Town of Paoli

Minutes of the Regular Session
June 02, 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 James C. Tucker and Clerk-Treasurer Tara Wolfe.

Motion made to approve amended salary ordinance by Bobbie Bostock, second by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

Motion made to approve Executive Session from 05/22/2026 by Bobbie Bostock, second by Brian Shipman. Passed 4-1, Donna voting NO.

Motion made to approve regular session meeting minutes from 05/19/26 by Bobbie Bostock, second by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0.

Eric with Commonwealth reported that construction on the US 50 project is underway. Installation of the new pipe is expected to be completed by the end of the week, at which time the current pipe will be abandoned and the new sections placed into service. This will allow INDOT to proceed with the culvert replacement work. Additional project work includes gradient seeding and installation of erosion-control armoring is anticipated to be completed the following week. The project is expected to be substantially complete upon completion of these items.

Eric presented Pay Application No. 2 for Triple Tex work performed between April 27, 2026, and May 14, 2026, in the amount of **$210,211.25** for consideration and approval by the Town Council. Motion made to approve by Bobbie Bostock, second by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0.

Eric reported that Phase I of the Lead Service Line Replacement Project has completed all required loan and SRF grant closings. A pre-construction conference is scheduled for 06/03/26 at 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Council members were invited to attend, though attendance is not required. Contracts with the contractor will be authorized; however, a Notice to Proceed will not be issued until a more detailed project schedule is received. Based on discussions with the contractor, work is expected to begin by the end of the month. Residents may observe contractor personnel conducting service line investigations throughout town. Property owners who have not yet signed Right-of-Entry Agreements were encouraged to do so, as eligible lead service lines identified through the investigation process will be replaced as part of the project. Eric also reported on Phase II funding opportunities. The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) released a draft project priority list for lead service line projects, and the Town ranked sixth among twenty-nine applicants. The draft list is currently open for public comment, with final rankings expected by the end of June or early July. Based on the Town's high ranking, the Engineer indicated there is a strong likelihood of receiving additional grant funding for future lead service line replacement work. The Town has applied for an additional $2 million in funding to expand lead service line replacement efforts. The Engineer clarified that current funding eligibility remains limited to service line-related work and does not include water main replacements or meter replacements.

Eric reported that a replacement valve has been installed, and efforts were underway to bring the second SBR unit back online. Council advised Eric that the new float has been delivered. Eric stated the remaining work should be completed during the week, resulting in improved operation and performance of the SBR system.

Council members discussed the importance of notifying residents before contractors begin door-to-door service line investigations. It was suggested that information be shared through local news outlets, Reach Alert, and the Town's Facebook page. The Engineer agreed to obtain scheduling information during the upcoming pre-construction meeting and work to provide public notice several weeks in advance of field activities. Citizen Amy Morris inquired about the process of seeking reimbursement from INDOT for costs associated with the US 150 Utility Relocation Project. The Engineer advised that reimbursement requests may be submitted after the Town has paid the applicable invoices, including previously approved pay requests, with the last pay request being expected by the first meeting in July. Eric further clarified that the utility relocation work qualified for reimbursement through the sewer utility, as the water line relocation was necessary to accommodate the sewer improvements. Council was advised that paying project costs through the sewer utility would simplify reimbursement documentation and review. Regarding electric utility relocation costs, the Engineer reported that INDOT had previously indicated that the direct cost of relocating electric lines was not eligible for hardship reimbursement. However, costs associated with tree removal related to the relocation may be eligible. The Engineer stated that those costs would be identified and submitted for further review to determine potential reimbursement eligibility.

Nick Pierce with Clark-Dietz presented the closeout documentation for the 2025-1 CCMG Project and reported that all project invoices, including those submitted by Temple & Temple, have been processed and paid. He indicated that the required cover letter would need to be signed and submitted along with the closeout documentation. Following INDOT's review, the Town is expected to receive an invoice in the amount of **$31,731.15**. This amount reflects an underrun in project costs compared to the original estimate and represents reimbursement of INDOT's unused funding allocation for the project. Nick advised that payment of the invoice should be made within **30 days** of receipt to maintain the Town's good standing and eligibility for future Community Crossings Matching Grant projects. Motion made to have Danny sign the letter by Bobbie Bostock, second by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0.

