MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
November 24, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2025, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council Members Mike 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; Assistant Chief Trent Stouder, Police Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Nate Lockwood, Cemetery Sexton; Dan Byam, Town Engineer 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 November 10, 2025 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

CLERK-TREASURER: Ms. Atkins presented the docket of claims for approval with the fund report; Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Atkins then presented Ordinance 23-2025, the 2026 wage ordinance, for first reading, and explained that the 2026 calendar year would be unusual because it captured 27 pay periods rather than 26. The Council discussed the ordinance. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-2025 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Atkins advised the Council that she had purchased a flower arrangement for the Rick Graverson funeral. The Council discussed whether to move the regular second Council Meeting for December but ultimately made no change to the December 22 meeting scheduled.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner reminded the Council that they needed to approve the hiring of Assistant Chief Stouder as Police Chief upon the retirement of Chief Brad Kile. Mr. Daily made a motion to appoint Assistant Chief Stouder to the position of Chief as of February 16, 2026, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. The Council congratulated Assistant Chief Stouder on his promotion.

Mr. Wagner asked the Council to approve Ordinance 19-2025 on three readings. He explained that the ordinance created a new fund for proceeds from the fire pit rental at the Jackson Street pavilion. Mr. Mikel made a motion to declare an emergency and approve Ordinance 19-2025 on three readings, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Wagner then presented the annexation ordinances for approval by the Council. Mr. Wagner presented Ordinance 20-2025 regarding the Pfeiffer Fir Road property; Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-2025, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner presented Ordinance 21-2025, regarding the Graber Commercial Properties Destiny Drive area for approval and briefly described the status of the efforts to acquire the areas electric territory. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance 21-2025, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner then presented Ordinance 22-2025, regarding the 3rd Road annexation area. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-2025, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Wagner presented Resolution 2025-10, regarding the fiscal plan for the Pfeiffer Fir Road annexation area; Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner presented Resolution 2025-11, regarding the fiscal plan for the Graber Commercial Properties Destiny Drive annexation area; Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner finally presented Resolution 2025-12, regarding the fiscal plan for the 3rd Road annexation area; Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Wagner also presented Resolution 2025-13, regarding the use of the Rural Water Financing Authority as the financing for the wastewater treatment plant bond issue. Mr. Daily made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Joe Blakley appeared before the Council and requested that the Town consider repairing the guard rail in the parking lot near his business as a beam had been damaged. Mr. Blakley also expressed concern about the operation of E-scooters and requested an update on the establishment of the DORA. Mr. Fraine and Mr. Wagner explained the status of the project to Mr. Blakley and the Council and noted that they hoped to have it open in the spring to coincide with the proposed retail village that was under reconsideration by Redevelopment Commission.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Fraine submitted his report and told the Council that Mr. Langdon could not attend but that he had left items for Mr. Fraine to report on his behalf. Mr. Fraine told the Council that the Street Department should complete leaf pickup on December 12, unless there would be significant snowfall. Mr. Fraine thanked the Electric Department for putting up the holiday decorations and thanked the other departments for their preparations for the upcoming lighting ceremony. He particularly thanked Tara Beasley and Amy Stouder for the gift decorations.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Aguayo requested permission to replace the Water Department's 2006 Chevrolet truck. He noted that the expense had been budgeted for the department and explained that he had obtained two (2) quotes for similar vehicles and that he wished to pursue the lower quote from McCormick's Auto in the amount of $54,500.00. The Council discussed the request and approved the purchase.

Chief Neher told the Council that the County Fire Association had received funds from the County Council to purchase two (2) drones to help with search and rescue operations and other projects in the County. He told the Council that five (5) members of the department were learning to fly the drones right now, and that he hoped to have one of the drones housed here in Bremen in the future.

Mr. Wright told the Council that his department had worked on the holiday decorations and explained that they had managed to repurpose and repair some of the older decorations, Mr. Wright also submitted his report on behalf of Electric Department.

Mr. Lockwood submitted his report on behalf of the Cemetery Department.

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

Mr. Fraine told the Council Members that a videographer would be using a drone during the lighting ceremony.

Assistant Chief Stouder had no new information to report on behalf of the Police Department.

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. Byam asked if the Council would be interested in pursuing SRF funding for the second phase of the wastewater project and any other projects, and Mr. Mikel indicated that he thought the Town should continue to pursue SRF funding in the future. Mr. Byam explained how that funding would apply to wastewater projects.

Mr. Byam asked the Council if the wastewater treatment plan projects could be merged into a single contract since Thieneman is the contractor for both. Mr. Wagner expressed some concern and the Council discussed the request. Mr. Wagner requested additional time to review the proposed contracts.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mr. Mikel asked for the status of the Bremen apartment building process. Mr. Fraine stated that JPR was working on the survey and Mr. Wagner said that he would be in touch with the appraiser. The Council discussed whether to fill the apartments, and whether they would use an RFP for the sale process if they chose to dispose of the building.

Mr. Leman made a motion to approve 15 additional vacation days to be awarded during the annual employee banquet. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the additional vacation days, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Wagner asked the Council if they were going to take action on the letter from Bremen High School requesting opioid funds be applied to their drug testing program. The Council discussed the request and the feasibility of using restricted and unrestricted funds. Ms. Atkins and Mr. Wagner said they would investigate the use of both funds for the request and report back at the next meeting.

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

ATTEST:

Meghan Atkins,
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen

Michael Leman, President