

SOUTH WHITLEY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM

118 E FRONT ST

SOUTH WHITLEY, IN 46787

AUGUST 12, 2025

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Council President Brock Waterson at 6:30 pm. Members present were as follows: Council President Brock Waterson, Vice President Trey Weber, Councilman Randy Cokl, Town Attorney Greg Hockemeyer, Utility Supervisor Kent Slater, Town Marshal Mikel Vandevender, and Deputy Clerk Jenna Reiff.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADJUSTMENTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

TERESA CARRANO: Called Councilman Waterson to complain that Jason Keim trimmed her bushes without a notice. Marshal Schipper was the one who told Mr. Keim to cut the bushes back because the limbs are obstructing the stop sign and prohibiting drivers from seeing cars coming from the right. Marshal Schipper was not aware of the need for a notice and said he will do that in the future. The limbs are in the right of way, but Ms. Carrano is stating there was no need for them to be cut. Marshal Schipper said he would go and talk to Ms. Carrano to clear up any confusion. Attorney Hockemeyer said if the limbs are in the right of way, the Town does have the right to clear intersections from obstructions.

OLD BUSINESS

FOURWAY.NET PROPOSAL: Attorney Hockemeyer went over the proposal and FourWay addressed his concerns. He suggested asking about how much electricity they will be using and making sure their \$100 per month rental will cover the kilowatts used. The proposal is to lease a space on our water tower to help rural residents have faster internet. Most likely people who live in Tunker will be the ones benefitting from the antenna. Councilman Cokl would like to table the proposal until August 26th meeting and we can clarify about how much electricity will be used to ensure the Town is not losing money from the proposal. Councilman Waterson seconded tabling the proposal. Motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

COUNCILMAN TOPICS

FALL FESTIVAL BEER TENT: Councilman Cokl would like to make a motion to approve getting a permit to have the beer tent from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am and allow Council President Brock Waterson to sign the permit. Councilman Waterson seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

KENT & UTILITY shout out for coming and helping remove a fallen limb behind Moyer's Café. They responded and got things cleaned up quickly.

PUBLIC INPUT

KAREN JORDAN: Mrs. Jordan said there are many cars that speed down Calhoun Street. She said the worst ones that are speeding down that road are usually officers with the Sheriffs Department. The old Lancaster building has debris and

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“crap” all over outside. It looks like they cut part of a tree down, but didn’t clean it up, lawn mower broke down in front of the building. She said this trash has been there almost a year and it looks terrible. She also wanted to know if we have looked into getting a grant and grant writer to help with restoring the old water tower.

- Jenna let the Council and Karen know Mrs. Knepple just met with Dave Buuck from the EDC and a Region 3A grant writer to discuss parks, the SR 5 sidewalk, water tower, wastewater project funding, etc. They are working to get some information to start applying for grants.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

PARK BOARD – RANDY SIMPSON: Jenna Reiff, secretary and treasurer, gave the update:

- The Park Board is working on doing Hometown Hero banners that will be put on our light poles. These are banners that showcase military and first responders who are currently serving or retired. The park board hasn’t decided if they are going to pay for them or if the family members of the Hero will pay for the banner. Applications are ready to be filled out, but how the cost will be paid needs to be decided first. The cost of one banner is \$80.00.
- The board is also looking into doing Second Saturdays beginning next spring, along with a “Party with the Park” fundraiser. All of the proceeds from these events will go towards the Parks Department to raise money for equipment upgrades and larger purchases.
 - Councilman Waterson wanted to double check that the Clerk’s office has Façade grant applications. Mr. McCarty and Mr. Reed, who are remodeling the 206/208 S. State St and the Green Parrot, are asking about the process. Match up to \$5,000 and reimburse with

WASTE WATER/UTILITIES SUPERVISOR – KENT SLATER:

- CCMG: Project has started and there should be enough room for the first couple of days for buses to make it through to the schools. Once the water line replacement begins, the intersections will be closed.
 - Councilman Waterson said the API foreman and the police department need to coordinate working schedules.
- Brooks is starting their block of Main Street from Market to Columbia in the next week or two.
- Councilman Waterson was asking about hydrant flushing, Mr. Slater said they will start doing that in a few weeks. Councilman Waterson also asked about the water plant cells being recharged. Mr. Slater said he has the report findings and things are good and don’t need to be recharged in the near future.

TOWN MARSHAL – CHAD SCHIPPER:

- Marshal Schipper and Mrs. Knepple have worked out shift differential, which will hopefully be starting October 1. The amount of the differential is \$1.20 per hour worked on third shift. Marshal Schipper wants to get Officer Limore some more FTO before he is on his own and they go to the Panama Schedule. The shift differential will only apply to 3rd shift. Any officer working 3rd shift is eligible, not part-time.
- Marshal Schipper talked to AG Plus about using their gas pumps and being invoiced through them for fuel. Officers would have a car where they enter in their mileage and a number to get gas. Then AG Plus would send the Town an invoice for the fuel costs. There is no set cost yet and that is still being discussed. The town would like to keep the pump at the utility building for lawn mowers, skid loaders, etc.
- Officer Limore graduates from ILEA on August 22, 2025 @ 5:00 pm. Marshal Schipper and Sgt. Johnson will be attending. Marshal Schipper is working with neighboring departments to help get more experience with FTO for Officer Limore before he’s on his own. He will spend two of his shift days with our SWPD and two shifts with another department, if possible.
- Officers will be helping with school drop off and pick up.

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- Mrs. Jordan works at the cafeteria and said there are times when she is coming into work that she has noticed it would be very easy for someone to sneak into the building while the kids are leaving for the Career Academy. Marshal Schipper said he would talk with the SRO.

TOWN ATTORNEY – GREGG HOCKEMEYER: Nothing to present.

CLERK-TREASURER – ALYSSA KNEPPLE:

- Reminder of the Budget Hearing at the next meeting August 26, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

APPROVALS:

APPROVAL FOR JULY 22, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Councilman Cokl made a motion to accept the July 22, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Councilman Waterson seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

APPROVAL FOR JULY 2025 BANK RECONCILIATIONS: Councilman Cokl made a motion to accept the July 2025 bank reconciliations. Councilman Waterson seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

APPROVAL FOR AUGUST 12, 2025, APV's TOTALING \$ 218,924.92: Councilman Cokl made a motion to accept the August 12, 2025, APV's totaling \$ 218,924.92. Councilman Waterson seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

APPROVAL FOR PAYROLL WEEK ENDING JULY 28, 2025, TOTALING \$ 13,453.66: Councilman Cokl made a motion to accept payroll for the week ending July 28, 2025, totaling \$ 13,453.66. Councilman Waterson seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

APPROVAL FOR PAYROLL WEEK ENDING AUGUST 4, 2025, TOTALING \$ 12,826.89: Councilman Cokl made a motion to accept payroll for the week ending August 4, 2025, totaling \$ 12,826.89. Councilman Waterson seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

APPROVAL FOR PAYROLL WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11, 2025, TOTALING \$ 12,642.07: Councilman Cokl made a motion to accept payroll for the week ending August 11, 2025, totaling \$ 12,642.07. Councilman Waterson seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

ADJOURN at: Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm by Council President Brock Waterson.

APPROVALS:

ATTEST:

X

BROCK WATERSON
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

X

ALYSSA KNEPPLE
CLERK-TREASURER

X

TREY WEBER
VICE PRESIDENT

X

RANDY COKL
COUNCILMAN

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