

**Town of Roachdale**  
Roachdale Community Building; 204 N Indiana Street, Roachdale, IN 46172  
September 19, 2024 Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Roachdale Town Council held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2024 7:00 p.m. at the Roachdale Community Building, 204 N Indiana Street, Roachdale, IN.

President Zach Bowers called the monthly meeting to order after recognizing that the agenda was posted pursuant to the Indiana Open Door Law and that a quorum was present.

Council Members Present: President Zach Bowers, Paul Wireman, Amanda Newcomer

Council Members Absent: None

Also Present: Clerk-Treasurer, Town Marshal, Maintenance Operations Coordinator, Town Attorney

Guests Present: Bill Watts, Larry Kersey, Lauren Ruark, Leslie Herrick, Tonya Bowers

2025 Budget Public Hearing – President Zach Bowers opened the 2025 Budget Hearing and along with Debbie explained the 2025 Budget. President Zach Bowers asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. President Zach Bowers closed the budget public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

- I. Wastewater Project Update – Jacob Hoffman, Midwestern Engineering, gave an update on the project and stated that Division I, Collection System, has been completed and a walk thru will be done next week. Jacob Hoffman stated that the EQ basin groundwork has been completed and the contractor is still waiting for the steel delivery to proceed. President Zach Bowers asked if there had been anymore issues with the utilities and Maintenance Operations Coordinator Mark Ketchem stated that there had not.
  - A. Pay Applications  
Jacob Hoffman presented pay application #18 in the amount of \$21,957 from Midwestern Engineers to be paid from SRF funds.  
Motion by Paul Wireman, second by President Zach Bowers, vote unanimous, to approve pay application #18 from Midwestern Engineers in the amount of \$21,957 to be paid from SRF funds.  
Jacob Hoffman presented pay app #7 from Mitchell & Stark in the amount of \$198,949 to be paid from OCRA funds.  
Motion by Paul Wireman, second by President Zach Bowers, vote unanimous, to approve pay app #7 from Mitchell & Stark in the amount of \$198,949 to be paid from OCRA funds.  
President Zach Bowers presented an invoice from Kleinpeter Consulting Group LLC in the amount of \$2,300 to be paid from Wastewater funds.  
Motion by Paul Wireman, second by President Zach Bowers, vote unanimous, to approve the invoice from Kleinpeter Consulting Group, LLC in the amount of \$2,300 to be paid from Wastewater funds.
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - A. August 15, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session
  - B. August 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - C. September 19, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session

President Zach Bowers presented the August 15, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session, the August 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the September 19, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session Minutes for approval.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve the minutes as presented.

- III. Approval of Claims 08/16/2024 – 09/17/2024. President Zach Bowers presented claims for 08/16/2024 -09/17/2024 for approval.  
Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve claims 08/16/2024 – 09/17/2024 as presented.  
Approval of Payroll – 08/16/2024 – 09/17/2024. President Zach Bowers presented payroll for 08/16/2024 – 09/17/2024 for approval.  
Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve payroll 08/16/2024 – 09/17/2024 as presented.
- IV. August 2024 Bank Reconciliation – President Zach Bowers presented the August 2024 Bank Reconciliation for approval as prepared by Suzy Bass, Local Government Services, as part of our internal control.  
Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve the August Bank Reconciliation as presented.
- V. Public Comment Time  
Larry Kersey stated that he thought the Police Department is doing an amazing job. Larry Kersey stated that the speeding at the intersection at Washington and Main Street is a lot better and people have learned that Marshal Ty Burks isn't just sitting behind a desk all day but is out patrolling.
- VI. Old Business
  - A. Quotes for Old Grocery Store Safety Concerns – Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that he had asked for 3 quotes and stated Casey Birchman was not interested in quoting. Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that the quotes he received were for demo and cleanup and Just-R-Time was significantly higher at \$44,279 while Casey Bertrum's was \$19,475. President Zach Bowers stated before moving forward all would have to provide certificates of insurance to the Town. Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that he had also received a quote from Crossroads Construction for \$15,000. President Zach Bowers asked Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem's thoughts and he stated that he thought Crossroads was the cheapest and could get it done before RibFest on the 28<sup>th</sup>. President Zach Bowers asked Town Attorney Peebles if the Town had free reign to proceed since we have a court order and Town Attorney Peebles stated that that is correct. President Zach Bowers asked what had been done in the area between the Post Office and the store and stated that we need to get rid of anything that can be climbed on. Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem asked if we still needed to do a fence as had been previously discussed and President Zach Bowers stated that was not necessary if the items were removed that could be climbed on.  
After a lengthy discussion on how to proceed, motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Amanda Newcomer, if sale not finalized by October 15<sup>th</sup> to move forward with Crossroads Construction quote for demo and cleanup not to exceed \$15,000 and a lien be placed on the property.

President Zach Bowers called for a roll call vote on the motion. Amanda Newcomer yes, Paul Wireman no, President Zach Bowers yes.

- B. Meter Locations Ordinance - President Zach Bowers presented and read Ordinance 07-2024 – An Ordinance Concerning Water Meter Locations. President Zach Bowers stated that the ordinance would restrict water meters from being located inside buildings.

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated we would have to move meters at the Bar, Roachdale Hardware, J J 's Liquor, and stated there is a split meter for Greene Realty and her rental apartment. Maintenance Operations Ketchem stated that the meter at Roachdale Hardware would be more costly to move since it involves asphalt and concrete. President Zach Bowers stated that all of the meters would not have to be moved at once.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve Ordinance 07-2024 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, adding that the utility would be responsible for the cost of moving any water meter.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Ordinance 07-2024.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve Ordinance 07-2024 An Ordinance Concerning Water Meter Locations as read and amended.

