

AUGUST 19, 2025

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 WILLIAMS along with Attorney, Nathan Maudlin and Clerk-Treasurer, Ann Huelsmann. WEINZAPFEL was not in attendance.

Visitors in attendance: Jan Kahle, Diane & Eric Sanders, Jeanne Maudlin, Andy & Shelly Batt, Lois Gray, Pat Wilson, Ken Krozel, Abigail Sherman, Shaun & Dawn Worman, Martha Raske, Andy Weintraut (McGowan Insurance), Alex Gail, Charles Bandy, Kent Schuette, Debbie Mathews, Dave & Lynn Frazick, and Audra Lambert.

Councilperson Williams made and Arneberg seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2025, Regular Meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Williams made and Clark seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2025, Special Meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS

Councilperson Williams spoke on the leaking faucet at the Murphy Park restroom. Johnathon Webber, Town Superintendent, was notified. Nathan Maudlin and Andy Batt were kind enough to put the new picnic tables together. There are eight tables in the new shelter and one along the river. The Parks and Trails board has applied for a United Way Posey County Day of Caring and applied for them to install the BBQ grills, install pickets at Murphy Park, and fix the lower counter shelving in McClure Park Bandstand. The Day of Caring will take place on September 28, 2025. The Parks and Trails Board will have a Special Budget Meeting on August 25, 2025, at 5:30 at Town Hall. Councilperson Williams and Tom Guggenheim walked through Murphy Park to discuss tree maintenance opportunities. Guggenheim is putting together a contract for bi-annual tree cleanup. As soon as the River Trail is completed, the town crew will focus on the uneven part of the school trail. The town is currently waiting for a rock/chat delivery, hopefully the week of this meeting.

Councilperson Williams then updated the council on the Cemetery. The big tree that had fallen is now gone. There is an area by the loop, at the top of the hill, which has washed away. That will be addressed. Williams has asked Blankenberger Brothers to give us an estimate to repair (48-inch culvert) the parking lot to eliminate flooding. The estimate is \$115,877.

Councilperson Arneberg stated that the new Town website is almost done. We should have a beta version next week. Arneberg is adding new sections and removing those that were not used. The state of IN is providing this for free and the Town will have cyber security through the state. With the WIFI grant, Michal Guard has placed routers throughout the town with the hope that it will benefit the Market vendors, Kunstfest vendors and residents. President Smotherman mentioned that seven connections are listed and wanted to know which one to choose. Arneberg advised "the one with the most bars." One New Harmony placed an ad in the papers with a link to events such as Kunstfest, Arts in Murphy Park, Meet in the Streets, and outdoor family movies. More movies will become available throughout the fall and holiday season. Arneberg met with the IU Center for Rural Engagement that connects students/professors with communities that have needs and projects. She is specifically looking for one to design trail amenities by the river that will not wash away with flooding. The IU Center for Rural Engagement does many other things with topics including bridges, pest control, flooding, affordable housing, arts, and veteran services. Arneberg said she met with the new President of USI to discuss how we can expand our relationship. She announced that the Evansville Regional Economic Development Partnership is working on a regional arts survey and Arneberg will make sure the Town is involved.

Councilperson Clark discussed the Church St. Project. A new service line will be installed down the street. The Town must get three estimates. Those are out and must be back before the next Town Hall Meeting on September 16, 2025. The water meters are 98% done except two big ones and some in resident's basements. Clark announced that the Town crew has started installing the new gas meters. The Sewer Plant OCRA grant was submitted, and we should know sometime in October 2025 if we got it.

President Smotherman announced that the fire department was added to our pest control contract and Cintas contract for rugs. The emergency medical truck was re-stocked. The Town Marshal is attending a 10-week training academy for 10 weeks. The costs of this training will be \$500 fee and mileage reimbursement. Smotherman thanked the Marshal for monitoring traffic during the Relay for Life. The Relay for Life wanted to thank the entire town for their continued hospitality. The Relay for Life 5K tripled in size from last year.

President Smotherman reported on the Fund Report and was happy to announce that on January 2024 we had \$4.4 MM (plus investments) in our accounts. As of August, the Town is at \$4.259MM and that is after some big investments.

Clerk Treasurer Huelsmann spoke about a new report that she has submitted to the town council. She will do that at each town council meeting. This report reflects MTD and YTD the funds that come in and out and how they balance to the bank statement. Huelsmann, along with the Town Council, will sign the report each month and submit it to Gateway (State Board of Accounts).

OPEN FORUM

Audra Lambert announced that new plaques were installed by the Trees of Forty Fruit. It was a gift to the Town from USI. She thanked the garden club for the work they do around town. Lambert also mentioned an area that had been mowed on the South Trail. Andy Batt responded that the area is Indiana Mounds and a new person mowed that was not aware they should have protected that area. That was not the doing of the Town.

