics introduced themselves as the Town's engineering firm for the upcoming year.

Key discussion items included:

- Introduction of the company and staff.
- Submission of a general services agreement for council and attorney review.
- Discussion regarding Community Crossings Matching Grants (CCMG).
- Review of road asset management plans and pacer road rating requirements.
- Explanation of certification classes available for road rating training.
- Discussion regarding drainage concerns and future assistance opportunities.
- Council discussed continuing work on road paving projects and future grant planning.

**Park Board:** Park Board President Katrina Vedo not in attendance. Mrs. Saenz reported:

- Installation of the Nelson Park playground equipment is currently underway.
- Final inspection will occur before final payment is issued.
- The Park Board received a donation check from South Shore Chocolates in the amount of \$192.64 from fundraising efforts.
- Donor recognition signs are being prepared.
- Additional certified playground mulch will be needed due to new playground height requirements.

Discussion also occurred regarding determining the appropriate amount of mulch needed and possible installation assistance from the street department.

**Building Inspector:** Steve Thomas is not in attendance. No Report

**Planning/Zoning:**

**Police:** Marshal Dick in attendance: The Police Chief reported that the Police Advisory Board met and recommended revisions to the department take-home vehicle policy.

The proposed changes included:

- Allowing officers residing in contiguous Indiana counties to participate in the take-home vehicle program.
- Officers living within 10 miles may use vehicles throughout LaPorte County and contiguous counties.
- Officers living between 10 and 30 miles may use vehicles for work-related travel only.

A motion was made by Mrs. Saenz to approve the revised take-home vehicle policy. Motion seconded by Mr. Vedo. Motion carried.

Later in the meeting, a correction was made changing the mileage limit from 25 miles to 30 miles.

A motion was made by Mrs. Saenz to approve the corrected 30-mile policy language. Motion seconded by Mr. Pizarek. Motion carried.

**Street Department:** Street Commissioner, Dave Baker in attendance.

- Previous sticks, limbs, and branches violations have been corrected.
- Spring cleanup operations have unofficially begun and will officially start the following Monday.
- Yard waste collection procedures were clarified for residents.
- Staffing levels are improving as employees return to work.
- Ongoing concerns regarding drainage issues near Dogwood and Evergreen Plaza were discussed.
- Leaf disposal options and staging areas continue to be evaluated.

Discussion also occurred regarding:

- Golf balls being left at Nelson Park creating potential safety hazards.
- Park closing hours and after-hours parking concerns.

**NIRPC:** No Report

**Old Business:**

- Leaf Disposal Location- Council discussed possible locations and logistics for leaf disposal staging and future hauling operations. No motion made. Business was tabled for the May Meeting.

**New Business:**

- D&M Excavating Invoice- Council discussed drainage work completed on Dogwood involving drainage backup and erosion issues.
  - Discussion included:
  - Drainage problems caused by water backup from nearby ditch systems.
  - Future ditch cleaning and excavation needs.

A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to pay the D&M Excavating Invoice from the Riverboat Fund. A motion was seconded by Ms. Janes. Motion carried

- MS4 Invoice- Council reviewed an outstanding MS4 invoice exceeding the current budget appropriation.
  - Discussion included:
  - The increasing costs associated with MS4 requirements.
  - Possible future implementation of an MS4 fee.
  - Allowing the fund to carry a temporary negative balance until year-end adjustments are completed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Saenz to pay invoice and allow the MS4 fund to carry a temporary negative balance until end-of-year correction. Motion seconded by Mr. Pizarek. Motion carried unanimously.


**Public Comment:** No Comments


**Clerk Comment:** The Clerk-Treasurer presented quarterly appropriation reports for all departments and advised department heads to monitor spending percentages throughout the year.


**Council Comment:** Council encouraged residents to participate in spring cleanup efforts and assist neighbors when possible to help maintain the appearance of the community.

**Adjourn:** With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm, the motion was seconded by Ms. Janes. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTE APPROVED MAY 19, 2026 - APRIL 2026 MINUTES

X   
Warren Schacht  
Council President

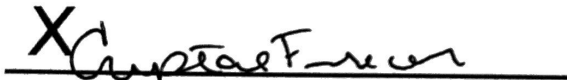
X   
Peter Pizarek  
Council Vice President

X   
Laura Saenz  
Council Member

X   
Brian Vedo  
Council Member

X  
Andrea Janes  
Council Member

ATTEST:

X   
Crystal Frever  
Clerk-Treasurer