

## **POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date of Meeting: November 12, 2025**

[Link](#)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Justin Rutledge at 5:30 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

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

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

- List retained (4)

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes from the October 15, 2025, meeting were presented and emailed to Council members in advance for their review.

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the 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 Council members before the meeting for their review, along with a final copy presented at the meeting.

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

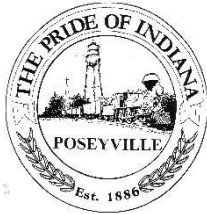
Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **PAYROLL ALLOWANCE DOCKET**

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

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

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



### **UTILITY ADJUSTMENT DOCKET**

No adjustments presented this month. No action required.

### **BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Bank Reconciliations for October 2025 were provided to the Council via email before the meeting and presented in their entirety during the meeting.

A motion to approve the October 2025 Bank Reconciliations was made by Randy Rankin and seconded by Mike Baehl.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Theresa Bratcher** provided an update on the Heart of Poseyville and Poseyville Carnegie Public Library's *Christmas in Poseyville* event, scheduled for November 29, 2025, from 4:00–8:00 p.m. She reported that Dave and Susie Straw of Wadesville generously donated this year's Christmas tree, which has already been delivered and set up. A tree-decorating contest will be held again this year, and discussion took place regarding the best way to secure the decorated trees.

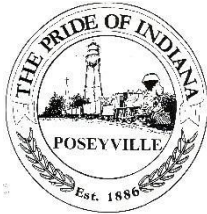
The event will feature cookie decorating, hot chocolate, and reindeer petting. All activities will be held inside the community center, except for the reindeer. Theresa noted that there will be no need for a street closure this year.

She also thanked Mike Baehl for handling the electrical work needed to power the holiday tree displays. The Council expressed their appreciation to Theresa for her efforts in organizing another successful community event. No action required.

**Steve Collins** requested to speak on behalf of the Poseyville Volunteer Fire Department and provided a packet of photographs from recent fire scenes showing the Fire Rescue Truck in use. He expressed concern that the Town Council was not providing adequate funding to properly service the Rescue Truck or maintain the safety and reliability of its equipment for volunteers. Mr. Collins stated that the truck had not been serviced in more than three years and that several components were not functioning correctly.

The Council informed Mr. Collins that the Town had not denied any maintenance requests from the Fire Department for fire trucks or equipment. Mr. Collins acknowledged that he had assumed the Town was not providing sufficient funds for necessary upkeep.

It was noted that the Town Council had approved servicing of the Engine in May. Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Droege, who was present, confirmed that the Engine had recently been serviced. He also advised both the Council and Mr. Collins that the



Rescue Truck is already scheduled for service and that this matter was planned to be discussed at tonight's meeting. The Rescue Truck can be serviced and billed in early 2026 to avoid additional appropriation costs in the current year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Posey County Storm Siren Agreement**

President Rutledge presented to the Council the Posey County Storm Siren Agreement with Posey County Emergency Management, which outlines that the County will assume responsibility for all storm siren maintenance. Mr. Rutledge noted that there is an option for the Town to take over all maintenance itself; however, he did not believe that option would be in the Town's best interest, though it remains available.

After considerable discussion, the Council agreed that allowing Posey County Emergency Management to take over full maintenance of the storm siren is the best option for the Town.

Mr. Droege inquired about the battery backup feature. President Rutledge will follow up with Posey County Emergency Management regarding that feature.

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the Storm Siren Agreement. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

### **Posey County Trail Coalition – Letter of Support**

Mr. Rutledge informed the Council that Meagan Greenwell had requested a letter of support on behalf of the Posey County Trail Coalition for a grant application to develop a Master Trail Plan. The plan aims to create a trail network that will eventually connect all Posey County communities. The Council expressed unanimous support for the request. No action was required.

### **Declare Surplus – Community Center Commercial Stove**

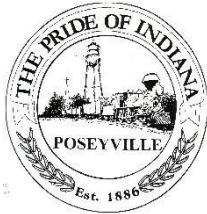
Mrs. Rankin informed the Council of ongoing issues with the gas feature on the commercial stove at the Community Center and presented a request to declare the stove as surplus.

Randy Rankin made a motion to surplus the commercial stove at the Community Center. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

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

### **2026 Anthem Health Insurance Renewal**

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin presented the Council with the 2026 health and vision insurance renewal options. She reported that the Town received a 9.94% increase in



premiums. Mrs. Rankin reminded the Council that the employee per-pay contribution had already been increased in the recently adopted Salary Ordinance. She also noted that the alternative plan options would raise employee out-of-pocket costs and would not result in any meaningful savings for the Town.

Mike Baehl made a motion to renew the current plan for Town employees for 2026.

Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

### **Resignation of Utility Clerk, Joann Bogard**

Mrs. Rankin presented the Council with the resignation of Utility Clerk Joann Bogard, who is retiring to spend more time with her husband and to travel. Mrs. Rankin informed the Council that the position has been posted and several applications have already been received. No further action was required.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Kolley submitted paperwork prior to the meeting requesting payment to Volunteer Fire Department personnel as presented. Assistant Chief Jeff Droege was present and available to answer any questions.

Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the yearly payment to all volunteer firefighters as presented. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

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

Chief Kolley also requested approval to order hazmat supplies to replenish the Department's inventory as presented.

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Randy Rankin.

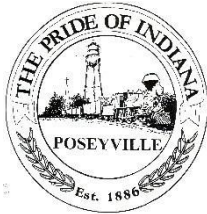
Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Assistant Chief Jeff Droege requested approval to have the Rescue Fire Truck serviced by Gerry Wilderman, with billing requested in 2026 due to budgetary considerations.

