

Town of Paoli
Minutes of the Special Session
March 24, 2026

The Paoli Town Council met in Special Session at 2:00 PM on the above date. President Theron Owen led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Theron Owen, Bobbie Bostock, Donna Dillard, Danny Hickman, & Brian Shipman. Also in attendance were Chief Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Rachel Anderson and Town Attorney Lyn Tucker Fullen.

Motion to approve the March 17th, 2026, Regular Session Minutes was made by Bobbie Bostock and seconded by Danny Hickman. In a 4-0 vote, motion passed with Councilman Shipman abstaining.

In new business President Owen presented the establishment of the Paoli Municipal Volunteer Fire Department. Councilman Hickman made the motion to appoint Austin Farris as the new fire chief with a salary of \$15,000 per year paid in quarterly installments of \$3,750 from the LIT fund. Councilwoman Dillard seconded the motion and in a unanimous vote the motion passed.

Councilwoman Dillard made a motion to amend Section 30.18, Agenda, of the Town of Paoli, Indiana Code of Ordinances to require all departments to present a report at every town meeting. Also, adding that Town of Paoli citizens be allowed to request to be on the agenda for any official business or to speak on specific topics. Councilman Hickman seconded the motion and in a unanimous vote the motion passed.

President Owen introduced Austin Farris to speak about the new Paoli Municipal Volunteer Fire Department. At this time, Fire Chief Farris stated that there are currently seventeen (17) certified firefighters ready to join the Paoli Municipal Volunteer Fire Department and an additional five interested in taking classes to become certified. Fire Chief Farris will conduct an inventory of all fire department gear and equipment on April 1st. Councilman Hickman made a motion to accept the fire training center property from the Paoli Volunteer Fire Department Inc. With Councilwoman Dillard seconding the motion, in a unanimous vote motion passed.

It was requested by Councilman Hickman for attorney Fullen to look into the legality of where security cameras can be placed on the fire department property. Councilman Bostock informed that due to the safe haven baby drop box there are stipulations of what can and cannot be on camera. Along with Town of Paoli needing to absorb the responsibilities of the fees incorporated with said baby drop box.

President Owen then requested that ordinance 2017-7 section 32.56 be amended to reflect that the Town of Paoli Clerk-Treasurer now be the person who will be responsible for keeping meeting minutes, manage all correspondence, dispense all monies, and maintain an accurate bookkeeping system. President Owen made the motion and Councilman Shipman seconded and in a unanimous vote motion passed. Next, President Owen made a motion to amend section 32.53 bylaws to add subsection D that the Paoli Municipal Volunteer Fire Department bylaws be on file at the Town of Paoli and be available for public inspection except for any parts deemed classified by Indiana code. Councilman Bostock seconded the motion and in a unanimous vote the motion passed. Councilman Hickman made the motion to amend section 32.52 from up to fifteen volunteer firefighters to up to thirty volunteer firefighters. With Councilman Bostock seconding the motion and in a unanimous vote the motion passed.

In other business President Owen stated Council needed to consider the hiring of two new employees for the Town of Paoli sewer department. Councilwoman Dillard made a motion to table the hiring and schedule an executive session for 1:00pm on Friday 3-27-26 to discuss and interview potential candidates for the Town of Paoli sewer department with a public session to immediately follow. Motion seconded by President Owen and in a unanimous vote motion passed.

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Next a motion was made by President Owen to table to purchase of the digger truck until council can meet with the Clerk-Treasurer to determine exactly where the funds would come from to purchase this vehicle. Councilwoman Dillard seconded the motion and in a unanimous vote the motion passed.

Councilman Hickman presented that he would like to have an independent audit conducted by a third party due to the departure of the current Clerk-Treasurer but was waiting on quotes. Councilman Bostock made a motion to table until quotes are obtained. President Owen seconded this and in a unanimous vote the motion passed.

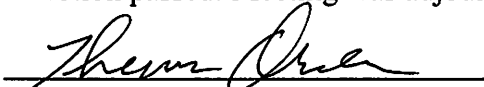
Councilwoman Dillard made a motion to reinstate and appoint Randy Sanders as Police Chief, with an annual salary of \$60,000.00, effective immediately; and for Chris Cook to be reinstated as Assistant Police Chief with a pay raise to \$27.19 per hour. Councilman Hickman seconded the motion and in a 3-2 vote motion passed with Councilman Hickman, Shipman and Councilwoman Dillard voting yes and Councilman Bostock and President Owen voting no.

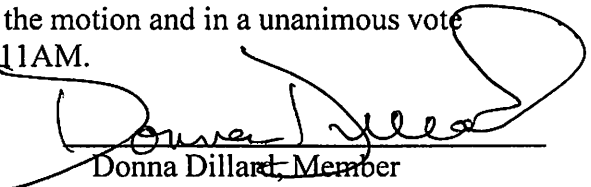
Next was Chief Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Anderson, who presented that due to the upcoming election on 5-5-26 the Town of Paoli office will be closed therefore the scheduled council meeting would need to be rescheduled. Councilman Bostock made a motion to change the scheduled meeting from 5-5-26 to 5-6-26. President Owen seconded the motion and in a unanimous vote the motion passed.

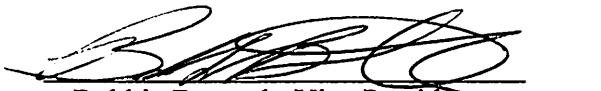
Chief Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Anderson then presented that the original vote for the supplies for the cemetery restoration was passed with an approval amount of \$500 but after shipping fees the total cost came to \$783.21. Councilman Hickman made a motion to approve the additional \$283.21 with Councilwoman Dillard seconding the motion and in a unanimous vote the motion passed.

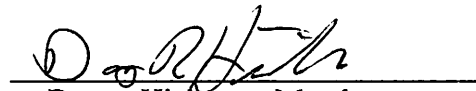
Under citizen comments, Amy Gilbert presented that there were discrepancies in the refunds and payments of employee deductions in the years 2024-2026. She also stated that the December 17th, 2024, minutes had a discrepancy in the dates and ask that the minutes be amended to reflect the date change. Councilwoman Dillard made the motion to approve with Councilman Shipman seconding the motion. In a 3-2 vote the motion passed with Councilwoman Dillard, Councilman Hickman & Councilman Shipman voting yes and President Owen and Councilman Bostock voting no.

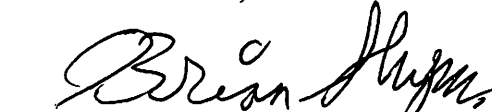
With no further information to be discussed President Owen made a motion to adjourn with Councilman Bostock seconding the motion and in a unanimous vote motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:11AM.


 Theron Owen, President


 Donna Dillard, Member


 Bobbie Bostock, Vice President


 Danny Hickman, Member


 Brian Shipman, Member

ATTEST:


 Rachel Anderson
 Chief Deputy Clerk-Treasurer