

Town of Fortville

08.18.2025

Town Council Meeting

Opening of Meeting:

The meeting was held at Fortville Town Hall, 714 E. Broadway. Meeting was called to order by Council President Tonya Davis at 6:34 pm. Technical issues were had with the video portion of the recording.

Present:

Tonya Davis, President; Ryan Rummell, Vice President; Libby Wyatt, Council Member; Fritz Fentz, Council Member; Vanessa Battaglia, Council Member; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Intermill, Town Attorney; Adriana Krueger, Deputy Clerk Treasurer.

Not Present:

Approval of Agenda:

Tonya Davis requested a change to the new business portion on the agenda for tonight, moving item 3G up to 3A so that special event request could be heard before moving on to the remainder of the agenda.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the change to the agenda for today August 18, 2025; Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 21st, 2025, Town Council Meeting, the July 29th, 2025, Executive session, and the July 30th, 2025, Budget workshop. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Old Business:

- a) The council will adopt Resolution no. 2025-8A, to formally memorialize the vote taken at the previous meeting concerning the Town Manager's spending limit.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-8A formally memorializing the increase in the Town Manager's spending limit from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0

New Business:

- a) The council will consider a Special Event Request from the Mt. Vernon Education Foundation to hold a "Turkey Trot 5K" on Saturday, November 22nd, starting at 8:00am-11:00am. Casey Pasyk spoke: The fundraiser will be to help pay off as many negative student lunch accounts. They have spoken with Police Chief, Fire Marshall, Heath Luther: Parks Manager for logistics.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the Special Event Request from the Mt. Vernon Education Foundation to hold a Turkey Trot 5K on November 22, 2025. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

- b) The council will consider the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-8A, a voluntary Annexation of three (3) acres at 8683 N. Fortville Pike (Shogren Property). This changes the jurisdiction from unincorporated into the Town of Fortville to be able to take advantage of the Town utilities. Public notice will be put out to inform the citizens of Fortville and a Public hearing will be scheduled later in September.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-8A, a voluntary Annexation of three acres at 8683 N. Fortville Pike (Shogren Property.) Libby Wyatt second motion, passed 5/0.

- c) The council will consider the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-8B, a voluntary Annexation of eighteen (18) acres at 7795 N. 200 West (Awning Innovations Property). This will also allow them to take advantage of the Town utilities. Public notice will be put out to inform the citizens of Fortville and a Public hearing will be scheduled later in September.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-8B, a voluntary Annexation of eighteen (18) acres at 7795 N. 200 West (Awning Innovations Property). Libby Wyatt second motion, passed 5/0.

- d) The council will consider the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-8C, a voluntary Annexation of 120 acres near US 36 and N. 300 West (Stokes Property). The owners are getting ready to sell this farmland and will most likely be developed and will have access to water and sewer. Public notice will be put out to inform the citizens of Fortville and a Public hearing will be scheduled later in September.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-8C, a voluntary Annexation of 120 acres near US 36 and N. 300 West (Stokes Property). Libby Wyatt second motion, passed 5/0.

- e) The council will consider the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-8D, a request by owner Mike Thompson for a Rezone of one (1) acre from Residential 3.5 to Community Commercial at the northeast corner of Broadway & Ohio Street. Public Hearing schedule for the next Planning Commission Meeting on August 26th, at 6:30 pm. The request will be coming back to Town council for approval once the Planning Commission has heard the plan. Comment from public: Brittany Layton requests the council takes extra consideration for the families and properties bordering this lot, when considering rezoning from residential to commercial.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-8D, for a Rezone of one (1) acre from Residential 3.5 to Community Commercial at the northeast corner of Broadway & Ohio Street Libby Wyatt second motion, passed 5/0.

- f) The council president will consider appointing a citizen member to fill the vacant seat on the Plan Commission.
 - i. Zack Fager will be appointed to fill the seat.
- g) The Council will consider the renewal of the Indy Sharks-Fortville Community Center Rental Contract for September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the renewal of the Indy Sharks-Fortville Community Center Contract for 2026. Libby Wyatt second motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Department Head Reports:

Town Manager: Joe Renner

In past meetings, he has discussed the need for additional street paving on Maple Street. He is requesting permission from the council to create and sign a change-order for the amount not to exceed \$160,450.00 this will allow for additional street paving and curb repairs needed.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the change order for an amount not to exceed \$160,450.00. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0

Decorative Street light poles that have been taken down, the poles have been on back order, and he is requesting permission to purchase an additional two poles to have on hand, so we didn't have to wait so long to replace them in the future. Request granted.

Some individuals have requested the town council to possibly consider allowing local businesses to hang banners advertising their business. Discussion about this idea will need further consideration.

Brian Scruggs, the street and utilities manager, will be requesting bids for two new utility trucks that are needed and will be bringing them to council in the upcoming weeks.

The renewal of our liability insurance with our existing carrier has been in the works. The premium quote has come in. The amount will be \$199,150.00 a year for liability insurance. This policy does include an increase in public official deductibles, from \$5000 to \$50,000. We need a motion to grant an increase in premium for our insurance renewal.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the renewal of the Town of Fortville insurance in the amount of \$199,150.00 per year. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Planning & Building Director: Adam Zaklikowski

There is an increased need for sewer infrastructure on the south part of town. We have seen a lot of growth in that area, and we need to look at updating so that infrastructure aligns with the amount of building happening, which is a good thing.

Parks Manager: Heath Luther

Landmark Park committee has recommended that we move forward with Reynolds construction. We will need approval for this selection so we can get the advertising started and move forward with funding. Joe Renner clarified that if this is a recommendation, we will need to advertise this 7 days before the public hearing before the council can move forward with a particular party.

Tonya Davis made a motion to approve moving forward with the process. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Indiana Trails grant process has been researched. They run it every two years. It is open from September through October. It would be an 80/20 grant. The town of Fortville will be responsible for 20% so that we can connect the trails in the surrounding area into memorial park. Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the initiation of the Indiana Trails Grant process. Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

The survey for the parks has been completed. The goal was 5% of the last census. We got a good amount of feedback so that we can compile enough data and recommendations. This report will be submitted to council for consideration in the first week of October.

Basketball hoop drilling started today. They said it should be done in three or four days.

Police Chief: Chief Patrick Bratton

Absent

Town Attorney: Alex Intermill

No Comment.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: Adriana Krueger

No comment.

Public Comment:

Dave Beatson wanted clarification of what it means for the FCC with the renewal of the Indy-Sharks contract. Does this mean the public will not have any access to use any part of the community center. Heath Luther clarified that it was just the Gym that they were renting, and the other rooms are still available to the public for use.

Council Members:

Tonya Davis:

She read a prepared statement. Clarifications to some of the comments made on social media. The town was never without liability insurance, contrary to some comments. Full statement can be heard on YouTube.

Ryan Rummell:

No Comment.

Libby Wyatt:

No Comment.

Fritz Fentz:

No Comment.

Vanessa Battaglia:

Announcement: She has been offered and accepted a job and will be moving away. This means she will be resigning from the Town Council.

Approve and Sign Vouchers:

Ryan Rummell made the motion to approve and sign vouchers; Libby Wyatt second the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

Adjourn:

Tonya Davis made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm, Ryan Rummell second the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

President: _____

Tonya Davis

Clerk-Treasurer: _____

Missy Glazier