Danny Hickman discussed a drainage issue on North Oak Street following a complaint regarding flooding in the area. Discussion was held regarding previous efforts to obtain permission from the property owner to access the property and clean the drainage ditch. Town officials reported that past attempts to secure authorization have been unsuccessful due to concerns about potential damage to the property during maintenance activities. A council member noted that the property owner had previously provided verbal permission for the Town to access the property, subject to an appropriate waiver. It was suggested that a written waiver or access agreement be pursued. Additional discussion included the possibility of legal correspondence if necessary.

Danny Harford appeared before the Council to request approval for temporary occupancy of an RV on property owned by Lloyd Raymer and Robbie Rhodes at 415 W. Thornton St. Mr. Harford explained that the property owners wished to place an RV on the property as a temporary residence while arranging for construction of a permanent home. The request included connection of utilities. Mr. Harford stated that the property would be maintained and that the RV was intended only as a temporary living arrangement. Council members noted the Town's ordinances prohibit the use of campers or recreational vehicles as residential dwellings, which was confirmed with the town attorney. The request was denied.

John Hopper with Veteran 7 appeared before the Council to request approval for several maintenance and improvement projects at the Jaycee Club house. Mr. Hopper proposed improvements which included interior painting and cosmetic upgrades, removal of existing carpet and installation of laminate flooring, disposal of damaged and weathered furniture, and modifications to the restroom to be ADA compliant, as well as installation of a countertop, hot water heater, and small kitchenette area. He also requested to install a 50-foot ADA-accessible sidewalk connecting the parking lot to the building entrance. Mr. Hopper indicated Veteran 7 would fund the interior improvements but requested the Town consider funding the sidewalk project, with anticipation to have a grand opening on July 17, 2026. Council discussed the request and advised that the decision would fall under the authority of the Building Corporation and/or Park Board, for approval of the improvements before any work could proceed. Town officials indicated that a meeting would be scheduled with the appropriate board or committee to consider the request and that Veteran 7 would be notified of the outcome.

Danny Hickman states he was contacted by Dr. Sales for a letter of support for an Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) National Preservation Planning Grant application related to the Mineral Springs. Council was advised that the grant application does not require a local funding match and that only a letter of support from the Town was requested. The application deadline was noted to be June 5. The town attorney will draft the letter. Motion made to have the letter drafted and to have Danny sign when it completed by Bobbie Bostock, second by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0.

Amy Gilbert appeared before the Council and requested that an Executive Session be scheduled to review information she had compiled through examination of financial records. Ms. Gilbert further requested that the meeting be held in the training room at the Police Department to use the projection equipment necessary to display detailed information that would not be adequately visible in printed handouts. Meeting to be held on June 11, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. Motion made to change meeting venue by Donna Dillard, second by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0.

Amy also addressed the Council regarding the Town's financial condition and ongoing efforts to review financial records. She stated she had concerns regarding fund management after her review of financial records. Ms. Gilbert requested that the Council consider temporarily limiting or freezing non-essential expenditure while financial records are reviewed and additional information is gathered. She stated this would provide Town officials with additional time to evaluate the Town's financial status and make informed decisions regarding future expenditures. As an example, Ms. Gilbert referenced a previously approved South Gospel Street engineering contract and noted concerns regarding available funding for engineering-related expenses. She advised that additional information related to the Town's finances would be presented during the Executive Session. She encouraged Council members to consult with the Clerk-Treasurer prior to proposing expenditures or projects so that funding sources and available balances can be evaluated in advance. Additional discussion focused on the financial status of various Town funds, including Local Road and Street and Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) accounts. Concerns were raised regarding expenditures exceeding annual revenue allocations and the resulting reduction of fund balances and cash reserves. Motion made to freeze any non-essential spending by Donna Dillard, no second. Motion dies. Motion made to table the freezing spend until after review of the financials by Danny Hickman, second by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 4-1, Donna voting NO.