- C. Lonoke/Church Street Ordinance – President Zach Bowers presented and read Ordinance 08-2024 An Ordinance Confirming the Name of Lonoke Street.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve Ordinance 08-2024 as read and presented.

## VII. New Business

- A. Wa-Pe-ke-Way Chapter, National Society Daughter of the American Revolution Military Banner Request for 2025 – President Zach Bowers stated that he thought we needed to go with a different size on the banners, ours are too large, ours are 80 and most are 45-60.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to move forward with the project and to change the banner size to 24 x 60.

- B. Halloween – Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, for 2024 Trick or Treat hours to be Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- C. INDOT Bridge Deck Overlay Project on US 231 Over Big Raccoon Creek Un-Official Detour – President Zach Bowers discussed the project that will begin Spring 2025 and is projected to last 30 days. President Zach Bowers stated that he has concerns with the letter and thinks it should specify that the Town of Roachdale will be reimbursed for damages, not Putnam County.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to authorize President Zach Bowers to sign the letter after changes have been made to show the Town of Roachdale will be reimbursed for damages.

#### VIII. Property Cleanups

Town Attorney Peebles stated that there will be a court hearing on October 28<sup>th</sup> for Kristin Stein. Town Attorney Peebles stated there is a status conference scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> for Grace and Charles Ring, and he is responding to their attorney's discovery.

Town Attorney Peebles stated that there is a status hearing in court on September 23<sup>rd</sup> for Sanford Horn.

Town Attorney Peebles stated that there is a status hearing in court on November 27<sup>th</sup> for John Long/ Patsy Bradley.

Town Attorney Peebles will file a lawsuit on the Robert Williams property.

Marshal Ty Burks reported that he has cited 13 new properties, President Zach Bowers asked if any had been resolved and he responded that there had not. President Zach Bowers stated that we need to have more documentation and at every meeting the Council needs to have updated pictures with dates. President Zach Bowers explained the process of cleanup notices and stated that new fines will go into effect Monday.

#### IX. Town Marshal Report – Marshal Burks presented his monthly report and stated that he will be completing CPR classes and car seat training.

Marshal Burks stated that he had a discussion with the Putnam County Sherriff, North Putnam schools, and the North Putnam Superintendent about doing an active shooter scenario at North Putnam schools.

Marshal Burks stated that officers will be out this weekend during the Community Clean Up Days.

President Zach Bowers stated that he has heard positive things about police presence and told Marshal Burks to keep up the good work.

#### X. Maintenance Operations Coordinator Report

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem reported that the new welcome signs will be here next week and that they have been held up at the cutting facility.

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem reported that the speed limit signs will be delivered the 27<sup>th</sup> and asked if the Council had a preference on the order that they wanted them placed.

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that he has done sidewalk repair at the park and Debbie stated that they had done a good job on it.

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that all gas meters have been scrubbed cleaned, painted and all vegetation has been removed. He also reported that the pump at the well has been repaired and is now waiting to be wired.

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem reported that the outside painting at the Town Office is almost complete.

#### XI. Clerk-Treasurer Items

Debbie presented adjustments totaling \$544.44 for approval.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve the adjustments totaling \$544.44 as presented.

Debbie stated that she is continuing to try and resolve the issue with the Post Office with the stamps that were ordered online in July and have not been received.

Debbie gave an update on the new bills and stated that she has received many positive comments.

Town Attorney Peebles presented Resolution 02-2024 A Resolution of the Roachdale Town Council in Support of a Liquor License Application for approval. President Zach Bowers read the resolution.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, motion unanimous, to approve Resolution 02-2024 as read and presented.

XII. Items from Town Council Members

Amanda Newcomer – Amanda Newcomer stated that she did a ride along with Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem last week and thanked him and stated that she was not sure what his department did before the ride along and she appreciated learning what they do and all they do. Amanda Newcomer stated parents would like to see a police presence at the school before and after school. President Zach Bowers stated they cannot be here all the time. Marshal Burks stated he had been sick and had also had internet problems and had been in his office trying to catch up.

Amanda Newcomer thanked Debbie for all of her hard work, she stated she was in her office last Friday and she was extremely busy with lots of phone calls, people in and out and constant interruptions.

Paul Wireman- No items.

President Zach Bowers – President Zach Bowers asked Marshal Burks to follow up on 207 N Walnut, Deputy Marshal Tash had served them a property nuisance violation notice giving them 14 days or it would be cited.

President Zach Bowers asked Town Attorney Peebles to check on live streaming requirements and what our options would be to be in compliance with the new law that takes effect in July 2025. President Zach Bowers also questioned what we would need to budget, if we would need an ordinance and stated it could be a huge fiscal impact.

President Zach Bowers asked Town Attorney Peebles to prepare an ordinance of the number of police reserves we could have. Debbie asked if it was correct that it still meant that even though it states a number, we can have up to we still do not have as many as it states and President Zach Bowers stated that was correct.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

TOWN COUNCIL:

  
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J Zachary Bowers, Council President

*A. Newcomer*

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Amanda Newcomer, Council Member

*Paul Wireman*

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Paul Wireman, Council Member

Attest

*Debbie Sillery*

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Debbie Sillery, Clerk Treasurer