

## POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: June 17, 2025

[Video Link](#)

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President Justin Rutledge at 5:31 PM.

#### PRESENT

- **Council President:** Justin Rutledge
- **Council Members:** Michael Baehl, Randall Rankin
- **Clerk-Treasurer:** Jodie Rankin
- **Town Attorney:** William Bender

#### **In-person Attendees:**

- List retained (5)

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the May 13, 2025, meeting was presented and emailed to council members before the meeting for review:

Mike Baehl motioned to approve the April 8, 2025 minutes as presented. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

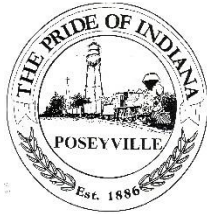
Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

#### CLAIMS DOCKET

The Claims Docket was emailed to the council members before the meeting for review.

Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the Claims Docket as presented. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)



### **PAYROLL ALLOWANCE DOCKET**

The Payroll Allowance Docket was emailed to the council members before the meeting for review.

A motion to approve the Payroll Allowance Docket as presented was made by Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **BANK RECONCILIATION**

Bank reconciliations for May 2025 were presented to the council for review via email before and at the meeting.

A motion to approve the Bank Reconciliation was made by Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

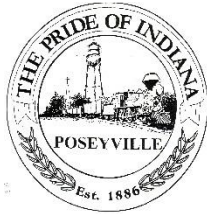
Drew Cox was not present to speak.

The meeting agenda was adjusted to accommodate the needs of the department heads in attendance.

### **UTILITY DEPARTMENTS**

#### **Fluoridation Treatment**

Utility Superintendent Jeremy Farrar was in attendance to discuss the fluoridation treatment of the town's drinking water. Mr. Farrar presented both the pros and cons associated with fluoride treatment. Currently, the fluoride level is maintained at 0.6 parts per million. The estimated annual cost for treatment is approximately \$1,000, not including administrative time and equipment maintenance. Following a thorough discussion, the Town Council agreed to conduct further research and review the additional information that will be provided by the Clerk-Treasurer, as supplied by Mr. Farrar.



### **Water Use Ordinance**

A draft of a new Water Use Ordinance was presented to the Council. Utility Superintendent Jeremy Farrar explained that the Town is beginning to collaborate with other organizations that require access to our water use regulations. In response, a comprehensive draft ordinance has been prepared.

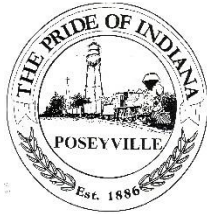
Mr. Farrar noted that the existing ordinance dates back to 1931, underscoring the need for significant revisions. He emphasized that updating the ordinance is long overdue and that this revision represents a meaningful step forward. He also recommended that the new ordinance include references to all related ordinances on rates and fees, which would provide clarity and consistency. This approach would not only improve transparency for the public and strengthen our partnerships, such as with the County Area Plan Commission.

The draft ordinance is being circulated for feedback prior to being submitted to legal counsel for final review. Council members are encouraged to submit any comments or suggestions.

### **Gas Tracker Rates**

Mr. Farrar, Mrs. Robling, and Mrs. Rankin have been reviewing the current gas tracker rates in conjunction with the applicable ordinance. It was explained that the gas rate consists of two main components: an operational cost and a tracker cost. The tracker reflects the actual cost of gas purchased. The Town contracts with a third-party provider to purchase gas on its behalf. This provider monitors usage trends and locks in a volume of gas from the market accordingly.

The primary concern discussed was the operational cost portion of the rate. While the tracker cost fluctuates with market prices, the operational cost—a fixed figure—has not been updated in several years. Although the last ordinance update was in 2022, the actual operational cost figures may date back as far as 2015. As Mr. Farrar pointed out, it no longer costs the same to bring in skilled labor, such as a welder, to service the gas pipeline as it did nearly a decade ago.



The group recommended that the Council consider authorizing an updated review of operational costs. Clerk-Treasurer Rankin noted that USDI has provided a strong sample ordinance that the Town can utilize once new cost data is obtained. Following discussion, the Council agreed on the need to reassess the operational cost figures. Randy Rankin made a motion to authorize the office to engage with USDI to review and provide updated operational cost information for gas services, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

President Rutledge initiated a discussion regarding the current gas tracker rates. He suggested maintaining stable rates rather than allowing them to fluctuate from month to month, noting that sudden increases—particularly in the fall—can place a greater burden on customers. The Council discussed the potential benefits of rate stability, especially for customer budgeting and predictability during the summer months. After thorough discussion, Randy Rankin made a motion to maintain the current gas rates for the months of June, July, and August. The motion was seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Mr. Farrar provided the Council with an update on the Black River Rest Stop project. He reported that the vault has been installed, but a few remaining components still need to be added. These items have been discussed with the project engineers and are currently being addressed.

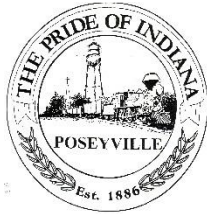
Mr. Farrar noted that while the infrastructure is in place, no billable waste is expected to be received until late fall. No action was required by the Council at this time.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Kolley IVFA membership dues in the amount of \$260.00 for 13 members. Motion was made by Mike Baehl to approve paying the IVFA dues for \$260.00, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Mr. Kolley mentioned a potential water leak in the fire station, Mr. Farrar said they would look into it for the Town. No further action required.



Chief Kolley presented the Council with a memorandum from Posey County EMS indicating that they will no longer be providing certain medical supplies commonly used during emergency medical runs.

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin expressed concern regarding the immediate impact on the Town's budget, noting that the change takes effect mid-year, making it difficult to plan or allocate funds accordingly.

