

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF BOURBON, INDIANA  
January 13, 2026**

The Town Council of the Town of Bourbon, Indiana, met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at the Bourbon Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council Members Les McFarland, Jonah Best and Terry Clemens were present. Also present were Kimberly Berger, Clerk-Treasurer; Chief Bill Martin, Police Department; Chief Chad Stepp, Fire Department; Roger Terry, Superintendent of Public Works; Susie Schaezle, Plan Director and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

**REORGANIZATION:** Mr. McFarland called for nominations for Council president. Mr. Clemens nominated Mr. Best to serve as president, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland. No other nominations were received. The nomination was approved by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Best chaired the remainder of the meeting. Mr. Best called for nominations for vice president. Mr. McFarland nominated Mr. Clemens, which was seconded by Mr. Best. No other nominations were received. Mr. Clemens was elected Council vice president by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

The Council then considered the reappointment of the Department supervisors. Mr. Clemens made a motion to re-appoint all the existing supervisors as listed, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

**MINUTES:** Mr. McFarland made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Clemens and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business was brought before the Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Council considered the contract for the legal services to be provided by Anthony J. Wagner of Wagner & Wagner, LLC. Mr. McFarland made a motion to approve the contract, which was seconded by Mr. Clemens and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Wagner then presented Ordinance 2026-01, explaining that it made slight amendments to the Town Code regarding the composition of the Redevelopment Commission. The Council discussed the current structure of the Redevelopment Commission. After discussion, Mr. Clemens made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-1, and Mr. Wagner suggested that it be passed on all three readings to take effect immediately. Mr. Clemens amended his motion to suspend the rules and consider the Ordinance on all three readings, which was seconded by Mr. Best and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Clemens then made his motion to approve Ordinance 2026-1 on three readings, which was seconded by Mr. Best and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

The Council agreed to review the Redevelopment Commission appointments at the next meeting.

**CLERK-TREASURER:** Ms. Berger submitted the docket of claims with claims numbered 8112 – 8212 in the amount of \$615,634.43; Mr. Clemens made a motion to approve docket of claims as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Berger asked the Council to complete and submit the State Nepotism Declaration Forms and asked the Council to execute a Conflict-of-Interest Statements to Marshall County due to Mr. McFarland’s employment. Ms. Berger also submitted the year-end reports and asked the Council if they wished to enter into the services agreement with Baker Tilly. The Council discussed the agreement and declined to take action at that time.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Chief Martin submitted his report and told the Council that an engine needed to be replaced in one of the department’s Ford Explorers. He explained that the Bremen Ford dealership had the parts to repair the vehicle, and that they had another department vehicle in for repairs at the moment. Chief Martin told the Council that Shawn Smith had completed his reserve training and was able to patrol alone now. Chief Martin informed the Council that the department’s copy machine was having issues and explained two quotes that he had obtained for a replacement. Mr. Clemens asked whether leasing a new machine made sense. The Council discussed the request. At the conclusion of discussion, Mr. Clemens made a motion to allow Chief Martin and Ms. Berger to purchase a suitable copier at a cost of up to \$5,500.00, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Chief Martin also informed the Council that he would be out for a month beginning February 3, 2026.

Roger Terry submitted his report on behalf of Street Department and told the Council that the bell tower would have new trim and the siren installed shortly. Mr. Terry reported that the utility storage building had electrical and other work ongoing. The Council discussed celebrating the passage of one year since the 2025 storm.

Chief Stepp submitted the report on behalf of the Fire Department and informed the Council that the department had purchased new thermal cameras.

Susie Schaeztle told the Council that the Plan Commission had met the night before and had found several matters from 2025 that needed to be resolved by the Council. Ms. Schaeztle described the two outstanding matters as a change in zoning for a parcel on West Park Avenue and the approval of an ordinance amending the Town Zoning Ordinance with provisions regarding shipping container storage units.

The Council considered the Petition of Steve Duff at 207 West Park Avenue in Bourbon first. Ms. Schaeztle presented Resolution 2025-PC010 and explained that Mr. Duff had petitioned to change the parcel’s zoning from Res A to Res B, a multi-family classification. Ms. Schaeztle told the Council that the matter had been scheduled for public hearing. Mr. Best opened the public hearing, and no public comments were offered. Mr. Clemens made

a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Clemens asked Ms. Schaetzle if she knew the purpose of the request, and Ms. Schaetzle explained that the property owner intended to construct a duplex on the parcel. The Council discussed how the Resolution should be numbered. Mr. Wagner suggested that it be re-labeled Ordinance 2026-02. Mr. Clemens made a motion to amend the designation to Ordinance 2026-02, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. McFarland then made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-02 as amended, which was seconded by Mr. Clemens and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Ms. Schaetzle told the Council that the storage container matter had also been scheduled for a public hearing. Ms. Schaetzle explained that the Ordinance had been proposed due to the appearance of several shipping containers in the community and that it had a clause to exempt containers already in the community. Mr. Best opened the public hearing, but no public comments were offered. Mr. Clemens made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. McFarland expressed some concern regarding a provision that applied the ordinance to any container installed within the last two years. The Council discussed the ordinance. Mr. Wagner suggested that they approve the ordinance on first reading so that it could be reviewed and revised, if necessary, before the next meeting. Mr. Clemens made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-03 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** Mr. Wagner had no new information to report to the Council

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments were offered to the Council.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Mr. McFarland reminded the Town officials and employees of the dinner planned for January 24, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Clemens made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Berger,  
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bourbon

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonah Best, President