

A meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7:00pm at Kirklin Town Hall while being simultaneously livestreamed at www.youtube.com/@kirklinindiana.

The meeting was opened by Melinda Jobe. On the call of the roll, the following Council Members were present: Melinda Jobe, Walt Minnick, Jerry Faucett, Craig Hudzinski, and Brent Stetler.

Also present: Billy Walker, Brendon Bright, Jay Moore, Barth Mink, Darren Wells, Clint Poole, Steven Ray, Katherine Welch, and Tara Walker.

The Pledge of Allegiance and prayer were led by Melinda Jobe.

MINUTES – Craig Hudzinski made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the Town Council Meeting held on January 12, 2026. The motion was supported by Brent Stetler and it passed unanimously.

NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NCIRPC) – Steven Ray, Executive Director of the North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council (NCIRPC), presented an overview of the organization's history, accomplishments, and the services it provides to six counties, including Clinton County. He explained that NCIRPC supports local units of government and is funded in part through county contributions. Mr. Ray also described the organization's grant administration services, noting that NCIRPC charges an administrative fee of eight percent of any grant awarded. Melinda Jobe reported that she, Billy, and Tara had also consulted with Mike Kleinpeter regarding potential grant administration services. Following discussion, the floor was opened for a vote. Council Member Brent Stetler made a motion to retain NCIRPC to provide grant administration services for an Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) Stormwater Planning Grant application. The motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and carried unanimously.

RES #2026-2-1 KIRKLIN MAIN STREET (KMS) – Walt Minnick made a motion to approve Res #2026-2-1 authorizing a \$2,500.00 donation to KMS. The motion was supported by Craig Hudzinski and it carried unanimously.

RES #2026-1-3 – Brent Stetler motioned to approve Res #2026-2-2 authorizing a \$2,000.00 donation to the Kirk's Crossing Festival. Jerry Faucett seconded and it carried unanimously.

SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT – Darren Wells of Commonwealth Engineering presented Amendment No. 5 for the Wastewater Utility Improvement Project. He explained that the amendment addresses items the remaining contingency funds, in the approximate amount of \$107,000.00, would cover. Of that amount, \$40,000.00 would be allocated for engineering services, which include post-rehabilitation smoke testing throughout the town to identify any remaining public or private stormwater inflow and infiltration issues; preparation of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) addendum, as required by the Indiana Finance Authority State Revolving Fund (SRF), including the required public notice; and evaluation of the Capstone lift station, which Billy has identified as needing repairs. Additionally, they will include as part of the PER addendum, the results of in-home sump pump inspections that will be conducted by a third-party plumber to identify any illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system. The cost of the plumber and lift station repairs would be paid from the contingency funds remaining after Commonwealth Engineering's portion of \$40,000.00 is paid, which would be approximately \$67,000.00. Council Member Brent Stetler made a motion to approve

Commonwealth Engineering Amendment No. 5. The motion was seconded by Walt Minnick and carried unanimously.

PARK – Billy Walker anticipates that the new playground equipment should be installed sometime in mid-to late March but it depends on the weather. Mulch will be put down after it is installed.

STORMWATER – Billy reported that he will be attending the county drainage board meeting on February 17 to hopefully get some information.

SUPERINTENDENT – Billy Walker submitted a written report to the Council and provided additional updates. He reported that the town's wells, installed in 2019, are experiencing reduced efficiency and that screens occasionally require cleaning and backflushing. Current efficiency has declined to approximately 10–15 gallons per minute, with Well #2 performing the poorest. Depending on cost, he suggested the possibility of cleaning one well this year and the second next year. He noted that reduced efficiency requires the wells to operate longer, resulting in increased electrical costs and wear and tear. Pricing information is pending receipt of the final report from Peerless Midwest, which he expects to present at the March meeting. Mr. Walker also informed the Council that he will attend PASER training, as required by INDOT, to qualify the Town to perform road ratings necessary for Community Crossing Matching Grant eligibility. Additionally, Mr. Walker requested Council approval to pursue a Community Foundation grant to fund park improvements and that he needs a letter of intent stating that the town will be responsible for our part. The proposed grant would fund a 6-foot ADA-accessible merry-go-round, outdoor fitness stations to be installed around the walking track, and accessible sidewalks to improve access to the playground. Melinda Jobe stated that it is a great idea. Craig Hudzinski made a motion to authorize Billy Walker to apply for the Community Foundation grant for park improvements. The motion was seconded by Brent Stetler and passed unanimously.

