

JULY 15, 2025

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

Councilperson Clark presided as President in the absence of President Smotherman. Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present in person were: CLARK, WEINZAPFEL and WILLIAMS along with Attorney, Nathan Maudlin and Clerk-Treasurer, Ann Huelsmann. SMOTHERMAN AND ARNEBERG were not in attendance.

Public Hearing: Councilperson Clark introduced Christy Powell with Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. Powell stated, this is a public hearing being conducted by the Town of New Harmony as part of the application process for a Community Development Block Grant through the Indian Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Tonight's hearing is to inform the public of our intent to apply for a planning Grant and to allow residents to provide input on community needs that could be addressed through this opportunity. She continued, The Town of New Harmony is preparing to apply for a CDBG Planning Grant in the amount of \$50,000 to fund a sewer utility planning study. The total project is estimated at approximately \$55,555 and includes a local match of 10%. She stated this study will help us evaluate the condition of our sewer collection and treatment systems, identify problem areas and develop a phased capital improvement plan that supports long-term infrastructure improvements.

Powell stated, citizen participation is a critical part of this process and tonight we want to hear your thoughts on utility infrastructure concerns, areas you believe need improvement and priorities you feel should be addressed in the planning study.

Powell opened the floor for public comment. Bill McKenzie stated he flushes his toilet, and it works, and that about as much as he knows about the town's wastewater utility. He asked if I could tell him more about issues with the wastewater system. Councilperson Clark stated there aren't any known issues at this time, but this plan will identify those issues if there are any.

Clerk-Treasurer Huelsmann, presented Councilperson Clark one bid received from Commonwealth Engineering. The town council will take the bid under advisement and present findings in next meeting.

Clark closed the public hearing.

Visitors in attendance: Visitors in attendance: Jan Kahle, Diane Sanders, Jeanne Maudlin, Jim Ries, Lisa Brooks, Greg Erwin, Andy Batt, Louis Gray, Zach Clark, Tony Treadway, Ken Schuette, Barb McConnell, Pat Wilson, Griffin Norman, Erin Griffin, David Vondershire, Christy Powell, Bill McKenzie, Lori McKenzie, Christy Powell, Caroline Williams, Donna Griffin, Wes Griffin, Teresa Smith, Pat Smith, Tom Stahl, Debra Johnson, Stan Weinzapfel, Bill Meyere, Eric Parsley, Lisa Cattleberry, Joshua Janik, Paul Allen.

Councilperson Weinzapfel made and Williams seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025, Regular Meeting. Councilperson Clark made one correction which is that one fund was repealed (New Harmony School Building Fund) and it should not have been repealed. 33.55 will be removed from the June 17, 2025 minutes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Weinzapfel gave an update on safety. She mentioned the new speed monitor on the edge of town. Certified letters are being sent out to residents with unlicensed vehicles that appear to be abandoned. The letters outline the residents' requirements to validate the usage and licensing of said vehicles. Weinzapfel stated that the town council is aware of the dog bite incident and information has been given to the county prosecutor. Streets is in process of removing and pruning trees. Weinzapfel is currently in the process of getting new bids for the second round of tree removal this year. In the fall we will evaluate trees in the right of ways and consider new plantings.

Councilperson Weinzapfel is in conversation with Waste Management (our trash pick-up provider) to negotiate a contract which we have not had with them since 2011. We are in the process of receiving bids for review for trash pick-up. She is compiling a list of paving contractors for our alley paving project. This project will not likely take place until 2026. She is also closely watching our mosquito situation. The IN Department of Health is looking at our test samples. If 4/1000 mosquitoes test positive for West Nile, spraying is recommended. It is up to us as individuals to take preventative precautions when outside to combat mosquitoes. Weinzapfel has also engaged a resident to catch skunks and release out of town.

