MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BOURBON, INDIANA
July 7, 2026

The Town Council of the Town of Bourbon, Indiana, met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at the Bourbon Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council Members Jonah Best and Les McFarland were present. Also present were Kimberly Berger, Clerk-Treasurer; Sargeant Carl Amsden, Police Department; Steve Walsh, Asst. Superintendent of Public Works; Chief Chad Stepp, Fire Department and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Mr. McFarland made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Best and carried by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Wagner told the Council that the Notice of Public Hearing for the second reading of Ordinance 2026-05 was not published in time for the meeting, so the second reading could not occur. Mr. Best made a motion to table both Ordinance 2026-05 and Ordinance 2026-06 for a subsequent meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Marty Oosterbaan appeared on behalf of One Marshall County and introduced other members of the group: Gary Neidigh, Jeremy Riffle, and Kevin Dante; he also noted that Mr. Best was a member of the group. Mr. Oosterbaan also introduced Taylor Wilson as OMC's new Marketing and Communications Director. Mr. Oosterbaan explained OMC's history growing out of the Stellar projects and explained its current relationship in the South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership. He also reviewed the business and non-profit interests represented in the body. Mr. Oosterbaan explained the group's concentrations and reviewed their current programs. Mr. Riffle briefly spoke about the lifelong learning network and Mr. Neidigh explained the group's budget. The OMC Members requested a contribution of $7,500.00 from the Town. The Council thanked the group for appearing.

Ms. Berger asked the Council to approve a 30-day leave of absence for Police Chief William Martin, from June 30 through July 30, 2026. Mr. Best made a motion to approve the leave as requested, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays.

Lonny Berkey and Kevin Boyer appeared on behalf of the Summerfest event and requested financial support from the Town. They asked whether the event would be covered under the Town's insurance and Ms. Berger and Mr. Wagner explained that it would not be since it was not taking place on Town property. Mr. Berkey said that the Town had donated $300.00 to the car show awards in the past and asked the Council to block community event rentals in the park on Summerfest weekend. Mr. Best asked how many people worked on the organizing committee, and Mr. Berkey estimated there were 8 active

members. The Council discussed the volume of traffic the event brought to the community. The Council also discussed the rental blackout request. Mr. McFarland made a motion to prohibit any other community events at the park rental site on August 8 and August 9, which was seconded by Mr. Best and carried by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. McFarland also made a motion to approve the reimbursement of up to $1,000.00 in expenses for Summerfest. Ms. Berger stated that the budgeted Summerfest funds had already been used in part to pay for the parade expenses and Mr. McFarland stated that the recent community donation funds should be used to make up the difference. The Council also discussed the process of paying these statements. At the conclusion of discussion, Mr. Best seconded Mr. McFarland's motion, which was carried by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Ms. Berger submitted claims #8629 through #8703 in the amount of $422,111.28 for approval; Mr. McFarland made a motion to approve the claims as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Best and carried by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Berger also requested approval of pay application number 22 to Crosby Construction in the amount of $60,510.31. Mr. McFarland made a motion to approve pay application 22 as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Best and carried by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays. The Council asked about the status of the project, and Mr. Walsh explained that one fire hydrant needed to be completed and that the concrete work was half done. Ms. Berger asked the Council to set a meeting to discuss the upcoming budget, and the Council scheduled the meeting to take place on either July 28 or July 29, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., based upon Mr. Clemens availability.

Sergeant Amsden submitted the report on behalf of the Police Department and requested that the Council approve the hire of Chazten Meek. Mr. McFarland asked if Mr. Meek had a more complete resume and Sergeant Amsden confirmed that he had sent everything that the department had received in the application process. The Council briefly discussed Mr. Meek's interest in the position and Mr. Meek explained that he wished to serve in the community that he lived in. Mr. Best made a motion to approve the hire of Chazten Meek as the new police officer, which was seconded by Mr. McFarland and carried by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays.

Steve Walsh submitted his report on behalf of the Public Works Department.

Chief Stepp submitted his report on behalf of the Fire Department and told the Council that the department had made an unusually high number of calls already for the year. He also told the Council that tornado siren testing had taken place and that one of the sirens had a battery issue that Mr. Walsh would attempt to fix.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner told the Council of several new reporting mandates regarding housing and the zoning ordinance and asked the Council and the Police Department for more input for changes to the e-bike ordinance.

PATRON COMMENTS: Mr. Riffle thanked everyone at the Town who worked for the community and described a recent experience involving tree issues on the school property.

Mr. Berkey thanked Mr. Riffle and expressed concerns about improper e-bike operation he had witnessed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mr. McFarland thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. McFarland made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Best and carried by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:

Kimberly Berger,
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bourbon

Jonah Best, President