

Town of Fortville

08.03.2026

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; Fritz Fentz, Council Member; Sean Morgan, Council Member; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Intermill, Town Attorney.

Not Present:

Adriana Krueger, Deputy Clerk Treasurer.

Approval of Agenda

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight August 8th, 2026, Town Council Meeting. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 20th, 2026. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Old Business:

- A. The council will receive an update on the South Madison project from SC Bodner president Steven Bodner.

Steve explained that while engineering work is largely complete, the project still needs to finalize pricing for additional scope work and acquire two pieces of ground, including a green and red area not controlled by the town. The town's \$8 million financial commitment is tied to a BOT agreement that has not yet been finalized, though Steve indicated the team is working toward resolution. The project could begin construction within three weeks if approved, though right-of-way acquisition for certain properties remains a pending issue.

New Business:

- A. The council will consider 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-8A, establishing Residential Rental Registration.

The most updated ordinance now includes a 30-day cure period for violations before assessing fees, removes references to commercial buildings, and improves consistency in multi-unit property definitions. The council approved the first reading of the ordinance, with the understanding that further revisions could be made before the second reading and final adoption in two weeks.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-8A, establishing Residential Rental Registration. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

- B. The council will consider adopting Resolution No. 2026-8A, the Hancock County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Chad Cocon, representing the Hancock County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, explained that the 103-page plan addresses natural disasters like tornadoes and hazardous waste issues, including railroad and internet-related problems. The plan requires local communities to sign resolutions to be eligible for federal disaster funds, and Fortville council approved Resolution 2026-8A.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve adopting Resolution No. 2026-8A, the Hancock County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

- C. The council will consider formally approving the assistant Planner position in leu of the vacant Planning & Building Administrative Assistant position and amending the Salary ordinance.

Adam Zaklakowski, the Planning and Building Director, explained that the new position would allow the department to handle work more efficiently and provide over-the-counter services for simple permits like electrical and shed permits. The council agreed to the position approval, with plans to determine salary details in an upcoming budget meeting and return for salary ordinance amendment in a few weeks.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the creation of the Assistant Planner position. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

- D. The Council will consider Resolution No. 2026-8B, declaring Fortville Police Department property as surplus.

The council declared Fortville Police Department property as surplus, specifically 12 outdated radios that will be transferred to Knightstown PD. Knightstown will adopt a similar resolution at their council meeting in two weeks, after which the radios will be delivered.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-8B, declaring Fortville Police Department property as surplus. Libby Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Department Head Reports:

Town Manager: Joe Renner

A meeting concerning the MOU with McCordsville for water extension. We will be able to present it to the council for approval at the next meeting. The new Kami Street signs were installed in August. The group also discussed the status of the park project with Reynolds, noting that construction would likely begin 2-3 weeks after the bond ordinance is finalized

Planning & Building Director: Adam Zaklikowski

Alex reported the alley demolition on Main Street started today with thicker asphalt than expected and should be completed by the end of next week. He announced that McDonald's received permission to break ground, with plans to widen Broadway and add a center two-way left turn lane, though the timeline is likely to be October or November due to permitting delays. The group discussed potential sight line concerns for the town sign near the new McDonald's location, which Fortville agreed to review further as construction progresses

Parks Manager: Heath Luther

Heath discussed plans for Landmark Park improvements, including new restrooms, accessible sidewalks, and playgrounds. Heath provided details about VAW contract work and mentioned plans to add ballot voting areas at the dog park to prevent vehicle access. The discussion also touched on the condition of restrooms at the dog park, which have been repainted and are currently in good order. He covered updates on community center programming, a volunteer initiative for free meals, and equipment purchases. Heath discussed plans to retrofit the community center in September and October, and mentioned a volunteer offering to provide free meals, requiring a \$180 Safe Serve Manager's permit.

Police Chief: Chief Patrick Bratton

Chief reported receiving approximately \$40,000 in refunds over the past 9 months and plans to seek bids for a Polaris Ranger vehicle for off-road patrol capabilities.

Town Attorney: Alex Intermill

No Comment.

Clerk-Treasurer: Adriana Krueger

Absent

Public Comment:

Vicki Bass raised concerns about vacant properties and the lack of a grocery store in the area, while council members discussed how the new ordinance might help address issues with out-of-state property owners and rental properties. In depth conversation was held on this topic.

Council Members:

Tonya Davis

No Comment.

Ryan Rummell

No Comment.

Libby Wyatt

No Comment.

Fritz Fentz

No Comment.

Sean Morgan

No Comment.

Approve and Sign Vouchers:

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve and sign vouchers, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

Adjourn:

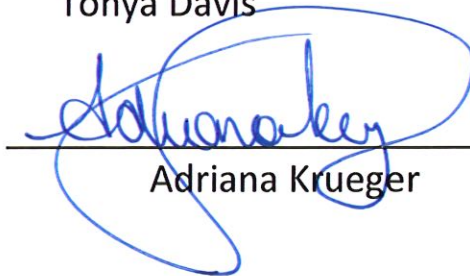
Tonya Davis makes the motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

President: _____



Tonya Davis

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: _____



Adriana Krueger