Councilperson Williams announced that Payton Seymour completed over 100 hours to complete his Eagle Scout project by leaning and repairing over 300 headstones in Maple Hill Cemetery. The Town of New Harmony thanks him for all his hard work (and his grandparents). Seymour said he wants to

continue his work in the cemetery. The town crew is still working on the River Trail, area by the loop. We expect it to be done by the end of the month. Williams stated that four trees have been evaluated by the Town Arborist, Tom Guggenheim. One has been identified to come down and another three to four in a couple of years. The Park & Trail Board will be installing three new BBQ grills in Murphy Park and one at McClure Park. The Park & Trail Board is reviewing the condition of the McClure Park bandstand. It passed inspection prior to the 4th of July celebration. Williams confirmed that a surveillance camera is up and facing the bathrooms at Murphy Park to deter vandalism and that our Marshal is the only one that will be reviewing the footage.

Councilperson Williams introduced and acknowledged the Park & Trail Board.

- Andy Batt is responsible for monitoring camping. His online camping system is successful. He is responsible for river trail signage. He continues to champion native plants and trees.
- Zach Clark manages the State Park. His DNR (Department of Natural Resources) rules knowledge is invaluable. He is meeting with groups to discuss the opportunity of a hiking trail between New Harmony and Harmonie State Park.
- Jim Ries spends a lot of time volunteering and getting volunteers for the parks. Specifically at Murphy he has been instrumental in adding the pickets to the fence, repairing swings, and planning for the proposed bathroom renovation.
- Jeanne Maudlin has been instrumental in the grant writing process for the restroom renovation and was a chair on the 5-Year Comprehensive plan work.

Williams announced that the new pickets are in and ready to be installed at Murphy Park.

Councilperson Clark stated that the alarm system at the sewer plant was fine. The monitoring company switched cell phone carriers and discovered that the company they chose did not have good coverage by the sewer plant. We do have an issue with our micro-strainer. Clark reminded us to be careful about what is put into our sewer system. We've had some water break issues. There is an area at the Main Street entrance that will be addressed once the busy season Murphy Park is over. Clark apologized for not streaming the last town council meeting due to router issues. Clark thanked Clerk-Treasurer Huelsmann for the financial reports she is now providing.

Pat Wilson was going to ask to be put on agenda for the August 2025 meeting to discuss skunks but that was addressed.

Andy Batt thanked Councilperson Williams for his recognition and thanked Terry and Johnathon for the trails work they have been doing. Speaking on behalf of the Park & Trail Board, he wants the Town council to remind them to limit spraying grass and weeds on the trails and not outside of trails. He also asked that they do not spray in the areas marked. When spraying above, they need proper PPE equipment and should maybe limit their spraying in a downward direction.

Jan Kahle said that her husband had a driver's education kid, that were driving through town make comments on how clean the town is. Kahle wanted to make sure the town knew it was noticed.

As the first permitted Airbnb owner in town, Griffin Norman said that the issue of remote Airbnb owners needs to be addressed. His research found that when owners are remote is when there tends to be issues.

Diane Sanders thanked the town crew for all their work in helping make the Firefly Festival a success.

Erin Griffin discussed her concerns about Airbnbs in New Harmony. She specifically mentioned a house on Granary that had eight people staying there for a week. They produced a mountain of trash, had loud partying, showed a diminished level of safety, and the owner was not receptive to feedback. She is not against Airbnbs but concerned when owners don't have a stake in the community. Her other concern is crowding out of possible homeowners.

Kent Schuette, proprietor of the Leather Leaf Inn, supported the idea of owners being present and occupancy limitations based on a situation they had incurred. He stated that the Blaffer Foundation does not allow people in their properties that are attending weddings. He also suggested a curfew.

Councilperson Clark stated that there is much more work to be done about our ordinances. He is in process of setting up the next Special Meeting to review more. In the meantime, here are the changes or additions to ordinances – Second Reading;

Create 30.01 (K)–(6)–(a)

Individuals wishing to speak to Council during Open Forum are required to come to the front of the room (within perveance of video and audio equipment) and state their name for the record. Individuals are limited to two minutes. The presiding officer may grant additional time if in his/her discretion additional time is to the benefit of the Council.

Amend 30.01 (L) (6) by adding the following sentence: “Members who are duly present electronically in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-3.5 shall be considered present and allowed to vote as being physically present at the meeting in accordance with IC5-14-1.5-3.5.”

Amend 31.01 Change the word “regular” to Full-Time. Delete the last sentence that says, “All compensatory time must be used within the fiscal year in which it was earned.”

