# Town of Paoli

***Minutes of the Special Session***
***May 06, 2026***

President Danny Hickman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were council members Danny Hickman, Donna Dillard, Theron Owen, Brian Shipman and Bobbie Bostock. Also present was Town Attorney Marilyn T. Fullen and Clerk-Treasurer Tara Wolfe.

Motion to approve April 21, 2026, council meeting minutes made by Danny Hickman, seconded by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 5-0.

Motion to approve April 23, 2026, Special Session minutes made by Danny Hickman, seconded by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 5-0.

Lisa Botello with Commonwealth reported on the HWY 150 Project. Lisa advised that a water line has been relocated and the jack and bore pits have been excavated and will be underway when weather clears.

Lisa then reported on the Lead Line Project. She states the pre-closing for Phase I is scheduled for May 13, 2026, and the closing date is scheduled for May 27, 2026. She says she wrote a design contract for the amendment of the design that goes into the mandatory alternate work with the project. Lisa states she has the contract to sign but has Theron listed as the signer, it was confirmed that would need to be changed for Danny to sign. She states they did apply for the Phase II Project and will get word on the award status sometime in the summer.

Lisa reported on the sewer plant. They are working with Scott Schutte and provide updates to IDEM. She inquired about the spare mixer float status. Council advised they did vote to buy one but were waiting on Eric with Commonwealth on the possibility of getting a free one; Lisa will check with Eric on that.

Lisa inquired about the FEDC (front end document). Originally had Theron to sign but will need to be changed for Danny to sign. She states the FEDC is in relation to the bid they submitted to SRF and the other is for the amendment to the design services. She states the sooner the better for signing on the FEDC but the design services document could wait until the next meeting. Motion made to authorize Danny to sign both documents made by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

Bobbie Bostock inquired about the other HWY 150 Project taking place in front of the jail for culvert replacement. Lisa said she did not have any information on that but would check with Eric on any updates and get back with council.

Zane Beatty, representative with Boyce BSNA, reported on the option to migrate to Boyce Cloud. Beatty described the new cloud software and its features. Valerie Lee with the town speaks to the council about the positive aspects for employees. Council requests the demo video on the software be emailed to them. The estimated price for the software and training was $73,000. Motion made to table until the next meeting so council can look over information by Danny Hickman, seconded by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 5-0. Attorney Fullen advises council, because of the cost, they are required to solicit 2 other written quotes, if possible.

Danny Hickman states that Duane Burton was supposed to come to the meeting and was unable to make it. He wanted to pass on information to the public that Duane has a son that's in an all-American D-Day band. He is the only student from Indiana and they're going to be traveling to Washington DC and France to perform. He wanted to let the public know if anyone should want to donate as the cost of travel is $850.

Next on the agenda was the drug testing policy. Council established there was nothing on the record to talk about drug testing of new employees. Motion made to accept drug testing for all new hires by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0. Attorney Fullen clarifies that this applies to all new hires, full-time and part-time. She will prepare a policy. Danny Hickman questions whether the random drug testing policy is still in place, for all departments, Attorney Fullen agrees and states it is in the handbook.

Motion made to add council to the drug testing policy by Danny Hickman, seconded by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0. Bobbie Bostock clarifies that this also applies to Clerk Treasurer, all agree. Attorney Fullen reminds that council and clerk treasurer are not town employees but elected officials.

Motion made to add Clerk Treasurer to the drug testing policy by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0.

Lauren Shipman and Scott Krieger with HWC Engineering reported on the wide variety of services they offer, including the CCMG (Community Crossing Matching Grant) program. Scott describes the program and the funding they have been able to secure for other communities. Scott lets council know that the next CCMG grant was moved from July to September, open on September 1 and closes on September 30th, for project construction starting next year. He also goes on to note that there are several portions that need to be compliant with the state and they ensure that we are active and compliant with funding. Danny Hickman questions Attorney Fullen if they have to take quotes for more than one company if they decide to switch; she says they do not for engineering services.

Under new business, Attorney Fullen presents an engagement letter from Thomas Pitman with Barnes and Thornburg, outside bond counsel on the lead line replacement project. The engagement letter is for Phase I, with the closing being on May 27, 2026. She states that Tucker and Tucker will continue to serve as local bond counsel. Motion made to approve the Barnes & Thornburg engagement letter for the Lead Line Project was made by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0.