Danny Hickman revisited the compensation for employees who obtain/maintain a Commercial Driver's License. Discussion centered on whether additional compensation should be provided to employees currently holding a CDL and which positions should qualify for such compensation. Public comments were received regarding the need to evaluate compensation practices in comparison with other municipalities and to consider whether CDL compensation should be incorporated into a broader salary structure rather than addressed separately. Additional concern was expressed regarding making compensation changes before a comprehensive review of pay scales and available funding had been completed. Motion made to increase CDL pay by 1.50 for current and future employees by Brian Shipman, second by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 4-1, Donna voting NO.

Danny Hickman advised the current agreement with Scott Schutte is near expiring and would need to be extended until the end of June, possibly longer due to the wastewater plant operator being out longer than expected. It was discussed that an amendment would be presented in the next meeting.

Town Attorney report presented by James C. Tucker

- **Notice to Joshua Dixon**: Mr. Tucker presented a notice letter to Joshua M. Dixon (who provided water distribution operator services to the Town of Paoli) that the Town of Paoli, Indiana, has a full-time certified Water Distribution Operator and no longer needs Dixon to provide any water distribution operator services to the Town of Paoli. Upon motion made by Theron Owen, seconded by Dona Dillard, the Town Council of the Town of Paoli, Indiana approved the notice and authorized Danny Hickman to sign as President by a vote of 5-0.
- **First Amended Employment and Reimbursement Agreement**: Mr. Tucker presented the First Amended Employment and Reimbursement Agreement between the Town and Jakob Stroud that reduces the required period of employment from seven years to a period of at least four (4) years_from July 1, 2026. Upon motion made by Donna Dillard, seconded by Theron Owen, the First Amended Employment and Reimbursement Agreement was approved by a vote of 5-0.
- **Quiet Title Action**: Mr. Tucker reported that Matt Cooper finished surveying the Jaycee park thirty-four-foot gap in deeds and provided an aerial plat. Mr. Tucker inquired as to whether the Town wants to proceed with a quiet title action for that strip and noted that Jaycee Park is owned by Paoli Building Corporation. At its meeting on April 28, 2026, the Paoli Building Corporation voted to defer Jaycee Park survey issue as to 34-foot strip of property and all related matters to the Paoli Town Council. Upon motion made by Bobbie Bostock, seconded by Theron Owen, the Town Council of the Town of Paoli, Indiana voted to proceed with quiet title action as to the thirty-four-foot strip of property by vote of 4-1, Donna ABSTAINED.
- **Lease/Purchase with SVB&T for digger truck**: Mr. Tucker reported that the loan for the lease/purchase as to the digger truck closed on Friday, May 29, 2026, at SVB&T.
- **RDC**-Mr. Tucker advised that the proposed RDC Amended Declaratory Resolution adding Mineral Springs to the Redevelopment Area has been set for public hearing/special meeting on June 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
- **311 Josephine St.** Unsafe Premises: Mr. Tucker reported that there was not enough time to advertise for an unsafe premises hearing on June 2, 2026, so that hearing will take place on June 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- **Cemetery Maintenance:** Mr. Tucker reported that Mrs. Fullen contacted the Paoli Township Trustee, Glenda Campbell (ptwptrustee@yahoo.com) regarding the cemetery parcel for which there is no listed owner and the cemetery parcel listed as owned by Trustees of the I.O.O.F regarding maintenance of the entire cemetery. Glenda Campbell reported that she had no issues with the Town continuing to maintain the entire cemetery, including cutting down and removing any trees as necessary which may be on the other two parcels.
- **215 Horton Ave** Unsafe Premises: Mr. Tucker inquired as to the quotes that were opened at the last meeting and taken under advisement as to demo and remove the burned trailer only. The lowest quote was from LRC. LRC indicated its insurance carrier on the quote but needs to provide a certificate of liability insurance listing Town of Paoli as additional insured. Upon motion made by Brian Shipman, seconded by Donna Dillard, the town council approved LRC's quote contingent upon certificate of liability insurance listing town as additional insured. Mr. Tucker also asked about quotes as to demo and remove the other abandoned trailer at 215 Horton Ave. Passed 3-2, Theron and Bobbie voting NO.

