

DECEMBER 16, 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, WEINZAPFEL, and WILLIAMS, along with Clerk-Treasurer, Ann Huelsmann.

Visitors in attendance: Jan Kahle, Craig McGowan (Commonwealth Engineers), Laura Foster Nicholson, Tom Guggenheim, Andy Batt, Diane & Eric Sanders, David Vonderscher, Charles Bandy, Shawn & Dawn Worman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilperson Williams made and Arneberg seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18 2025, Regular Meeting.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS

Councilperson Clark reported the Church St. project is finished. He, Johnathan Webber, Superintendent), Ann Huelsmann (Clerk-Treasurer) and Carmen Naas (Billing Clerk) have been working on the Water Ordinances. They are on their third draft. Once ready, it will be presented to the Council. Clark announced the leaf wagon has broken down twice this fall. Leaves are currently being picked up with an end loader and truck.

President Smotherman announced the Fire Department Sausage and Bean dinner will be January 24, 4:00 -7:00 pm at the Fire Department, 400 Old Fairgrounds Rd. They would appreciate your support

Councilperson Weinzapfel reminded everyone about the trash pick up for the rest of the year. The pickup dates through the Holidays are Friday, Dember 19, Saturday, December 27, Saturday, January 3 and Friday, January 9. Starting Wednesday, January 14 and thereafter, pickup will be on Wednesdays. Residents will be reminded by a code red notice. Weinzapfel reminded us that we will all be getting new trash cans that are designed for the new garbage truck.

Councilperson Arneberg touched on Christmas in New Harmony. She felt that it was a success and many businesses commented it was one of the best years they ever had. She thanked the town crew for putting up the decorations. Arneberg mentioned the new town website. She and Councilperson Weinzapfel are working on it with the State Agency, and it should be ready in February. Arneberg stated that they had no new updates from the developers of the school property. She emailed the Town Council members the agreement between the Town of New Harmony and One New Harmony partnering on economic development programming. If anyone on the council has revision, please let her know. Arneberg reminded us about the final free movie of the season at the old theater in Wilson's – It's a Wonderful Life on December 20 at 6:00 pm.

Councilperson Williams stated the restrooms are closed in Murphy Park. The port-o-potty is available. The Manager of the Bathroom Project is a Parks and Trails Board Member, Jim Ries. Ries has gotten a commitment from Centerpoint, at no cost, to update the bathroom electrical from 200 amps to 400 amps. Ries is also working with engineers from Apex Corp to finalize the project plan to get them out to bid. Apex is donating all of their time. Andy Batt secured a \$1,000 grant for three new trail head signs.

OPEN FORUM

Tom Guggenheim addressed the note that went out regarding lead pipes. Vanderberg County and Posey County do not do testing for water from homes. The Soil and Water Department received some money for 2026 to test 250 wells. Guggenheim looked for a lab and found a national lab called Tap Score. They will send you a kit and then send it on to a regional lab that will test for lead. It is \$52 per kit. They do offer a discount if a lot of people send in kits together. Guggenheim announced that we received a \$10,000 grant from Efroymsen Family Fund and Councilpersons Weinzapfel and Williams are working on that.

Diane Sanders announced that Historic New Harmony received \$2.5M from the Lilly Endowment to support the historic interpretation and the Owen/Maclure 200 celebration. This is on top of the \$2.5M grant they received a couple months ago and the \$2.5M for Harmony State Historic Site from Lilly. That is a total of \$7.5M from Lilly this year.

Laura Foster Nicholson stated that she lives on Main St. and owns the Main Café building. She has noticed that in, especially in the winter, but also summer, people leave their cars running for

sometimes a half an hour on Main St. Sometimes when they are getting their hair cut and while they are getting breakfast. She walks back and forth on that street, and the fumes are really gagging. She feels that fighting pollution is more important than letting their cars idle. She doesn't know how we handle this but would like some ideas.

OLD BUSINESS

President Smotherman stated we would have the 2nd reading of the Credit Card Ordinance 2025 – 8. The only change from the 1st reading was including a limit of \$1,500 per use. Councilperson Clark made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025 - 8 regarding Credit Card use. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark addressed the unsafe Building Ordinances. There are three separate ordinances; 1. 2025 – 9, 2. 2025 – 10, 3. 2025 – 11. Clark made a motion to pass Ordinance 9 - Adopting a Policy Concerning Vacant Structures and Adopting Standards for the Maintenance of Buildings. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Clark made a motion to pass Ordinance 10 - Establishing the Executive Department of the Town of New Harmony Responsible for the Administration of Its Unsafe Building Administration. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Clark made a motion to pass Ordinance 11 - Adopt Minimum Maintenance Standards for Exterior Maintenance of Residential and Commercial Buildings. Weinzapfel seconded. Arneberg made a motion to approve if the plumb requirement was removed from number 11. Clark seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Going back to the motion to pass Ordinance 11 - All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Williams presented a couple of changes from the 1st reading of Ordinance 2025 – 12. Williams made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-12. Arneberg seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

