POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date of Meeting: September 9, 2026
Link

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

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

In-person Attendees:

- List retained (5)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the August 11, 2026 were presented and emailed to Council members in advance for their review.

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

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

CLAIMS DOCKET

Clerk-Treasurer, Jodie Rankin, provided the claim docket to the council prior to the meeting.

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

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

PAYROLL DOCKET

The Payroll Docket was presented and emailed to Council members in advance for their review.

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

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

BANK RECONCILIATION

The August Bank Reconciliation was presented to Council members in advance for their review and available at the meeting.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sean Armstrong – 187 S. St. Francis Street

Mr. Armstrong addressed the Council regarding the possibility of installing a culvert and drainage pipe in the ditch located in front of his residence. He explained that he has been maintaining the ditch by mowing and weed-eating and asked whether a culvert could be installed or, at a minimum, riprap placed in the ditch.

Mr. Rutledge explained that the ditch provides drainage that helps alleviate flooding on the south side of town. He advised Mr. Armstrong that we would contact Utility Superintendent

Jeremy Farrar to obtain his professional opinion and determine the appropriate steps for reviewing the feasibility of the proposed project.

Jared Baehl – Heart of Poseyville Community Center Porch Project

Mr. Jared Baehl asked the Council to consider a proposed porch overhang on the south end of the Poseyville Community Center. Mr. Baehl requested permission for the Heart of Poseyville to pursue grant opportunities and other outside funding for the project.

Mr. Jared Baehl explained that the Kiwanis Club currently rents a tent each year for Autumnfest and that a permanent porch overhang could eliminate the need for the rental. He suggested that Kiwanis may also be interested in contributing to the project.

The project is being considered as a proposed 2027 project. The Council expressed support for the project and had no objection to the Heart of Poseyville and other interested groups seeking outside funding opportunities.

Mr. Jared Baehl – Poseyville Welcome Sign

Mr. Jared Baehl presented the Council with an AI-generated concept for a welcome sign proposed for the north end of Poseyville. The concept image is incorporated into these minutes by reference.

The Council expressed support for the proposed sign and agreed it would be a welcome addition to the Town. Mr. Baehl and Mr. Rankin expressed concern regarding the potential cost of additional lighting and suggested that the Heart of Poseyville explore the use of solar light poles.

Mr. Jared Baehl stated that he would add the welcome sign project to the list of projects for which outside funding opportunities will be pursued.

The Council thanked Jared and the Heart of Poseyville for the suggestions and their efforts to improve the community.

Mrs. Heather Morlan – Heart of Poseyville

Mrs. Heather Morlan presented flyers regarding the Heart of Poseyville Events Committees and invited residents who are interested in assisting with events to participate. She explained that individuals may participate in one event or multiple events, depending on their interests and availability.

Mrs. Morlan presented information regarding the Find the Fugitive event, which will be held on Halloween night at the Poseyville Community Center and is being presented by the Poseyville Carnegie Library and the Poseyville Police Department.

Mrs. Rankin advised the Council that early voting will also take place that day, with the polls closing at 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Rankin stated that she had contacted Kay Kilgore regarding arrangements to have the voting equipment picked up promptly to help avoid traffic issues.

Mrs. Morlan indicated that the 5:00 p.m. time should allow adequate time for food trucks to set up for the evening event.

Mrs. Morlan also presented information regarding Fill Poseyville with Scarecrows, inviting local businesses, schools, neighbors, churches, and residents to participate in the fall activity by displaying a scarecrow by October 1.

Mr. Rutledge pledged a $200 Hirsch's gift card for the winning scarecrow display.

2027 Budget Public Hearing

Public Hearing Opens – 5:56 p.m.

Public Notice via DLGF on August 19, 2026

Access at https://www.budgetnotices.in.gov/ReportMaster.aspx?uid=1077&yr=2026&mode=ALL

President Rutledge asked if there are any comments or questions about the budget. Patron, Justin Collins asked if there was any money budgeted for tree maintenance. Mrs. Rankin said that there was not an individual line item specifically for tree maintenance.

Hearing no further questions, President Rutledge closed the public hearing at 5:59 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Notice of award was previously approved pending bond closing. The 2026 Wastewater bond closed on August 27, 2026.