Amend 31.02 (A) Add Veteran’s Day as a paid holiday. Add an additional sentence that states, “Payment for these holidays will be at eight hours of regular rate of pay.”

Replace/Amend 31.02 (B) to read, “All full-time hourly employees *who are required* to work holidays shall receive twice the regular rate of pay for hours worked on the holiday. Holiday pay will only be given if the employee works eight hours on the scheduled workday before and scheduled workday after a scheduled holiday unless the employee has been approved for scheduled time off in advance of the holiday.”

Replace/Amend 31.03 (A) with: “Health and Accident Insurance will be provided to all full-time employees. Cost of said insurances shall be paid 33 1/3 % equally from the gas, water, and wastewater utility funds.”

Replace/Amend 31.08 (A) to read, “Town officials and employees shall be reimbursed by the town for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses while on official business for the town outside the corporate limits, for business which is approved by the Town Council.”

Amend 31.08 (B) to read, “The officials and employees referred to in division (A) above shall also be reimbursed for actual miles driven in a non-town owned vehicle at the prevailing rate allowed by the Federal Internal Revenue Service.”

Repeal the following sections: 31.20 through 31.35 and replace them with the following:

**SALARIES AND PAY RATES FOR EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS OF
THE TOWN OF NEW HARMONY**

TOWN MARSHALL

Minimum: \$45,000 per year
Maximum: \$65,000 per year

Paid bi-weekly from the General Fund

DEPUTIES

Minimum: \$20 per hour
Maximum: \$25 per hour

Paid monthly on the last pay period of the month from the General Fund

TOWN SUPERINTENDENT

Minimum: \$25 per hour
Maximum: \$35 per hour

Paid Bi-Weekly with 30% from the Gas, Water, and Wastewater funds and 10% from the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund.

TOWN LABOROR FULL-TIME

Minimum: \$15 per hour
Maximum: \$25 per hour

Paid Bi-Weekly with 33 1/3% from the Gas, Water, and Wastewater funds.

TOWN LABOROR PART-TIME

Minimum: \$10 per hour
Maximum: \$ 20 per hour

Paid Bi-Weekly with 33 1/3% from the Gas, Water, and Wastewater funds.

FULL-TIME OFFICE EMPLOYEE

Minimum: \$20 per hour
Maximum: \$27 per hour

Paid Bi-Weekly with 33 1/3% from the Gas, Water, and Wastewater Funds.

PART-TIME OFFICE EMPLOYEE

Minimum: \$12 per hour
Maximum: \$20 per hour

Paid Bi-Weekly with 33 1/3% from the Gas, Water, and Wastewater Funds.

CLERK TREASURER

\$51,584 per year

Paid Bi-Weekly from following funds: General Fund 5%, Cemetery Fund 5%, Gas 30%, Water 30%, Wastewater 30%.

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

\$4,000 per year

Paid annually on the last pay date in November from the following funds: 19% General Fund, and 27% from Gas, Water, and Wastewater funds.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

\$325 per month

Paid monthly on the last pay period of the month from the General Fund.

TOWN ATTORNEY

An amount not to exceed \$200/hr.

Paid as invoiced from the General Funds or specifically to the various utility funds as it may apply.

Replace/Amend 32.02 Pursuant to I.C. 36.10-3-4, there is established as a part of the governmental organization of the town a Department of Parks and Recreation which shall be referred to as the “Parks and Trails Board”. This department will oversee the town’s public parks, shall include oversight and maintenance of the town’s trails.

All of the duties and responsibilities in I.C. 36-10-3-4`, shall be vested to The Parks and Trails Board. Its members and officers shall be given a copy of I.C. 36-10-3-4 and are required to read and understand the duties and responsibilities contained therein.

Amend 32.070 to say, “Pursuant to IC 36-7-4, there shall be created. . .”

CHAPTER 33

If there are funds remaining in any of the funds repealed or otherwise eliminated in this chapter, the remaining balances shall be transferred to the General Fund.

33.03 Update to current information (This was updated to reflect United Fidelity Bank in Mt. Vernon, IN)

Amend 33.44 (A) to read: “A fund entitled NEW HARMONY TRAILS FUND shall be funded with the town’s annual golf cart registration fees, donations received and

designated to benefit of New Harmony Trails, and by transfers from other sources at the discretion of the New Harmony Town Council.”