Donna Dillard questioned the process for recovering costs incurred by the Town when addressing nuisance properties, including property maintenance, mowing, and blight remediation activities. Mr. Tucker explains when the Town performs work on private property due to code enforcement or nuisance violations, the Town may place a lien against the property for the costs incurred. The lien may be recovered if the property is sold or through certain legal proceedings, including tax sales. He noted that recovery of such costs is often uncertain, particularly when the property owner lacks the financial resources to pay or when the property has limited value. In many cases, taxes and other priority claims are paid first, and the Town may recover only a portion of its costs or none. Mr. Tucker clarified that the Council wishes to obtain demolition quotes for the second trailer located at 215 Horton Avenue. Council agrees to solicit quotes from the same five contractors previously contacted for demolition of the first trailer on the property. Motion made by Brian Shipman, second by Bobbie Bostock. Passed 5-0.

Council considered an applicant for the part-time seasonal position responsible for watering and maintaining flowers around the square. She was recommended for hiring after her interview with the General Foreman. It was clarified that the applicant would report to the Buildings & Grounds department and would be paid equally out of the Electric, Water and Sewer funds at $10.30 per hour. Motion made by Brian Shipman, second by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0.

Benji with Code Enforcement presents his report. Completed Weed and Rank properties include 224 SE 2nd St; 312 College Hill St; 211 Stace St; 174 Paul St; 122 Monon St; and 249 Josephine St. Weed and Rank letters sent to 413 W Horton Ave; 110 E Braxton St; Maple St – Vacant Lot; 414 W Main St; 393 SW 1st St (easement in front of Dollar store); 313 NW 3rd St. (vacant lot, town mows); 447 N Gospel St (vacant lot, towns mows); 700 W Main St (old Mintworth property/SVBT). A building permit was issued for 523 W Apache Drive for a deck and ramp.

Benji addressed issues with the following properties. The easement **at 393 SW 1st St**. The individual who had previously mowed the area on behalf of the property owner is no longer doing so. Council requested clarification regarding responsibility for maintaining easement areas. The Town Attorney advised that maintenance responsibility remains with the property owner, although each easement must be reviewed individually to determine legal responsibility based on the specific easement and property records. Benji reported that a notice had been sent to the property owner and they would wait for a response and determine appropriate next steps. The properties at **313 NW 3rd St** and **447 North Gospel St** have been maintained by Town crews for the past several years. The Town has continued to perform mowing services and place liens against the property. Benji was reaching out to SVB&T about **700 W Main St**. The bank was in the process of acquiring the property last time they spoke, he would reach out to a bank representative about having the property cleaned up. Reference was made to a graduated penalty schedule, with penalties increasing after the initial offense.

Benji, presenting on behalf of the Police Dept, reported that fireworks were successful and totaled $2,616. Additional fireworks collection events will continue throughout June. provided an update regarding planning for the Town's Independence Day fireworks display. Following discussions with the fireworks vendor and Town representatives at Jaycee Park, it was determined that the designated rain date will be July 5. The vendor advised they will proceed during light rain; however, a postponement would be necessary in the event of heavy rainfall.

Fire Chief Austin Farris presented a proposal to apply for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to replace the department's SCBA system, including twenty-seven SCBA packs, four rescue packs, and associated accessories. The total grant request is $341,500 with a required 5% local match of $17,075. He reported that the existing low-pressure SCBA equipment is not compatible with other county departments and is being discontinued. The Clerk-Treasurer advised that sufficient budgeted operational funds appear available to cover the local match if approved. The FD is also willing to do fundraisers to offset the local match. The application deadline is approximately June 20–22, with an anticipated response around September. In response to questions regarding the existing equipment, the Fire Chief explained that the current SCBA packs remain serviceable and compliant for use. Rather than being disposed of, the existing packs would be retained and repurposed for training purposes. This would allow the department to conduct training exercises without removing frontline equipment from service. Motion made to approve local match by Brian Shipman, second by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

Austin reported that the department's upcoming fire training class is scheduled to begin on June 13. The Chief advised that multiple instructors will be participating in the training and requested authorization for up to $500 to provide compensation for travel-related expenses, including fuel costs incurred by the instructors. The Chief explained that the total amount would not exceed $500 and would be divided among the instructors participating in the course. The training class includes approximately nine students, consisting of seven or eight members from the Town's Fire Department and one participant from the Orleans Fire Department. The Chief further noted that no significant costs are anticipated for training materials. Motion made to approve $500 by Brian Shipman, second by Donna Dillard. Passed 4-1, Bobbie voting NO. After the vote, questions were raised regarding the appropriate funding source and the importance of identifying available funds prior to approving expenditures. Benji Farris stated that he would personally donate funds to cover the instructor's compensation. Donna Dillard also pledged to contribute toward the expense. As a result, it was indicated that the instructor travel compensation would be funded through private donations rather than Town funds.

