

Town Council Meeting Minutes June 9th, 2026

Attendance: Rudy Cook, Steve Williams, LeAnn McClure, Faith Sauber, Brenna LaDuke, Joey Jones, and Matt Duncan

Guests: Nick Sauber, Jill Saegesser, Pierce Frye, Brian Everage, and Joyce Cook

Opening

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Prayer

Approval of Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes from last month's work sessions and town council meetings.
 - Motion to approve by Steve Williams
 - Seconded by LeAnn McClure
 - Motion approved.

Approval of Bills

- **Special call outs** – Three call outs – first was 911 which was \$9100.00, Beckmar \$5200.00, Temple and Temple the first storm cleanup bill which was \$7700.00.
- Motion to approve the claims by Steve, seconded by LeAnn, Motion approved.

No scheduled visitors.

1. Project Updates

1.1 PAF Contract Status – Pierce Frye

- **Issue:** PAF has failed to complete the punch list within an allotted/reasonable timeframe.
- **Action Plan:** A draft letter is prepared to provide PAF with a 7-day official notice. After 7 days, they will no longer be welcome on-site.
- **Funding:** The town will use the remaining contract funds (approximately \$23,000 in retainage) to hire a different contractor to complete the work.
- **Motion:** Steve made a motion to authorize sending the letter to PAF and authorizing Rudy to sign it. LeAnn seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

1.2 Starlight Project & Sewer Construction

- **Funding Update:** The \$3 million state award to the Starlight Visitors Association is available pending the signing of a sub-recipient agreement (scheduled for Thursday).
- **Public Hearing:** A required public hearing is scheduled for Thursday at 5:30 PM at the Firehouse.
- **Procurement Dispute:** The County Attorney (Scott Lewis) advised against using a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Starlight Visitors Association. Instead, the town must conduct its own procurement process to avoid audit issues.
- **Plan B (Procurement):** The Town may use the BOT (Request for Proposals) process for its portion of the sewer project.
 - **Timeline:** Advertise on the 12th and 19th; receive proposals by the 26th.
 - **Selection:** A selection committee must be named to review bids.
- **Engineering Discussion:** Concerns were raised regarding the force main sizing (switching from dual 4-inch lines to a single 4-inch line due to budget constraints). Discussion held on potential long-term flow and maintenance issues.

1.3 Bank/Rehab Project

- **Contracting:** A Master Service Agreement (MSA) was established with Prime May E (zero-dollar contract) to set legal conditions for future task orders.
- **Task Order 001:** Approved for the bank rehab/demolition phase.
- **Permitting:** Discussion regarding the necessity of separate demolition and building permits, including asbestos reports and signed/sealed plans.

2.1 – Brian Everage - Parks and Recreation

- **Amphitheater Rentals:** New rental rates established: \$250/day for for-profit organizations; \$200/day for non-profits (with 100% deposit).
- **Starhenge Project** – awaiting funding.
- **READI 1.0 – Restroom Project** – Moving forward.
- **Park Maintenance:**

- Scheduled a community-wide park clean-up day for June 28th at 2:00 PM.
- Work ongoing on creek bank erosion and replacing electrical components (GFI/outlets) following flooding.
- Discussion to appoint Darcy Gray to the Park Board.
- **Board Appointments:** Steve made a motion to appoint Darcy Gray to the Park Board; LeAnn seconded; the motion was approved.
- **Trail Maintenance:** Discussion regarding the lack of responsiveness from the trail owner (RADIUS) regarding weeds and safety hazards (protruding bolts). Enforcement via ordinance violation was discussed but noted as a "tricky situation" due to the partnership.
- **TPUSA** – Is interested in using the park for an event; concern was raised by the Police Chief about security. They might want to use the park in October; if so, we can try and make a plan.
- **Star Valley Events** – Friends of the Park have rebranded their events moving forward.
- **Concession Stand Donation** – The Census Bureau is donating refrigerators to the town for the stand, and they would like to give us a conference table for the council room.

2.2 – Joey Jones – Police Department

- **Officers – In good standing.**
- **Cars** – Great Choice on the vehicles.
- **Grants:** Discussion regarding applying for both the JAG Grant (May-July) and the COPS Grant (Due July 29th). The decision to apply for both was made.

2.3 – Brenna LaDuke – Town Business

- **Cemetery** – No change.
- **Old State Bank Project/(MSA)General Contract with JTL-** With the General Contract, we will be able to use JTL for any project moving forward. We are working on Phases for bidding: Roof on its own and Demo on its own. Demolition has its own permit; the building permit has signed and sealed plans. Pierce will be researching the permitting with the county, and we will hopefully have the bids for the next meeting.

- **Motion:** Steve made a motion to accept the MSA from JTL, along with the Task Order #001. LeAnn seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- **South Monon Trail** – The Council discussed the condition of the Monon South Trail, including cleanup efforts, weed control, and the timeline for maintenance. It was reported that the Town has reached out to Radius Indiana regarding these concerns. Brian shared that a young boy recently sustained an injury after striking a protruding bolt along the trail, raising concerns about trail safety and potential liability. Steve asked how the \$750 contribution provided by Radius last year had been used. Faith asked the Council how they intended for those funds to be allocated. Joey stated that he had recently contacted Radius to clarify what responsibilities are outlined in the ordinance regarding trail maintenance. Rudy noted that the funds had been used for weed spraying along the trail. The Council also discussed potential liability related to trail maintenance and user safety and agreed that additional clarification regarding maintenance responsibilities is needed. Matt shared with the council that he is the lawyer for both the town and Radius.
- **Group Insurance** – Waiting to see if we can find any insurance that is affordable for the town.
- **Flooding & Cleanup:** Ongoing cleanup of debris, mudslides, and ditches following recent flooding along streets and park. Belvins has pulled out of the job. Temple was contacted. Rudy and Chris are working with the contractor. Anything that is on private property the town can't assist with. We are seeking emergency funds to assist. We are still working through permitting with IDNR and other agencies.
- **Community Crossing Grant:** The call for grants opens September 1st. The town is considering projects on Main Street near the park and Daisy Hill out to Hwy 60, noting the 20% match requirement.
- **Starhenge Project** – Announcements beginning of July.
- **Samtec Funding** – Meeting with Starlight about what the community room design would be.
- **Restroom Project (Ready 1.0):**
 - Bids from Temple and Temple (\$249,400) and Kevco (\$293,224) were presented.
 - **Motion:** Steve made a motion to accept the bid from Temple and Temple for (\$249,400.00) for the restrooms. LeAnn seconded; the motion was approved.

- **Motion:** Steve made a motion to enter into a construction contract with Temple and Temple, pending legal review and additional funding sources (to cover the \$56,000 gap). LeAnn seconded; the motion was approved.
- **Training:** Faith shared that she would like to attend ILMCT classes in Michigan City the week of the 12th.
Motion: Steve made a motion to approve funding for ILMCT classes in Michigan City (approx. \$1,040 total for class and hotel); LeAnn seconded the motion; the motion was approved.
- **Reports:** Faith shared that she would share a financial report.

4. Adjournment

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Steve made a motion to adjourn; LeAnn seconded the motion; the motion was approved.

Rudy Cook, President

Faith Sauber, Clerk-Treasurer

Faith Sauber, Clerk-Treasurer 07.14.2026