

TOWN OF WOLCOTTVILLE

103 W. MYERS ST.

P.O. BOX 325

WOLCOTTVILLE, IN 46795

PHONE: 260-854-3151 FAX: 260-854-9215

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 3, 2025

Location: Wolcottville Town Hall

Time: 6:00 p.m.

103 W. Myers St.

Wolcottville, IN 46795

Members of the Town Present at the Council Meeting: President, Dean Domer, Vice President, Steven F. Cords, Council Member, Jeff Sorg, Clerk-Treasurer, Heidi Huff, Utility Clerk, Tiffany Sprunger, Streets and Parks Superintendent, Jerry Combs, Town Marshal, Nathan Sprunger and Town Attorney, Kurt Bachman.

Call Council Meeting to Order:

-Dean Domer called the Council Meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Public Hearing on the Petition for the Vacating of a Public Way:

-Kurt Bachman stated that the public notifications were sent out to the residents near the public way on Race St. and Fourth St. notifying them of a request to vacate the alley. This was also published to the public. Jerry Raber requested to vacate the Public Way. Notifications were sent out to Johnny and Heather Raber, Rachel Cox, Justin Edmonds and Jerry and Bonnie Gillespie. Jerry Raber presented a survey for Kurt Bachman and the Town Council to help them determine whether the alleys have any public utilities. Jerry Raber spoke to the council stating he feels where the alleys lead serves no good purpose for the town's future because it is swamp land. Discussion was opened to the town employees who might have concerns that would help the decision on vacating the public way. No concerns were reported. Discussion was opened to the public. Thomas Sprague from 111 N. Third St. Wolcottville, IN 46795 was concerned about how many other homes could be built if the council votes to vacate the alley. Jerry Raber reported to Thomas Sprague that only a duplex will be built on the property. Steven F. Cords motioned to close the Public Hearing. Jeff Sorg Seconded. All in favor, motion carried. After discussion Steven F. Cords motion to approve ordinance 2025-06-03-A Vacating the Public Right-of-Way on Race St.

Wolcottville, IN 46795. Jeff Sorg seconded. All in favor motioned carried. Jeff Sorg motioned to waive second reading. Steven F. Cords seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Claims:

-Jeff Sorg motioned to approve the claims presented to the Council. Steven F. Cords seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Steven F. Cords motioned to reapprove the claims from May 6, 2025. Jeff Sorg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

-Jeff Sorg motioned to approve previous meeting minutes. Steven F. Cords seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Ralphie Mosley with Wastewater Reports:

-No reports from the Wastewater Department.

Services by Stouder Harley Asher with Water Reports:

-No reports from the Water Department.

Marshal Nathan Sprunger with Police Department Reports:

-Marshal Nathan Sprunger was not able to make it to the ILEA Academy in Indianapolis to review changes to the PT Exam due to vehicle issues. He will have another opportunity to attend.

-The Wolcottville Wastewater Department is looking into buying the Police Department's 2015 Dodge Ram.

Jerry Combs with Streets & Parks Department Reports:

-Jerry Combs reported to the Council that Cheyenne Stork from 202 E. Orange St. Wolcottville, IN has requested a no outlet sign be installed at the end of Orange St. Wolcottville, IN 46795.

Tiffany Sprunger Pool Fill Adjustment:

-Renee Falcone filled her 15,000-gallon pool. She was billed for 24,750 gallons of water for June 2025 billing with a total charge of \$472.64. Utility Clerk Tiffany Sprunger requested to give a \$87.81 credit off her sewer charge. Steven F. Cords motioned to approve the adjustment request for Renee Falcon of \$87.81 credit off her sewer charge on her utility bill. Jeff Sorg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

-Permit for 1775 E. 765 S. Wolcottville, IN 46795. The house is scheduled to be demolished. The contractor was advised to get instructions from Wolcottville Wastewater Superintendent Ralphie Mosley to have the sewer line inspected when the line is cut and capped and inspected again once the new lines are reconnected. Jeff Sorg motioned to approve the permit. Steven F. Cords seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Heidi Huff with Town Reports:

-Heidi Huff advised the Town Council to lay off the part-time Streets Department and Parks Department employee due to financial constraints. Jeff Sorg motioned authorizing Steven F. Cords to talk to the employee about his layoff. Dean Domer seconded. All in favor motion carried.

