MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
September 22, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 22, 2025, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council Members Michael Leman, Bill Daily, Bryan Miller, Alex Mikel 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; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park 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 September 8, 2025, meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried by a vote of 4 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. Daily and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Atkins then presented change order number 3 for the CCMG Grant Street Project. Mr. Jones explained that the change order was a new contract resulting in an increase of \$71,124.37 related to several additional improvements added to the project. Mr. Miller arrived at the meeting. Mr. Jones explained to the Council that JPR had sent back approximately \$28,000.00 for structural repairs that had not been detected due to a lack of street boring. He also noted that Mr. Aguayo suggested adding additional valving at the intersections. Mr. Jones told the Council that the project had been completed close to the target date in spite of some challenging circumstances, and that he felt the project went well overall. Mr. Jones also told the Council that NIPSCO would be sending payment for a repair performed during the project. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve change order number 3 as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Ms. Atkins then presented pay application number 5 for the project, payable to HRP in the amount of \$322,654.01. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve pay application number 5, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Ms. Atkins presented Ordinance 11-2025, an amendment to the 2025 Wage Ordinance to reflect the new pay rate for the Assistant Park Superintendent. Mr. Main told the Council that the Park Board had already approved the pay rate. Mr. Bailey made a motion to declare an emergency and pass Ordinance 11-2025 on three readings and that the pay change be made retroactive to the previous pay period, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Mikel asked who had been hired, and Mr. Main that Austin Huff was selected.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner reminded the Council of the Special Joint Meeting taking place after the regular Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Leman raised the issue of the annual Trick-or-Treat date, and suggested setting the event for Thursday, October 30, instead of Friday night due to a conflict with a home football game. Mr. Wagner suggested moving the event to Saturday, November 1. The Council discussed the possible dates, and asked Chief Kile to set the event for Saturday, November 1, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Daily asked Chief Neher if the Fire Department billed for repeated calls in German Township, and Chief Neher replied that the department typically did not. Mr. Wagner told the Council that he and Chief Neher would discuss the matter and report back.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were offered to the Council.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Fraine submitted his report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Wright had no new information to report on behalf of the Electric Department.

Chief Kile requested permission to adjust the initial benefits for the new hire, Carlos Diaz, due to Mr. Diaz's prior experience. The Council directed him to proceed.

Mr. Aguayo told the Council that the Water Department would begin hydrant flushing in the near future.

Mr. Main told the Council again his department had hired Austin Huff as the Assistant Superintendent and that he would like to begin discussions on revising the compensatory time off policy due to the seasonal nature of his department's work. Mr. Mikel expressed support for a revised policy as well.

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

Mr. Cunningham submitted his report on behalf of Wastewater Department.

Chief Neher requested permission to post a fire truck rally to display fire equipment on September 30, 2025 in the Center Street parking lot. The Council directed him to proceed.

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 presented Resolution 2025-7, amending the Town's ADA plan to keep Mr. Fraine as the ADA coordinator. The Council discussed the resolution and Mr. Fraine noted that his predecessor, Trend Weldy, had already been removed as the coordinator. Mr. Wagner told the Council that he could amend the resolution if they would recess before the end of the meeting.

Mr. Jones gave the Council an update on new funding options for the Standpipe project. He told the Council that the Marshall County Community Foundation had approved a $25,000.00 grant and suggested that the Town consider a fundraising campaign through Patronicity.

Dan Byam appeared before the Council regarding the wastewater treatment plant project. He reminded the Council that the post-project user fee would increase by $15.48 to $58.52 per month. He also told the Council that Baker Tilly has submitted the application, the project has already been determined to meet the funding criteria, and that the closing has been scheduled for December 18, 2025 so far. Mr. Byam recommended that the Council tentatively award both contracts A & B to Thieneman Construction for approximately $8,636,000.00. The Council discussed the award. Mr. Jones noted that the project may have some cost-savings because it did not acquire some of the federal programs and restrictions. Mr. Jones also described another grant opportunity for the project. At the conclusion of discussion, Mr. Daily made a motion to award contracts A & B as bid to Thieneman Construction as recommended by JPR.

Mr. Mikel renewed his request for utility operational day-to-day budgets. Mr. Leman recounted the changes that the project had undergone as it was scaled back from its initial cost. Mr. Mikel seconded Mr. Daily's motion, which was approved by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Byam asked Mr. Leman to sign the tentative notice of award forms.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mr. Mikel reiterated his support for revising the compensatory time policy.

Mr. Wagner asked the Council to recess the meeting rather than adjourn so that he could amend Resolution 2025-7 according to the Council's instructions. The Council discussed how to amend the proposed resolution with Mr. Fraine and Mr. Jones. Mr. Miller made a motion to temporarily recess the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Daily left the meeting due to a prior commitment.

After the recess, Mr. Miller made a motion to reconvene the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-7, designating Mr. Fraine as the Town's ADA coordinator, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner asked the Council to approve the 2025 Title 26 ADA Implementation Plan. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the 2025 Title 26 ADA Implementation Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Mikel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:

Meghan Atkins,
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen

Michael Leman, President