MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
March 9, 2026

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council Members Mike Leman, William Daily, Bryan Miller, Alex Mikel and David Bailey were present. Also present were Keith Fraine, Director of Operations; Jamie Soule, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer; Ben Wright, Superintendent of the Electric Department; Henry Aguayo, Superintendent of the Water Department; Chief Trent Stouder, Police Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Austin Langdon, Superintendent of the Street Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Nate Lockwood, Cemetery Sexton; Ken Jones and Dan Byam, Town Engineers and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Miller also made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2026 Executive Session, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

CLERK-TREASURER: Ms. Soule presented the docket of claims without amendment; Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the claims as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Soule also presented the docket allowance for approval; Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the allowance docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner told the Council that Ms. Atkins had expressed concern over certain sections of the handbook, and that she would be getting a quote from New Focus Consultants for overhauling the entire handbook. Mr. Wagner presented the Fire Contract with German Township for approval and explained that the terms were the same from previous years. Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the contract, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner presented Ordinance 5-2026, amending the 2026 wage ordinance, and explained the amendments in detail. He told the Council that the Police Department's Assistant Chief position would have a wage added, that additional language for the comp time program was inserted to that section, and that the longevity pay policy was added in its entirety. The Council discussed the amendments. Mr. Miller made a motion to suspend the rules and approve Ordinance 5-2026 on three readings, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner then presented Ordinance 3-2026, regarding amendments to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations, for third reading. Mr. Wagner described a minor change in terminology prescribed by a recent change in State statute. Mr. Mikel asked Mr. Lockwood how the cemetery fees compared to other comparable cemeteries, Mr. Lockwood noted that the fees were not changing at this time, but that the fees were on the lower side of the communities with similar cemeteries. At the conclusion of discussion, Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve Ordinance 3-2026 on third reading, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner told the Council that he hoped to have the DORA ordinance ready for first reading at the next Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was brought before the Council.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Amber Reed appeared on behalf of the Bremen Village Shops project and told the Council that Matt Van Soest was unable to attend due to a personal emergency. Ms. Reed gave a brief description of the project and explained the status of the discussions that have taken place with the Redevelopment Commission. Mr. Wagner explained the purpose of the draft Memorandum of Understanding and the differences in the roles that the Town and the Redevelopment Commission could play in the project. Mr. Miller asked if the lease could be prepared before entering into the Memorandum of Understanding, and Mr. Wagner stated that he would do his best to have that done before the Redevelopment Commission meeting. At the end of discussion, Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Greg Hildebrand of the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation appeared and gave his annual report. He noted that additional jobs had been created in the County, but overall, the general economy was down. Mr. Hildebrand also provided information about the upcoming Lilly Grant applications and clarified that the program was competitive State-wide rather than regionally like the previous READI 2.0 grants. Mr. Hildebrand thanked the Council for the community support of the MCEDC mission.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Fraine submitted his report and asked Mr. Leman to execute a CF-1 for Indiana Carton. Mr. Leman signed the form.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Aguayo submitted his report on behalf of the Water Department.

Chief Stouder asked the Council to amend the wage ordinance in a future meeting to add an additional sergeant and include a detective position. Mr. Wagner explained that the request had come in between the meetings and that he and Ms. Atkins agreed that they should make certain the Council heard it before it was included in the wage ordinance. The Council asked Mr. Wagner to prepare the new amendment for the ordinance for the next meeting.

Mr. Main told the Council that the Park Board had agreed to make the pool manager and assistant pool manager hourly employees, and that he would work with Ms. Atkins and Mr. Wagner to have the language included in the next ordinance.

Chief Neher submitted his year-end report and his regular monthly report on behalf of the Fire Department.

Mr. Langdon had no new information to report on behalf of the Street Department.

Mr. Wright submitted his report on behalf of the Electric Department.

Mr. Lockwood told the Council that cemetery clean-up would begin the week of March 23, 2026.

Mr. Cunningham submitted his year-end report and his regular monthly report on behalf of the Wastewater Department.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ENGINEER: Mr. Byam asked the Council to approve pay application number 2 for the wastewater treatment plant project payable to Thieneman Construction in the amount of $74,407.36. Mr. Byam explained the items in the pay application and then told the Council that pay applications would be submitted once per month going forward. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve pay application number 2 as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Byam also noted that the change order was still being processed.

Mr. Byam told the Council that the Town would need to provide hydrant flow testing data for the Water PIR report, and Mr. Aguayo told the Council that he had received the data that day.

Mr. Byam reported that JPR was working with One Marshall County to submit the standpipe project for the Lilly/READI grant.

Mr. Byam told the Council that E&B paving was the low bidder for the CCMG project and that it had been submitted to the State to see if the funding would be awarded.

Mr. Jones spoke briefly about the READI application for the standpipe renovation.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: No Council comments were offered.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Mikel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:

Meghan Atkins,
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen

Michael Leman, President