Motion made to hire HWC Engineering for the next town CCMG project by Donna Dillard. Motion rescinded until a proposal can be made by HWC.

Next on the agenda is the incumbency certificate for BNY for the 2026 Waterworks Bond, requested by the town financial advisor. Motion made for Danny Hickman to sign the letter by Theron Owen, seconded by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

A letter to Hoosier Hills Credit Union was presented to council for the Clerk-Treasurer to be added to the bank account. Attorney Fullen drafted the letter for President Danny Hickman to sign. Motion made to approve the letter and for Danny to sign by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

Theron Owen states at the last meeting it was approved for him to sign the lease agreement for the digger truck purchase with Beacon Credit Union. Motion made by Theron to have Danny sign as President, seconded by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 5-0.

Motion made to approve Veteran 7 Lease by Donna Dillard, seconded by Danny Hickman. Passed 5-0.

Motion made to hire Levi Nunez for the sewer department by Brian Shipman, seconded by Danny Hickman. Passed 5-0.

Danny Hickman proposes getting signs that say "Town Office Business Parking Only" for the front of the building. Motion made to get new sign for parking by Danny Hickman, seconded by Brian Shipman. Attorney Fullen advises that State may take the signs down; Danny advises they can check with the state on putting the signs up. Motion rescinded by Danny Hickman.

Danny advises that he was appointing Janet Keehn to the vacant position on the Plan Commission.

Donna Dillard mentions the pavement that has been taken up on Sandy Hook Rd in two places. She has received several complaints from drivers. Bobbie advised the Council that the General Foreman had contacted the quarry to determine when asphalt production would resume. During the meeting, Bobbie received notification that the quarry would begin producing asphalt on May 7, 2026.

Motion made to purchase more chairs for the council room by Danny Hickman, seconded by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

Attorney Fullen provides the town attorney report:

- Mrs. Fullen presented the updated lease/purchase agreement with SVB&T for the police vehicles. SVB&T requested a new lease/purchase agreement with an effective date of 5.7.26 to be signed by the new President and Clerk-Treasurer of the Paoli Town Council. This will also push back the first annual payment date, which is now due and payable on 5.7.27, and change the payment amounts by a total of $6.53 (increase) due to it being funded in May. Upon motion made by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Donna Dillard, and unanimously passed, the Paoli Town Council approved the agreement and authorized Danny Hickman and Tara Wolfe to sign the lease/purchase agreement and any other documentation needed to facilitate closing of this loan.
- Mrs. Fullen advised that the proposed RDC Amended Declaratory Resolution adding Mineral Springs to the Redevelopment Area will be considered by the PPC on May 13th, and if approved, to the Town Council at its meeting on May 19th at 10:00 a.m. The RDC must have a public hearing on the Amended Resolution before it is adopted.
- **Adding Method of Payment for Fire Chief**: Mrs. Fullen inquired about adding the payment for Fire Chief as Section 32.77 to the Code of Ordinances stating that the Fire Chief is to be paid the amount of $3,750.00 quarterly out of the LIT fund, or out of such other fund as my be determined by a majority of the Town Council of the Town of Paoli, Indiana. Council requested that it be added to the Code of Ordinances.
- Alliance Wastewater Operator Apprenticeship: an employment reimbursement agreement was approved by council regarding Jakob Stroud. Council President will need to sign the agreement. Motion made for approval for Danny to sign by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0.

Attorney Fullen advises that she has several years of old records stored at their office; she is requesting to have them moved to the town office and council indicates that the records can be brought to the Town Office.

Danny mentions using an attorney out of Jasper for matters that are a conflict of interest for Attorney Fullen's office. She recommends Isaac Brown. Motion made to approve hiring Isaac Brown for matters in which Tucker and Tucker have a conflict of interest was made by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0.

Code Enforcement Benji Farris report: Building permit at 636 N Helm St-Privacy Fence. Building permit at 124 SE Court St-phase 1 for room stabilization, masonry, porches and windows. Weeds at 361 W Apache Drive-owner rectified. Weeds at 205 W Main St-owner rectified. Weed at 714 College Hill-owner rectified. Abandoned vehicle 361 W Apache Dr-owner is working on getting those vehicles in compliance with the abandoned vehicle ordinance: same thing for 312 College Hill. Attorney Fullen asks if the timeframe for the unsafe premises has passed for the property on Horton Ave; council advises that it has or is close. Motion made to proceed to solicit quotes for removal of the burned trailer by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0.

