

JANUARY 20, 2026

The Town Council met in a regular session at the Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.

President Smotherman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present in person were: SMOTHERMAN, ARNEBERG, CLARK, and WEINZAPFEL, along with Attorney, Nathan Maudlin.

Visitors in attendance: Jan Kahle, Diane & Eric Sanders, Charles Bandy, Shawn & Dawn Worman, Joshua Janik, Lois Gray, Andy Batt, Jeanne Maudlin, Audra Lambert.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilperson Clark made and Arneberg seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Councilperson Clark made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2025, Special Meeting.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS

Councilperson Weinzapfel reported that thanks to the Efroymsen Family Fund we are going to be out and marking approximately 20 street trees in coordination with Burr Oak Nursery. The switch to Wednesday trash pickup went well. Waste Management is about done with exchanging old trash cans with new ones. If you still have an old can, please leave it out on trash day so Waste Management can exchange it. Weinzapfel talked to Johnathan Webber, Superintendent, about repairing all the tree wells on Main and Church Sts. We are finished with the Church St. Project and Weinzapfel has reached out to INDOT to find out when they are going to repave Church St. It's supposed to be some time this year. She announced that South St. is being surveyed and we will receive a report from Fred Kester about South St. and Third St. regarding what the town owns. We are also going to be working with Morley and Associates on identifying and describing Low St., which is parallel to North St., an alley that is access to the red Geranium and the circle drive. We believe, when the Inn was built, none of those were surveyed and vacated by the town.

Councilperson Weinzapfel reported out on the Planning Commission. She thanked Rod Clark and Tom Armstrong for their years of service. There are two new members of the commission who are Laura Lyon who represents a town employee and Dawn Worman, a citizen appointee. Weinzapfel has formed a committee to look at the land use ordinance. The committee consists of Jeff Smotherman, Nathan Maudlin, Tom Stahl, Angie Westfall and Weinzapfel. Ultimately, she feels they will need some outside help with this.

President Smotherman wanted to mention that if residents want a second garbage can they must arrange that directly with Waste Management and pay them directly.

Councilperson Arneberg announced that the new website is ready to go. Still a couple more tweaks and training but should be ready this month. She is working with the Town Marshal because One New Harmony used to have those devices that went across the road to track car traffic. We can utilize our flock cameras to get that information. The estimate for Christmas in New Harmony was about 10,000 guests. The agreement between the Town and One New Harmony for funding will be voted on in our town council meeting next month when Councilperson Williams is in attendance and we have the final draft. Arneberg stated that the economic impact study is in the works and she will let us know when it is done. She also let us know that she had a good meeting with the Dean of Science, Engineering and Education at USI. The Dean is new to the area and very interested in project-based learning. Arneberg shared the list of possible projects from the Comprehensive Plan with the Dean.

President Smotherman announced the Fire Department Sausage and Bean dinner will be January 24, 4:00 – 7:00 pm at the Fairgrounds. They would appreciate your support. He also stated that the bottle respirator and air tank compressor have arrived and is being assembled.

Councilperson Clark thanked Arneberg and Weinzapfel for their work on the new website. Clark announced that Christian Mills, Utility Laborer, resigned today. Clark has already given the Utility Clerk, Carmen Naas, the job description for posting and they will be utilizing Indeed for the job search. Clark stated that we are still having a problem at the sewer plant with grease. He wants to remind the citizens of New Harmony that every time they pour oil or grease down the drain it ends up in a film on top of our sewer plant. Clark announced that gas prices have gone through the roof since last winter. You will see higher gas bills. Our gas consultant said that even with our rates going up the way they are, we're still probably 20% cheaper than CenterPoint and other such places are. Clark then explained how the council purchases gas for the company to minimize the costs to the Town.

President of the Park Board, Jeanne Maudlin, made announcements in Councilperson William's absence. The Park Board met in January, and the officers remained the same. Maudlin – President, Zach Clark – Vice President, Andy Batt – Secretary, and Jim Reis – Member at Large. The Board is changing their meetings from starting at 6:00 to 5:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. The Board is in queue with Apex and Centerpoint for the Murphy Park restroom project. Maudlin announced that year-to-date camping has brought in revenues of \$378. The project manager is hopeful the new bathroom will be up and running this spring.

OPEN FORUM

Diane Sanders representing Historic New Harmony and Owen/Maclure 200 celebration. She wanted to make sure everyone knew they have their first lecture this Sat. at the WMI from 2:00 to 4:00. Following that is the sausage and bean dinner. Dr. Gerald Gutek will be speaking about the Boat Load of Knowledge, and this is the 200th anniversary of its arrival in New Harmony.

Louise Grey, Posey County Newspaper reported that meeting minutes have not been posted since August.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilperson Clark made a request for an additional expenditure on the Church St. Project. When the Town Council approved the initial project, they approved \$160,000. That was based on Deig Brothers doing a directional bore instead of pavement cut (\$129,617). When they got into the project Deig Brothers found that our soil was too sandy and the directional bore kept collapsing. They had to cut into the pavement. When the Town Council got the bid for the project, they received two. One for the bore and two for the pavement cutting process. The cut process was quoted at \$167,618. The final cost ended up at \$185,220. Clark made a motion for an additional \$25,220.70. Clark mentioned that the payment should come out of the electric account and the rest out of water depreciation. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smotherman clarified that the OCRA Public Meeting would not take place this month, but next.

President Smotherman said that the Town Council needed to vote on the Council President position for 2026. This occurs every year. The Council also needs to appoint the town lawyer to their position. Councilperson Clark moved for unanimous consent to amend the agenda to include the vote of the counselor. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Councilperson Weinzapfel made a motion for Jeff Smotherman to continue as the Town Council President. Arneberg seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Weinzapfel made a motion for Nathan Maudlin to continue as the Town's counselor. Clark seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark asked a couple questions regarding the expenditures. One was about the receipt of money for the Cemetery and the second was about the change in the town hall cleaning person. Once those were answered, Councilperson Clark made a motion to approve the claims. Arneberg seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilperson Clark made, and Arneberg seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Jeff Smotherman, President

Attest:

Ann Huelsmann, Clerk Treasurer