President Rutledge asked that we once again confirm awarding the bid to Deig Brothers Lumber & Construction Agreement

Mike Baehl made a motion to award Deig Brothers the contract. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

CHA Agreement for Professional Services in Conjunction with 2026 Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

Town Attorney, William Bender, approved changes to the CHA Agreement. Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the CHA Agreement. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

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

Kleinpeter Consulting Group Agreement

Kleinpeter Consulting will handle all the Davis-Bacon Labor Standard requirements for the SRF Funding.

Mike Bahel made a motion to approve the PCRSD rate agreement. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

Water and Gas Distribution Rate Increase Introduction

President Rutledge advised those in attendance that Council had discussed a small, incremental rate increase at the previous meeting and invited citizens to share their opinions. He explained that the proposed increases being introduced this month include a 1% increase to water usage rates and a 1% increase to the natural gas distribution charge.

The Clerk-Treasurer discussed the proposed incremental rate increases with the Council, explaining that the costs of maintenance, supplies, and operations continue to rise. She noted that implementing smaller annual increases, such as 1% or $0.10, may help the Town manage rising costs rather than waiting several years and requiring a larger increase.

Mrs. Rankin provided the Council with scenarios illustrating the potential impact of the proposed increases on customers. She explained that a 1% increase for a customer using 3,000 gallons of water would result in an estimated increase of approximately $0.57 per month.

Randy Rankin suggested implementing a 1% increase to both water usage rates and the natural gas distribution charge to avoid confusion between the proposed 1% increase on one and a $0.10 adjustment to the other. The Council reached a consensus to proceed with the process for a 1% increases.

Mrs. Rankin will move forward with advertising a public hearing for the proposed ordinances, which will be considered at the October 20, 2026, Town Council meeting. No further action was required.

OLD BUSINESS

Duke Light Poles - Farmington Ridge

Clerk-Treasurer advised the Council that an email was submitted by HVG member, Jason Hoehn requesting the installation of two Duke light poles at the entrance of Farmington Ridge. HVG has agreed to pay the 10 contract up front minus estimated usage costs.

Mrs. Rankin advised the Council that she used two poles at the Community Center to estimate potential usage charges as follows:

Estimated Expenses

58.28
+ 17.46
$ 75.74 per month

X 12 months
$ 908.88 per year

X 10 years
$ 9,088.80

2 lights / energy estimation based on CC average.

$ 12.91
X 12

X 10
$ 1,549.20

$9088.80 - $1549.20 = $7,539.60

After some discussion among the Council members, Randy Rankin made a motion to accept the request from HVG. HVG will pay the Town of Poseyville $7,539.60 for two Duke light poles for the ten-year agreement up front upon installation. Mike Bahel seconded the motion.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Marshal Carter had submitted August Call Report prior to the meeting.

President Rutledge requested that the Council accept Charles Carter letter of resignation stating his last day would be September 9, 2026.

Randy Rankin made a motion to accept Charles Carter resignation in full ending on September 9, 2026. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Rutledge reminded everyone that we will set a time to conduct interviews from submitted applications. A notice will be posted for the executive session.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

UTILITIES AND STREET DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Rutledge and Mrs. Rankin attended the pre-construction meeting for the wastewater treatment plant updates. We do not have a notice to proceed date yet due to the timing of equipment to be ordered and anticipated delivery date. We do anticipate it to begin soon.

Mrs. Rankin provided SRF payment requests to be approved by minutes for soft costs on bond closing as follows:

Bose McKinney & Evans LLP	$55,000.00
LWG CPAs & Advisors	$40,000.00
William Bender Law, LLC	$ 3,000.00

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve all SRF pay requests as presented. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

PARKS DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY CENTER

CEMETERY

Mrs. Rankin asked the Council to consider the Mowing Agreement with Chris Schillinger for the 2027 mowing season.

There was a lot of discussion about the new robot mowers and the technology to mow at a cemetery. The Council felt there is still some work to be done for programming.

After careful consideration, Mike Baehl made a motion to contract with Chris Schillinger for the 2027 mowing season. Seconded by Randy Rankin

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

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Poseyville Town Council will be held on October 20, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. It is a later date due to fall break at the school being the week of the normally scheduled meeting.

October 20, 2026 will be the public hearing for the Water and Gas rate increase ordinances at 5:30 p.m., in person and via livestream on the Town's YouTube channel.

A motion was made by Mike Baehl to schedule the next meeting and adjourn the current meeting at 6:36 p.m. Randy Rankin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Jodie Rankin, Clerk-Treasurer

ATTEST:

Justin Rutledge, President