President Smotherman asked for a unanimous consent to amend the agenda as it is written for the purpose of an additional appropriation for the Town Marshal's office. Councilperson Clark made a motion to add. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Smotherman asked for an additional appropriation of \$413.84 added to the already appropriated \$14,000 for the Town Marshal's office. Councilperson Weinzapfel so moved. Clark seconded. Councilperson Williams thought it would be a good idea to have an open house. Smotherman said they would talk about it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark discussed establishing the Redevelopment Commission (RDC). Establishing this Commission will allow the town to do some TIF funding and other redevelopment projects. First, the commission must be established. Clark made a motion to pass Ordinance 13 – Establishing Department of Redevelopment and Authorizing Related Matters on first reading. Williams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Clark then read Ordinance 2025 -13. Specifics included:

Section 4. The Town Council shall appoint two members of the Redevelopment Commission (John Foley and Andrew Wilson) and the Town Council President shall appoint three members (Lora Arneberg, Rodney Clark, and Connie Weinzapfel).

Clark made a motion to pass Ordinance 13 – Establishing Department of Redevelopment and Authorizing Related Matters. Arneberg seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark stated that the last two bullet points under Establishing the Redevelopment Commission will not happen until their first meeting.

President Smotherman asked for the motion to appoint Larry Kahle as the school board representative for the Redevelopment Commission. Councilperson Weinzapfel made the motion. Clark seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark made a motion for Krohn to conduct a water and wastewater rate study. It has been 15 years since last study. Clark made a motion to hire Krohn to do a rate study not to exceed \$15,000 for both studies. Weinzapfel seconded. President Smotherman stated that it is important to do these to ensure we are meeting the needs of our utilities plans for the future. Utilities pay the bulk of our employee salaries. Clark stated that we must plan those rate studies years ahead of time. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Huelsmann made a request to increase the hourly rate of Carmen Naas (Billing Clerk) from \$20 to \$22 an hour effective January 1, 2026. She also wants to make sure that Naas is on

the same increase schedule as the utilities crew. Councilperson Clark made the motion. Weinzapfel seconded. There was discussion about all proposed increases should be merit based. All were in favor. Motion carried. President Smotherman thanked Naas for her service.

President Smotherman read that Greg Wilson and Greg Reynolds are proposing, because of the 250th birthday of the US, a flagpole be erected at the welcome sign outside of Town. It's a 53-foot flagpole that costs \$3,200 to build the pole. Willson is willing to donate 1/6 of the cost, which would bring the town's cost down to \$2,667. Councilperson Weinzapfel would like to work with them to determine our best needs.

President Smotherman announced the need for commission appointments. Each year he, the President, or Town Council must make appointments for those coming off. Last month Jim Ries was re-appointed to the Parks and Trails Board. This year there are openings on the New Harmony Plan and Historic Preservation Commission. Councilperson Clark is stepping down. That is a Town Council appointment. Smotherman announced Laura Lyon as the town government appointee. Councilperson Weinzapfel made the motion to appoint Lyon. Arneberg seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smotherman stated that Steve Huck, who is currently on the New Harmony Plan and Historic Preservation Commission, has asked to be reappointed for another four-year term. That is the President's appointment. Smotherman reappointed Huck. Smotherman also appointed Dawn Worman to replace Tom Armstrong. Armstrong served and his term was up December 31, 2025. The commission consists of Connie Weinzapfel, President, Johnathan Webber, Tony Treadway, Angie Westfall, Steve Huck, Dawn Worman and Laura Lyon.

President Smotherman stated that on the Board of Zoning Appeals there is Rod Clark, Angie Westfall, Kay Giles and John Foley who was appointed when a previous member passed. Smotherman asked for a motion to appoint Foley for another four years. Councilperson Clark so moved. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. President Smotherman appointed Pat Smith, of Artifacts, to another position on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

President Smotherman announced the hiring of a second Deputy Marshal. Historically the Town has had two Deputy Marshals to fill in when needed. Isaac Fuelling has been a Deputy in Mt. Vernon, worked in New Harmony a while ago, and is currently working in a Police roll at Deaconess. He has been recommended by our current Marshal, Leo Gonzales. Councilperson Clark moved that we hire Isaac Fuelling as our Deputy Marshal at the rate of \$30 an hour. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Williams made a motion to approve the claims excluding the flooring charge. Clark seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilperson Arneberg made, and Williams 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