Jeanne Maudlin wants to thank Councilperson Williams for watering the 22 trees in the parks. Each tree takes 10 gallons. She also thanked Nathan Maudlin, Andy Batt and Tom Williams for putting the picnic tables together. Maudlin announced that McClure Park now has picnic tables. Murphy Park looks fantastic. She wanted to give a shoutout to Terry Brown for his work on the River Trails and putting a picnic table down by the river. President Smotherman also mentioned that Terry Brown is the person that got the downed tree out of the Cemetery.

Diane Sanders announced that Historic New Harmony will be hosting 1,300 USI students on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, from 9:00 – 5:00. The Kiwanis would appreciate cookies so they can hand them out to the students. You can drop them off in front of the WMI.

Debbie Mathews, Commander representing the American Legion, said they are hosting an oil and gas conference. (#85 attendees). The meeting will be at the Inn, with one night at the American Legion. She asked for permission to move some of the events that evening to the grassy area behind town hall. Mathews is also looking for volunteers to assist with the events. President Smother said that they would be adding it to the agenda and discuss in a few minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

President Smotherman stated that \$10,000 had initially been approved for the Marshal’s new office in the old garage. He is asking for an additional \$4,000. Councilperson Clark made the motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to continue the renovations for the Marshal’s office. Arneberg seconded. Councilperson Williams suggested that we might make a motion for more. Smotherman stated that we should be fine, and the office should be finished in the next few weeks. The roof is in good shape. The garage door was damaged in a flood and will need some work in the future. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark reminded Diane Sanders of the need to find a place for the rocks.

Councilperson Clark reviewed the Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance to make sure residents are clear on the definition of an abandoned vehicle. President Smotherman stated that three vehicles have been removed. Residents were notified through certified mail, visit to their homes, and vehicles tagged before they were removed. Residents are given numerous notifications before an action is taken. Once the vehicle is towed, the individual owner deals with the towing company.

NEW BUSINESS

Andy Weintraut, our agent, from McGowan Insurance, presented the Town’s insurance renewal rates. He did an excellent job covering what each policy covers and the overall increase in prices. He mentioned that Posey County uses McGowan Insurance, and we have used them (previously Schultheis) for over 30 years. Weintraut reminded the council that with online bills we should increase our cyber coverage.

For the period August 2025 – August 2026

Workers Compensation – IN Public Employer’s Plan (IPEP)

Expiring Premium	Renewal Premium	Adjustment	% Difference
\$6,375	\$6,569	+\$194	Just shy of 3%

Package Policy (Property, GL, IM, Auto, Umbrella, Linebacker and Cyber) – EMC Insurance

Expiring Premium	Renewal Premium	Adjustment	% Difference
\$52,883	\$56,510	+\$3,627	Just a little over 6%

Councilperson Clark did the first reading of the Ordinance Prohibiting the Harboring and Abating of Non-Domesticated Animals. Key points included:

- Whereas the presence of non-domesticated animals such as raccoons, opossums, coyotes, and other wildlife in residential and commercial areas poses risks including disease transmission, property damage, and threats to pets and residents.
- Non-Domesticated animal: Any wild animal not customarily kept as a household pet, including but not limited to raccoons, opossums, foxes, coyotes, skunks and deer.
- Harboring: Knowingly and intentionally providing shelter, food, water, or other forms of sustenance or refuge to a non-domesticated animal.
- Abate conditions that attract or sustain non-domesticated animals including but not limited to trash, refuse, or other garbage that is not properly contained or stored in an approved trash receptacle.
- Violations of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine defined in 10.99 of New Harmony Town Code of Ordinances.

Councilperson Williams presented bids for tree removal. Williams has consulted with the town arborist. He suggests we approve American Eagle for this project. The bid is \$21,175 to remove eight trees. Williams made the motion to approve the bids. Clark seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark made a motion to approve the purchase of two scanners (\$399 each). Clerk-Treasurer Huelsmann stated that it will aid in automation. They will be able to scan invoices and attach to vouchers for easy retrieval. Utilities will be able to attach notes, adjustments, paperwork, etc. to accounts. Arneberg seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smother asked to amend the agenda. The two topics added are the American Legion Event Permit and a change in a previous ordinance regarding paying the Deputy one time per month. Councilperson Clark made the motion to add the American Legion Event Permit and correction of the pay sequence of the Deputy. Williams seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

President Smotherman read the permit application from the American Legion to host an evening of an oil and gas conference on October 9, 2025. Smotherman asked for insurance for the event and reminded Debbie Mathews that the Town must be named as an additional insured. It was recommended that they move the event back inside no later than 9:30 PM, they have security, and their liquor license approval for outside consumption. Alex Gail, Black Lodge, clarified information pertaining to police attendance. Councilperson Arneberg made a motion to approve the permit for the American Legion event contingent upon all required actions taking place. Clark seconded it. Mathews was asked to appear at the September 16, 2025, town council meeting to confirm all requirements were addressed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark made the motion to correct the wording of the pay sequence of the Deputy in the ordinance from biweekly to monthly. Williams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried

Councilperson Clark made a motion to approve the claims. Williams 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