President Rutledge stated he would contact the County Commissioners to gain further insight into the reasoning behind the change and will report back to the Council and the Fire Department. He also recommended reaching out to the Posey County Health Department to explore the possibility of obtaining supply donations, especially in light of their recent grant funding. No further action is required at this time.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Marshal Carter provided the Council with the monthly run report prior to the scheduled meeting.

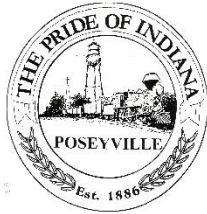
He noted that it has been an unusually wet spring and asked for continued patience as the Town works with property owners regarding weed and grass ordinance violations.

Marshal Carter also expressed appreciation to the Posey County Health Department for their donation of an AED battery for the Town police vehicle.

There was discussion about the possibility of relocating the speed sign. The Council requested that Marshal Carter provide data on average speeds and any related information at the next meeting to help determine the most effective placement.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**



President Rutledge opened the Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations 2025-06-17-01 on 4450 Community Growth & Innovation Fund. The funds are from the County ARPA funds. The funds were received after the budgeting process and need appropriations approved as follows:

Fund Name	Fund Number	Appropriations	Additional Amount
Community Growth & Innovation	4450	4450.001.311 (Professional Svcs)	\$ 200,000.00
Community Growth & Innovation	4450	4450.001.361 (Other Services and Charges)	\$ 100,000.00
Community Growth & Innovation	4450	4450.001.442 (Infrastructure)	\$ 225,000.00

President Rutledge asked for any public comment. After hearing none, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Randy Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-06-17-01 Additional Appropriations, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Mr. Bender advised the Council that they could bundle the approval of the following resolutions as presented. President Rutledge advised the members all of them were just house cleaning of funds from previous years. Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the following resolutions, seconded by Randy Rankin.

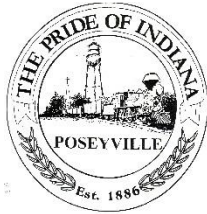
Resolution No. 2025-06-17-02 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds Between Appropriated Funds

Resolution No. 2025-06-17-03 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds Between Appropriated Funds

Resolution No. 2025-06-17-04 Declare Certain Town Funds Dormant and Transfer Balances to the General Fund

Resolution No. 2025-06-17-05 Declare Certain Town Funds Dormant and Transfer Balances to the General Fund

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)



President Rutledge initiated discussion on Ordinance No. 2025-06-17-06, regarding billing procedures for the Poseyville Volunteer Fire Department, which was provided to the Council prior to the meeting. Mrs. Rankin inquired whether Attorney Bill Bender had reviewed the ordinance and if he had any recommendations. Mr. Bender confirmed that he had reviewed the document and suggested a few revisions. He also noted that the termination clause was particularly favorable to the Town should the services not proceed as intended.

The Council agreed that it was important to move forward with the ordinance and agreement promptly and opted to adopt the ordinance with the recommended revisions. President Rutledge then entertained a motion to suspend the second reading procedures. Randy Rankin made a motion to suspend the rules requiring a second reading; the motion was seconded by Mike Baehl. The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2025-06-17-06 Establishing and Implementing a Program to Charge Mitigation Rates for the Deployment of Emergency and Non-Emergency Services by the First Department for Services Provided/Rendered by/for the Town of Poseyville Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Mike Baehl.

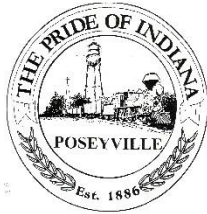
Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-06-17-06 Establishing and Implementing a Program to Charge Mitigation Rates for the Deployment of Emergency and Non-Emergency Services by the First Department for Services Provided/Rendered by/for the Town of Poseyville Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

The Council discussed the Service Agreement and effective date to move forward based on recommendations from Town Attorney, Mr. Bender. A motion was made to initiate the Service Agreement, effective as of the date of the meeting. The address on the Service Agreement should be edited to be the Town Hall address.





After careful review by the Council, Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the Service Agreement, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

President Rutledge presented Resolution No. 2025-06-17-07 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds Between Funds not previously approved in the consent of Resolutions. He asked for a motion to approve said Resolution. Randy Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-06-17-07, Authorizing the Transfer of Funds Between Funds, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (no), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin provided the Council with a budget calendar that included the following important dates and requested a budget planning session in July, following receipt of tax notices from the County. President Rutledge said a meeting would be set, posted, and advertised.

September 9, 2025 Council Meeting & Budget Public Hearing  
October 15, 2025 Council Meeting & 2026 Budget Adoption

#### STREET DEPARTMENTS

None

#### PARKS DEPARTMENT

None

#### COMMUNITY CENTER

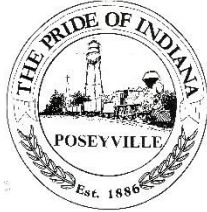
None

#### CEMETERY

None

President Rutledge provided the Council with an update on the online ordinance access project in partnership with American Legal Publishing. He announced that the ordinances are now finalized and ready to be posted to the Town's website for





convenient public access. Clerk-Treasurer Rankin stated she would add the link to the website as soon as possible. The Council expressed their appreciation to President Rutledge for his efforts in bringing the project to completion.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next scheduled Town Council meeting is on July 17, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in person and via live stream.

A motion was made to hold the next meeting and adjourn at 6:34 p.m. on a motion from Randy Rankin, seconded by Mike Baehl, and approved by unanimous consent. Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Respectfully submitted,

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B. Jodie Rankin, Clerk-Treasurer  
Town of Poseyville

**ATTEST:**

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Justin Rutledge, Council President