

Town of Fortville

02.017.2026

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 6:30 pm.

Present:

Tonya Davis, President; Ryan Rummell, Vice President; Libby Wyatt, Council Member; Sean Morgan, Council Member; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Intermill, Town Attorney; Missy Glazier, Clerk Treasurer.

Not Present:

Fritz Fentz, Council Member; Adriana Krueger, Deputy Clerk Treasurer.

Approval of Agenda

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the amended for tonight's, February 17th, 2026, Town Council Meeting. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 4/0.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve February 2, 2026, council meeting minutes. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries, passed 4/0.

Old Business:

- a) The council will consider **2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-2A**, Ordinance amending and restating the town's parking regulations for certain streets and areas in town.
- b) The council will consider **2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-2B**, Ordinance amending and restating the town's preferential street stop signs.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to **approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-2A & Ordinance 2026-2B**. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 4/0.

New Business:

- a) The Council will hear the **Annual Financial Report for 2025** presented by Beth Marsh of Bookkeeping Plus. The annual financial report for 2025 was reviewed, covering 37 pages detailing fund balances, receipts, disbursements, debt schedules, deficit fund balances, lease payments, transfers, grants, fixed assets, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and pensions. Town explained each section of the report, highlighting key points such as

new debt for wastewater, receivables for NDOT grants and promotional funds, and the need for deficit funds due to timing of payroll taxes.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to **approve the 2025 Annual Financial Report**. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 4/0.

- b) The Council will hear the **Annual Vernon Township Fire Department Report for 2025** presented by Chief Mark Elder and Trustee Fourier May. They highlighted population growth in the area, with a 29.1% increase since 2020, reaching 20,154 residents. The department responded to 1,995 calls in 2025, a 10.5% increase from 2024, with EMS being the largest call category. The fire department faced challenges with simultaneous calls, which increased from 330 in 2024 to 367 in 2025, leading to the need for additional staffing. Town presented data on EMS response patterns and call volumes, noting that general illnesses and injuries were the two leading types of calls, with residential areas accounting for over 70% of responses. Response times improved slightly in 2025, with turnout times of 1 minute and 16 seconds and total response times of 6 minutes and 28 seconds. The department provided mutual aid 128 times to other areas and saw varying monthly call volumes with no clear pattern, though overnight calls have been increasing. Training hours increased by 3 hours in 2025, bringing the total to about 2,000 more hours per year compared to 2022 and 2023.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to **approve the 2025 Annual Vernon Township Fire Department Report**. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 4/0.

- c) The Council will hear an update on the Fortville Police Department's Annual Performance Evaluation & Compensation presented by Nick Clarkson with the Police Commission. The Police Commission reviewed Chief Bratton's performance, awarding him a distinguished rating of 47 out of 48 points for 2025. Despite his exceptional track record of budget savings and leadership, Chief Bratton's salary is currently the lowest among Hancock County chiefs, falling below the Indiana average range of \$127,000-\$143,000. The Police Commission recommended a salary adjustment of an additional 7.5% plus backdated specialty pay of \$250 per year since 2021, though this would still keep him as the lowest-paid chief in the area. The council discussed a police investigator's salary adjustment, determining that the position would receive an additional \$1,500 per year, which had been previously budgeted but not implemented. They agreed to review a performance evaluation conducted internally by the department, which would be shared with the council for their review.

Council decided to prepare an ordinance for the first reading at the next meeting, with the understanding that the document would be reviewed and potentially amended before the second reading.

Department Head Reports:

Town Manager: Joe Renner

The two pedestrian lightings along Broadway that were hit about a year ago have been replaced and are in functioning order. We had one hit on Merril Street and that was replaced. We had two more on order and we will be able to replace those as well as have some backup soon.

Planning & Building Director: Adam Zaklikowski

Absent.

Parks Manager: Heath Luther

Absent.

Police Chief: Chief Patrick Bratton

Thank the Township Fire Department & Trustee office for their help with the PD Performance evaluation and recommendations. We are working with F.A.R.M about creating a Food Drive during Summerfest to help the food banks with this mission. There is an increased need during the summertime.

Town Attorney: Alex Intermill

No Comment.

Clerk-Treasurer: Missy Glazier/Adriana Krueger

No Comment.

Public Comment:

Bob Starrett raised issues about the 30-mph speed limit sign being missing on Ohio Street and questioned when a planned traffic light at Ohio Street for the Gas station would be installed. INDOT needs to review final plans for the gas station development before approving the light installation. We are waiting for them to come up to the table with what they need to move forward.

Ed Brand, a member of the RDC Commission and Police Commission, requested that police officers be present at all public meetings to ensure safety and maintain order. The council agreed with this need considering today's need for additional security. This would help deter any issues that may arise in the future.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to **approve the staffing of a police officer at all public meetings.** Sean Morgan seconded motion. Motion carried, passed 4/0.

Council Members:

Tonya Davis

I wanted to recognize and encourage Pink for Hailee month. The community has really done a good job of coming together for this family. There is a suggestion to consider a pink bench with black arms for Main Street or potentially placing it in Landmark Park in her memory.

Ryan Rummell

No Comment.

Libby Wyatt

What would be needed to get the crosswalk signs and flashing lights added to high traffic streets so that pedestrians can safely cross.

Fritz Fentz

Absent.

Sean Morgan

Continued thoughts and prayers for Officer Elliot's family. The council needs to review plans to implement performance evaluations for the town manager, similar to the process used for the police chief.

Approve and Sign Vouchers:

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve and sign vouchers, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 4/0.

Adjourn:

Tonya Davis makes the motion to adjourn at 7:43 pm, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 4/0.

President: 

Tonya Davis

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: 

Adriana Krueger