Mrs. Rankin advised that if billing could not be deferred, she should be notified promptly to initiate an additional appropriation process.

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the service of the Rescue Fire Truck. The motion was seconded by Randy Rankin.

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



## **UTILITY DEPARTMENTS**

### **Gas Line Relocation – Nix Companies Frontage Road**

Jeremy Farrar, Utility Manager, provided an update regarding a gas line relocation. During a recent renovation of the Nix Parking Lot, too much cover was removed from a gas utility line. According to USDI, the Town's gas service provider, the line needed to be relocated. The gas line has since been relocated across Frontage Road within the Town's easement.

There was considerable discussion on how to prevent similar unplanned expenses in the future. Mr. Farrar explained that the Town of Poseyville had no jurisdiction to stop the project because it occurred within a County right-of-way. He also noted that, by law, Town employees must be present at every gas utility job to provide "watch and protect" services.

President Rutledge expressed concern that Town taxpayers or ratepayers should not be responsible for potentially rising utility rates related to unplanned projects such as this. Mr. Farrar added that USDI was on site for only one day and hopes the final bill will be less than the originally quoted \$10,000.00.

No further action was required.

### **Farmington Ridge – Utility Inspection Updates & Pay Request**

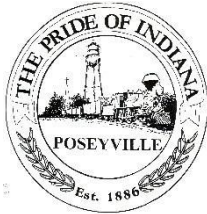
President Rutledge asked Mr. Bender, a member of HVG, for an update on the annexation. Mr. Bender indicated that annexation would occur after the project is completed. Mr. Farrar expressed concerns regarding the inspection of the streets. At the same time, Mr. Rutledge noted that the Council had previously understood that the land would be annexed immediately after APC approval of the Farmington Ridge project plans.

There was extensive discussion regarding jurisdiction by the Posey County Regional Sewer District if the land is not annexed into the Town. The Council noted that a prior contract with CHA Services only covered wastewater inspection. Given CHA's thorough work to date, the Council requested that Mr. Farrar contact CHA to provide inspection services for all utilities, including wastewater, stormwater, gas, and streets.

Mr. Rankin emphasized that comprehensive inspections are critical because the land is under a TIF, and the Town will not receive property tax revenue from that area for over 20 years.

Randy Rankin made a motion to contract with CHA Services for inspection of wastewater, stormwater, gas, and streets. The motion was seconded by Justin Rutledge.

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



### **New Utility Rates**

Mrs. Robling, Utility Office Manager, reminded the Council and customers that a reconnect fee of \$75.00 per utility service is now in effect for non-payment. Bills have recently been mailed.

She encouraged customers who anticipate difficulty with payment to contact the Utility Office before the due date. Customers are urged not to wait until after the due date or until a shut-off notice is issued. The Utility Office is willing to work with customers to avoid service interruptions, but arrangements must be made before the due date or shut-off.

### **STREET DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Farrar explained that the Town had received a request from the school district to trim low-hanging tree limbs throughout town to prevent interference with school buses. He expressed concern because some of the trees are on private property, and the Town does not own the equipment necessary to safely trim trees.

Mr. Bender advised that the Town should not enter private property to trim trees, but may trim branches hanging over the right-of-way. Any trimming done by the Town will be limited to removing obstructions and may not maintain the trees' aesthetic appearance.

The Council recommended contacting property owners to give them the option of trimming the trees themselves. Mr. Farrar was instructed to obtain quotes for hiring a professional tree service to address areas the Town cannot safely trim.

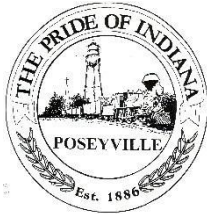
No further action was required.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Run Report was provided to the Council before the meeting. No action was required.

Marshal Carter was unable to attend the meeting but asked Mrs. Rankin to read several statements on his behalf. He reported that Halloween saw a large number of trick-or-treaters in the community, and that no candy wrappers or trash were left around town. He noted that this is a testament to the parents and reflects how much everyone values the community.

Marshal Carter also announced that the Police Department is accepting monetary donations for the 9th annual toy drive, which provides Christmas toys to families at North Elementary. Donations can be made to the Poseyville Police Department through



Town Hall. The toy drive typically provides gifts for approximately 130 children and costs around \$1,500.00 each year. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Mr. Baehl acknowledged that Mr. Carter's wife handles all the gift wrapping for the families, and the Council expressed their appreciation for their efforts.

## **PARKS DEPARTMENT**

### **COMMUNITY CENTER**

Mrs. Rankin provided the Council with bids for new stoves for the Community Center. Mr. Baehl assisted by obtaining a quote from Effinger Appliance Store, and Mrs. Rankin also provided a quote from Lowes. The Lowes bid was lower, offering two gas stoves for \$1,242.00.

Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the purchase of two stoves for the Community Center, seconded by Mike Baehl.

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

Mrs. Rankin also reported that Lori Motz inquired about handling chairs with broken welds. The Council advised that repairs would not be effective and instructed that the broken chairs be discarded.

### **CEMETERY**

None

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next scheduled Town Council meeting is on December 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in person and via live stream.

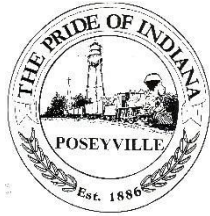
A motion was made to hold the next meeting and adjourn at 6:37 p.m. on a motion from Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin, and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jodie Rankin, Clerk-Treasurer

**ATTEST:**



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Justin Rutledge, Council President