Austin reported that Smithfield Services has completed repairs and annual pump testing on the department's rescue engine and the vehicle has been returned to service. Austin reported that Engine 141 remains operational but is experiencing several electrical issues with emergency warning lights, water gauge levels and headlights. The manufacturer's warranty has expired; Smithfield Services attempted to diagnose the problem but advised that electrical troubleshooting is outside their primary area of expertise and recommended that the vehicle be serviced by an authorized dealer. Austin reported that Fire Service, Inc. in Indianapolis is serving as the authorized E-ONE dealer for Indiana, would need to perform the repairs. The cost of a service technician was estimated to be approximately $800, exclusive of any diagnostic or repair costs. Because repair costs could not yet be determined, Council requested that Austin obtain an estimate of potential repair costs.

Council revisited discussion regarding the Fire Department's request for a replacement dumpster and the possible sale of an unused cargo/storage container. Austin that an interested buyer remains willing to purchase the container for $1,000, pending confirmation from Council to sell. It was discussed to use proceeds from selling the container to offset the cost of a new dumpster. Prices for replacement dumpsters were Two-yard dumpster: $1,120.10; Three-yard dumpster: $1,224.75; Six-yard dumpster: $1,958.45. The matter was tabled.

David Grimes with the Parks Dept reported that the upcoming circus event is proceeding as planned. David also advised that grant application for the batting cages was not approved. They still have the $2,500 donation that can be used to replace the existing batting cage nets.

Clerk Treasurer Wolfe presents an invoice from T.M. Wells for capital assets in the amount of $2,725. <u>Motion to approve made by Bobbie Bostock, second by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.</u> CT Wolfe presents an updated Street Sweeping contract from INDOT. Effective July 1, 2026, INDOT will increase the rate from $360 per curb mile to $450 per curb mile, resulting in an increase of payment to $9,671.40 per year. <u>Motion made for Danny to sign agreement by Bobbie Bostock, second by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0</u>. The account payable voucher was presented in the amount of $402,163.84 for the period of May 20-June 02, 2026. <u>Motion made to approve by Bobbie Bostock, second by Brian Shipman. Passed4-1, Donna voting NO.</u> CT Wolfe reported that by adding Austin as an authorized Town credit card holder, the current credit card limit would need to be adjusted to $22,500 to stay compliant with the current policy. It was discussed and confirmed that all purchases must accompany a PO. <u>Motion made to increase credit limit to $22,500 by Bobbie Bostock, second by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0.</u> The town cell phone used by the previous clerk needs reset, Kinetik advised that it needed to be approved by council before moving forward. <u>Motion made approving reset by Bobbie Bostock, second by Brian Shipman. Passed 5-0.</u>

Bobbie Bostock provided copies of three quotes to repair a damaged sewer line on Hospital Rd behind the VFW. Temporary repairs have been made to keep the line functional; however, the damage requires permanent repair. Quotes were received from Infrastructure Systems for $67,500.00; Reed & Sons for $47,860.00; and Triple T for $24,512. Motion made to accept bid from Triple T for repairs by Brian Shipman, second by Donna Dillard. Passed 5-0.

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Citizen John McFarland proposed that they hold the Orange County Running Start 5K on July 25th, starting at 9 A.M. until approximately 10:30 AM, using the same pattern as last year. They have not obtained the insurance yet because they wanted to confirm the date and get a flyer made first. Motion made to approve race provided they have insurance ready to go beforehand, second by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0.

Motion made to adjourn by Bobbie Bostock, second by Theron Owen. Passed 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 P.M.

Danny Hickman, President

Donna Dillard, Vice President

Theron Owen, Member

Brian Shipman, Member

Bobbie Bostock, Member

ATTEST:

Tara N. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer