POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date of Meeting: October 20, 2026
Link

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Justin Rutledge at 5:32 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 (4)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the September 9, 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 September 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)

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney, Mr. William Bender was present and requested to go so that he can get to another appointment.

Attorney Bender presented Ordinance No. 2026-10-20-04, *An Ordinance Moving Town Elections to Even-Numbered Years and Staggering Council Member Election Years.* Attorney Bender also provided the statutory authority permitting the proposed change and read the ordinance as presented.

Attorney Bender explained that the ordinance is intended to reduce the costs associated with conducting municipal elections and to provide greater continuity in Town government. Under the ordinance, the Town will conduct an election in 2027. The Council candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve a three-year term. The elected Clerk-Treasurer will also serve a three-year term. The two remaining successful Council candidates will serve one-year terms. Thereafter, all elected offices will serve four-year terms, with elections held in even-numbered years in accordance with the ordinance.

Mike Baehl made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-10-20-04 on first reading. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

President Rutledge asked the Council to suspend the second reading rule. Randy Rankin made a motion to suspend the second reading rules. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

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

Randy Rankin made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-10-20-04 on second reading. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Notice as Advertised at https://www.poseyville.us/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/NOTICE-OF-PUBLIC-HEARING.pdf

Public Hearing Opens – 5:44 p.m. President Rutledge asked if there are any comments, concerns, or questions about the advertised 1% rate increase for water and gas distribution rates. Ordinances were available for anyone wanting a copy.

Hearing no comments, President Rutledge closed the public hearing at 5:46 p.m.

Ordinance No. 2026-10-20-01 Water Service Regulations First Reading

President Rutledge then presented the Ordinances for first reading. Council Member Michael Baehl stated that he continued to have concerns regarding the waiver of tap-in fees for the Farmington Ridge development in light of the proposed rate increase. Mr. Baehl also acknowledged the significant increases in operating costs associated with the new water plant updates, including rising equipment and supply expenses.

The Council discussed the rationale behind the previous decisions regarding tap-in fees, and members provided comments regarding their respective votes on the matter.

Following discussion, Randy Rankin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-10-20-01, Water Service Regulations, on first reading. Justin Rutledge seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance No. 2026-10-20-02 Gas Rate First Reading

Randy Rankin made a motion to pass the first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-10-20-02 Gas Rate First Reading. Justin Rutledge seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

2027 Budget Ordinance 2026-10-20-03 for Appropriations and Tax Rates

President Rutledge informed everyone that the public hearing for the budget was conducted on September 9, 2026. He asked for a motion to adopt the 2027 Budget. Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the 2027 Budget Ordinance No. 2026-10-20-03. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

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

Resolution 2026-10-20-01 Establishing Legal Binding Authority for Contracts with INDOT

In order for the Town to submit a Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) application, a resolution is required to establish legal authority for signing grant-related documents and contracts. President Rutledge presented Resolution No. 2026-10-20-01 to the Council, designating him as the Town's authorized representative with legal authority to sign the grant application and related documents.

The Town of Poseyville submitted a CCMG application totaling $1,043,890.50. The State's 80% matching contribution would be $835,112.40, with the Town responsible for the remaining 20%, totaling $208,778.10. The Town anticipates covering its local match without the need to borrow funds or issue bonds.

The State is expected to announce grant awards around December 2026. If awarded, the projects are anticipated to be completed during the summer of 2027.

Mike Baehl made a motion to accept Resolution 2026-10-20-01 Establishing Legal Binding Authority for Contracts with INDOT. Seconded by Randy Rankin.

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

HRI Dental Renewal Rates 11-01-2026 - 10-31-2027

Principal Life Insurance Renewal 11-15-2026 - 11-14-2027

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin presented to the Council renewal for dental, life, and AD&D rates for the next coverage period. Dental had a 2% increase with life and AD&D having no increase.

Mike Baehl made a motion to renew dental, life, and AD&D contracts for the next coverage period. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Council introduced the new Town Marshal, Hunter Reese.

Mike Baehl made a motion to hire Hunter Reese effective October 19, 2026 at the rate and benefits agreed upon between the Council and Mr. Reese. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

Monthly Call Report

Marshal Reese submitted the Monthly Call Report to the Council prior to the meeting. The report is incorporated into these minutes by reference. Marshal Reese explained that the report reflects the calls and incidents directly handled by him and his department. No action was required.

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iWorQ Service Agreement

The iWorQ system will provide a computerized platform for managing citizen complaints, tracking ordinance violations, generating notice letters, and monitoring lien follow-up

activities. The system will enable the Marshal's Department and Town Hall staff to more effectively track, manage, and follow up on ordinance violations, notices, and liens. The annual renewal cost is $1,500.00, with the rate locked in for a period of five years. No further action was required.

Sonitrol Security Updates

President Rutledge advised the Council, employees, and department heads that a review and cleanup of system security access permissions is currently underway. Individuals who experience any loss of access are asked to contact Town Hall so that access rights can be reviewed and updated as needed. No further action was required.

Halloween Activities

Marshal Reese advised that trick-or-treating in the Town of Poseyville will take place on October 31, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Marshal Reese also reminded those in attendance that the annual "Find the Fugitive" event, hosted in partnership with the Poseyville Carnegie Public Library, will be held that evening.

Residents were encouraged to review event flyers posted throughout town and on social media for additional details and to participate in the event. No action was required.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief, Jason Kolley had no action required for this month.

UTILITIES AND STREET DEPARTMENTS

Right-of-Way Permit Request – Farmington Ridge Sign

Mr. Justin Collins, representing HVG, submitted a Right-of-Way Permit application requesting permission to install a subdivision sign within the right-of-way at Farmington Ridge.

President Rutledge confirmed receipt of the permit application and advised the Council that a similar request had previously been considered. The Council denied the request at its July 14, 2026, meeting due to concerns regarding the sign's proximity to underground utilities and the difficulty of removing the sign should utility work become necessary.

Mrs. Rankin advised the Council that an email notifying HVG of the denial was sent immediately following the July 14, 2026, meeting.

Mr. Collins discussed the confusion surrounding the approval process, noting that APC had approved the sign and that there appeared to be misunderstandings regarding additional approvals, procedures, and the respective roles of the parties involved.

Mr. Farrar advised the Council that he had contacted Husk Signs to discuss the proposed sign location and applicable requirements regarding separation distances from utility infrastructure.

The Council engaged in extensive discussion regarding the proposed location of the subdivision sign.

Council member Michael Baehl expressed concern regarding residents' line of sight at the nearby stop sign and the potential impact of the sign on traffic visibility.

Mike Baehl made a motion to deny the Right-of-Way Permit application. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

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

SRF Payment Request – CHA Consulting

Mrs. Rankin provided SRF payment requests to be approved by minutes for CHA Consulting from SWIFT funds of $8,795.30.

Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the SRF payment request for $8,795.30. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

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

Patron Request

Resident Noel Devonshire, 119 N. St. Francis Street, requested permission to install a driveway access from the alley located behind his residence, consistent with neighboring properties. The Council discussed the request and advised Mr. Devonshire to coordinate with Jeremy Farrar to ensure that no utilities would be impacted by the proposed driveway placement. Mr. Farrar reviewed the request and indicated that the proposed location was acceptable. The driveway will consist of gravel and is not intended to be a permanent structure. No further action was required.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY CENTER

CEMETERY

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Poseyville Town Council will be held on November 10, 2026 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 6:26 p.m. Randy Rankin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Jodie Rankin, Clerk-Treasurer

ATTEST:

Justin Rutledge, President