Councilperson Williams made a motion to approve the ordinances covered in the second reading. Weinzapfel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark presented the permit for Arts Murphy Park, October 17-19, 2025. He then asked Tony Treadway questioned which he answered. Treadway reviewed the plans that the park opening on Church will be closed, the park will be open to campers, they would direct campers to enter on Park and go left in the circle. Treadway said that his insurance is under One New Harmony, and they have booked the shelter house for the weekend. Councilperson Weinzapfel made a motion to approve the Arts in Murphy Park permit. Williams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark read the permit request for Meet in the Street, October 5, 2025, from 6:00-9:00 pm (set up starting at 3:00). Councilperson Williams made a motion to approve the Meet in the Street permit. Weinzapfel approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Lisa Brooks, university professor of hospitality and tourism in the School of Business, proposed the town council consider an ordinance regulating short term rentals to primary resident ownership only in New Harmony. Her notes are attached. Brook’s key points included: Increased housing costs and displacement of residents, Neighborhood disruption and quality of life, Unfair competition and loss of revenue. Councilperson Weinzapfel thanked Brooks and informed her that her request would fall under land use ordinances, and this issue will fit into that, which the council is reviewing.

Councilperson Weinzapfel reviewed the residents’ contributions to the Comprehensive Plan: 1,268 visits to the website (839 individuals), 100 and 60 people attended the workshops, respectfully, 80 people attended the open house, and there were numerous focus groups and surveys that residents responded to. Weinzapfel thanked everyone for their participation and work in building the Comprehensive Plan. Weinzapfel read the Comprehensive Plan Resolution and made a motion to adopt the Plan as a resolution. Williams seconded. Councilperson Clark mentioned that they are missing council people tonight, but all members support this plan. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Williams made a motion to approve the Park & Trail Five Year Plan. It was approved by DNR (Department of Natural Resources). Weinzapfel seconded. Councilperson Clark mentioned this was the first time the town ever had one. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Weinzapfel made a motion to appoint John Foley to Board of Zoning Appeals, due to the passing of Tom Cochran. The term will be through the end of the year with possible re-appointment in January of 2026. Williams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Park & Trail Board President, Jeannie Maudlin, made a proposal that we apply for a grant from the Posey County Community Foundation in the amount of \$30,000. The work that the Park & Trail Board is proposing will renovate the restrooms and make them assessable year-round. APEX engineering has already donated \$2,500 of their services. The Park and Trail Board is asking the Town Council for \$43,600. This grant requires that the applicants have funds available, along with the grant, to make sure the project is fully funded. Councilperson Williams made a motion for the town to award the Parks and Trail Board \$43,600 to meet the grant requirements and deadline (8/4/2025). Weinzapfel seconded. Councilperson Williams strongly supported the request for money to improve the park. He said it was a good plan to get repairs and upgrades done without being financially responsible for the entire costs. Councilperson Weinzapfel supports the motion because there is work that needs to be done on the building and we have the money for the projects - receiving a grant is a plus. She continued to say the bathroom is being repaired in a conservative approach and the town has the money for this project. Clark was very clear that he supported the project but felt that all councilpersons should be voting and they were deciding in a rushed manner with some unknowns. Clark asked what would happen if they didn’t get the grant. Maudlin said if they don’t get the grant, they would have to look for private funding, another grant, and/or come back to the council for the full amount. Barb McCulloh brought up a grant that could be available for this project that Dr. Rapp gave to Posey County Community Foundation that must be spent in the northern part of the county. Councilperson Clark voted no. Councilpersons Weinzapfel and Williams voted yes. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Huelsmann asked the board to approve two training events. One hosted by IN Legue of Municipal Clerk-Treasurers and the State Board of Accounts for IN. Huelsmann will be attending this and earning required training credits. The second one is hosted in Muncie, IN by AIM (Accelerate IN Municipalities) that she and Carmen Naas, Billing Clerk will attend. Councilperson Weinzapfel made a motion to approve the expenses of the training classes, which include hotel, attendance fee and mileage. Williams seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Williams made a motion to approve the claims. Weinzapfel seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilperson Clark made, and Weinzapfel 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