-Council was informed by Heidi Huff due to mechanical issues on the lift that was rented to cut down damaged trees in town the rental was extended for an extra week without any extra cost.

-A non-profit organization out of South Witley County is using the Wolcott Mills School Monday through Friday to hand out free lunches to kids 18 and under. They will be serving the kids for the summer. The town nominated Eva Woodworth to help run the program.

-The non-profit group Reason for Hope contacted the town for permission to use the pavilion at Taylor Park on July 31, 2025. They will be handing out backpacks with school supplies for children in need. Heidi Huff asked the Town Council to waive the fee for renting the pavilion. Steven F. Cords motioned to waive the fee for Reasons for Hope. Jeff Sorg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

-Curbside pickup that is scheduled for removal of larger items will be June 7, 2025.

-Johnson Township Fire Department will be fundraising to raise money for festival fireworks. They will be taking over the event for the 2025 Mill Festival.

- The Town of Wolcottville was informed, during the Lagrange County Community Foundation's board meeting, they voted on donating the lot by Wolcott Park to the Town of Wolcottville. They stated that they will be working on getting parcel 44-10-34-300-000.001-011 transferred to the Town of Wolcottville.

Kurt Bachman with Town Business:

-Kurt Bachman discusses a claim from Internal Revenue Service. The claim is for federal payroll taxes not paid on behalf of the town. Kurt Bachman informs the Town Council that they should pursue filing a claim for the previous Clerk-Treasurer's bonds for \$240,000.00. This will help offset the final amount owed. Current Clerk-Treasurer Heidi Huff has worked

continuously to try to put the town in a position where we can negotiate the claims filed against the town by the IRS. Town Attorney Kurt Bachman informs the boardroom that this problem was not created by the current Clerk-Treasurer. These issues were created by the previous Clerk-Treasurer's failure to pay federal payroll taxes for the years 2020 to 2023. Kurt Bachman is asking for approval from the office of Beers Mallers to file the claim on the previous Clerk-Treasurer's bonds. He will continue to move forward with the claim even if it requires filing a lawsuit against it. Steven F. Cords motioned to allow the office of Beers Mallers to pursue the claim for the previous Clerk-Treasurer's bonds. Motion was given to approve the Town Attorney to take any legal action that may be required.

-Kurt Bachman advises the Town Council to hire a CPA and a Tax Lawyer that specializes in situations dealing with the I.R.S. The town owes \$650,000.00 in back taxes due to unpaid federal taxes. Kurt Bachman asked the Town Council for permission to work with Clerk-Treasurer in looking for a CPA firm and a tax attorney law firm to assist them in responding to the claims filed against the town by the I.R.S. Steven F. Cords motioned to approve Beers Mallers to hire a CPA and Tax Lawyer. Jeff Sorg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

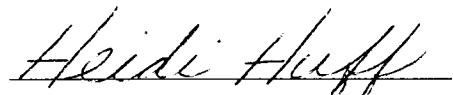
Other Business:

-Steven F. Cords motioned to repeal ordinance 2021-06-01-B. Jeff Sorg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

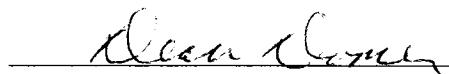
Meeting adjourned by Council President Dean Domer at 6:37 p.m.

Attest:

July 1, 2025



Clerk-Treasurer, Heidi Huff



Council President, Dean Domer



Vice President, Steven F. Cords



Council Member, Jeff Sorg