

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
February 24, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2025, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council Members Michael Leman, William Daily, Alex Mikel, Bryan Miller and David Bailey were present. Also present were Keith Fraine, Director of Operations; Meghan Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer; Ben Wright, Superintendent of the Electric Department; Henry Aguayo, Superintendent of the Water Department; Chief Brad Kile, Police Department; Austin Langdon, Superintendent of the Street Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Nate Lockwood, Cemetery Sexton; Ken Jones, Town Engineer and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

CLERK-TREASURER: Ms. Atkins presented the docket of claims without amendment; Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Atkins presented a docket of outstanding checks to be voided, in the total amount of \$254.45. The Council reviewed and approved the list. Mr. Leman asked Ms. Atkins if she had any information regarding outsourcing the payroll, and Ms. Atkins told the Council that she had spoken with two companies, ADP and Paychex, and both were sending more information. Ms. Atkins presented Ordinance 2-2025, regarding the addition of the Assistant Park Superintendent position, and asked the Council to approve the ordinance on all three readings. Mr. Miller made a motion to declare an emergency and approve Ordinance 2-2025 on all three readings, with the pay retroactive to February 4, 2025, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Atkins then presented Ordinance 3-2025, regarding updates to certain electric rates, for first reading. Mr. Wagner and Mr. Wright explained the changes to the Council. The Council discussed the ordinance. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve Ordinance 3-2025 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner gave the Council a brief update on the SRO process. Mr. Fraine asked if an ordinance would be required for the changes to the cell phone stipend and per diem policies, and Mr. Wagner agreed it would be best to have an ordinance. Mr. Mikel suggested that the policy be changed to provide a cell phone stipend to all employees, and the Council discussed the suggestion. The Council instructed Mr. Wagner to prepared the ordinance to include all employees in the initial draft and Mr. Wagner expressed some concern with the preservation of text messages as public records.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was brought before the Council.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was brought before the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were brought before the Council.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Fraine submitted his report to the Council.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Wright submitted his report on behalf of the Electric Department.

Chief Kile submitted his report on behalf of the Police Department.

Chief Neher had no new information to report on behalf of the Fire Department.

Mr. Aguayo had no new information to report on behalf of the Water Department.

Mr. Lockwood had no new information to report on behalf of the Cemetery Department.

Mr. Cunningham had no new information to report on behalf of the Wastewater Department.

Mr. Langdon had no new information to report on behalf of the Street Department.

Mr. Main told the Council that the Town's insurer had asked the park system to adopt a sexual abuse prevention policy, and that he would send a proposed draft to Mr. Fraine and Mr. Wagner for review. Mr. Main also noted that the first Trail Committee meeting would take place that night.

Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ENGINEER: Mr. Jones told the Council that Ms. Atkins had found funds that could be applied for the Community Crossings matching grant project on Grant Street, so the project could be awarded. He also drew the Council's attention to the BakerTilly report and raised the need to replenish the Water Department's contingency account, and that the upcoming rate study may see increases as a result. Mr. Mikel made a motion to award the 2024-2 Community Crossings project bid to HRP as recommended by JPR, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Jones also told the Council that JPR was still pursuing the EDA grant for the wastewater treatment plant, which would use MACOG as the grant administrator and would require feedback from existing large users as well as prospective new users of the system. Mr. Jones told the Council that the Town had been awarded a grant for the standpipe rehab planning, but that the funds were currently tied up at the federal level without any indication when they would be released. Mr. Jones expressed concern regarding the path of the existing interceptor line through a property that was recently affected by a large fire. Mr. Wagner and Mr. Fraine told the Council that they would follow up with the property owner.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mr. Leman asked if there was a fund that could be used for donations for Town festivals. Tara Beasley told Mr. Leman that the Oktoberfest planning all went through the Chamber of Commerce's entity, and Mr. Wagner pointed out that the Town operated funds for tourism and other festivals. Ms. Beasley added that no Town money was used for the Oktoberfest.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Daily made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:

Meghan Atkins,
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen

Michael Leman, President