POLICE – Brendon Bright reported that the department conducted 26 traffic stops during the reporting period, resulting in 5 citations and 22 warnings. The department also responded to 9 calls for service and issued 1 ordinance violation warning related to parking. He noted that he attended training for town marshals in Boswell. Brendon then introduced Barth Mink and requested council approval to hire him as a part-time fill-in officer for 5–6 hours per pay period. Mr. Mink addressed the Council and summarized his qualifications and experience. Brendon noted that Mr. Mink would be required to join the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), which Melinda Jobe stated would be required. He also advised that Jay Rosen is expected to be unavailable for at least another month. Craig Hudzinski made a motion to approve the hiring of Barth Mink as a fill-in officer. The motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and passed unanimously.

CLERK-TREASURER – Tara Walker provided the following reports to the town council prior to the meeting for month ending January 31, 2026: Revenue, Appropriations, Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustments Register, and the Monthly Statement of Reconciled Accounts; and the Accounts Payable Register ending February 5, 2026. Seeing no questions, the town council signed the Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustments Register and the Accounts Payable Register. Melinda Jobe also signed the Statement of Reconciled Accounts and reviewed and signed the bank statements. **Invoices** – Brent Stetler motioned to approve the following invoices that arrived after the APV Register was printed: IMI Aggregates, Inv #71569458, \$79.57; and, IMI Aggregates, Inv #71569651, \$94.94. The motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Tara informed the council that she will be attending the ILMCT Institute and Academy in March.

PSLOIT – The Council discussed the options for sustaining the police department. Tara reported that expenditures from the PLSOIT fund exceeded revenues received in the prior year. She advised that the council could consider reducing officer hours or approving an additional appropriation to the General Fund to maintain current spending levels. Tara will present an additional appropriation recommendation at the next meeting; however, she noted the amount will be an estimate due to the uncertainty of total hours that will be worked this year and that another additional appropriation may be necessary later in the year if needed.

ADJUSTMENTS – Jerry Faucett made a motion to approve sewer adjustment applications from Diana Moore in the amount of \$190.88 and Kirklin Public Library in the amount of \$246.41. The motion was supported by Craig Hudzinski and it carried unanimously.

COUNCILMEMBERS – The council discussed enforcement of the ordinance pertaining to multi-unit buildings using a single water meter. Craig Hudzinski noted that although an ordinance has been in place for quite some time, it has never been enforced and expressed the need to establish a fair and reasonable compliance timeline. Billy Walker stated that additional meter setters were installed in 2019 to accommodate separate meters for those units known at the time but property owners did not complete the necessary work. Since then, even more units have been added. After lengthy discussion, it was ultimately agreed that requiring each business and apartment to have its own meter is the most equitable solution to prevent billing disputes and service disruptions caused by nonpayment within multi-unit buildings. While Billy suggested giving up to one year for compliance, Walt Minnick suggested a shorter timeframe of three to six months. Town Attorney Jay Moore stated that the current ordinance will need to be amended to require a separate meter for both apartments and businesses and Melinda Jobe requested that Jay begin the ordinance revisions.

Seeing no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Melinda Jobe, Town Council President

A livestream recording of council meetings, including their agenda and minutes, can be found at the following address for at least 90 days following the date of each meeting, per IC 5-14-1.5-2.9:

www.youtube.com/@kirklinindiana