Chief Randal Sanders report: Personnel update. Detective Babcock has successfully completed all phases of the hiring process for Indiana State Police. He is scheduled to report to Indiana State Police basic training in June. Detective Babcock's final working day for the police department will be May 17th. Chief Sanders is requesting permission from the council to begin advertising and hiring process for the open patrol officer position immediately. Motion made to start the hiring process by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

Chief Sanders provided the council with a spreadsheet detailing abandoned vehicles that were auctioned off April 23rd through May 4th. They have encountered one issue with a vehicle where the winning bidder rescinded his bid following the auction. The vehicle was relisted for sale on May 14th auction. The collecting for the WHAS Crusade for Children has started. They have raised $3132.79. Fundraising will continue in the coming weeks. Officers with Paoli Pd joined other agencies for advanced firearm training focusing on officer readiness and effectiveness.

Fire Chief Austin Farris presented updates regarding the Fire Department. Chief Farris reported that the department responded to 24 calls during the month of April consisting of various types of incidents. He also advised that the department is working with the State to begin certification classes and will soon submit the required syllabus in order to initiate the classes.

Chief Farris updated the Council regarding turnout gear, stating that the lease agreement is being drafted and will be forwarded to the Town attorneys for review. Upon approval and execution of the lease by the Council, the turnout gear may then be purchased.

Chief Farris further reported that the department has identified a vendor prepared to begin maintenance services on the fire trucks. The Council approved allowing the vendor to perform the initial inspection; however, any additional maintenance requests must be brought before the Council for approval._A motion was made by Bobbie Bostock to approve a one-time service with the vendor, seconded by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

David Grimes provided updates regarding the Parks Department. Mr. Grimes reported that the Little League has signed its contract and operations are running smoothly. He also addressed a recent Facebook post alleging that needles have been found at the Community Park. Mr. Grimes stated that Parks Department staff have located no needles; however, if any are discovered, the Police Department is contacted for proper disposal.

Clerk-Treasurer Tara Wolfe presented the payroll allowance for March in the amount of $133,470.26. The payroll allowance for April was $137,516.12, which included overtime totaling $4,771.64. A motion to approve the March and April payroll claims was made by Bobbie Bostock and seconded by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0. The Accounts Payable claims for the period of April 22, 2026, through May 6, 2026, were for $513,898.15. A motion to approve the claims was made by Bobbie Bostock and seconded by Brian Shipman. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Donna Dillard voting no.

. Danny Hickman requests that the salary for the part-time Plant Care Technician be added to the salary ordinance at $10.30 per hour. Motion made by Danny Hickman, seconded by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

Danny Hickman addressed the Council regarding employees holding Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs). Mr. Hickman discussed increasing the pay rate for newly hired CDL drivers above the current base pay rate. In response, the Council also considered providing an increase in pay for current Town employees who possess a valid CDL. A motion was made by Brian Shipman to approve a $1.50 per hour increase for all current and future employees holding a valid CDL, seconded by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer requested clarification from the Council regarding the purchase of a department cell phone and the issuance of a Town credit card for Fire Chief Austin Farris. A motion was made by Donna Dillard to approve the purchase of a department cell phone and the issuance of a Town credit card with a spending limit of $2,500 for Chief Austin Farris, as well as a department cell phone for Brian Shipman. The motion was seconded by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 5-0.

Citizen Comments:

Jan Dixon addressed the Council on behalf of the Senior Citizen Center at the request of the Center's Board. Ms. Dixon provided an overview of the events and programs currently hosted by the Senior Citizen Center. She also advised that although the facility contains a kitchen, it is currently closed and not in use. Ms. Dixon stated that only pre-packaged snacks and beverages are permitted at the Center and that no cooking activities are taking place. The Council advised that arrangements have been made for the kitchen fryer to be inspected later this year. Ms. Dixon invited members of the Council to participate on the Senior Citizen Center Board and stated that she would provide the Clerk-Treasurer with a list of current board members and their contact information.

Motion to adjourn made by Danny Hickman, seconded by Bobbie Bostock at 11:13 A.M. Passed 5-0.

APPROVED BY:

Danny Hickman, President

Donna Dillard, Vice President

Theron Owen, Member

Brian Shipman, Member

Bobbie Bostock

ATTEST:

Tara Wolfe, Clerk-Treasurer