

A public hearing and the regular meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, April 13, 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: Brent Stetler, Melinda Jobe, Walt Minnick, Jerry Faucett, and Craig Hudzinski.

Also present: Billy Walker, Brendon Bright, Clinton Poole, Shane Kohl, Jeff Rustin, Bill Brock, Sherry Stowers, Maureen Hayden, Jay Moore, and Tara Walker.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – Melinda Jobe opened the public hearing regarding an additional appropriation of \$9,000.00 for the General Fund. Tara Walker clarified the allocation: \$8,000.00 into police payroll and \$1,000.00 for police medals. Walt Minnick moved to approve Resolution #2026-4-3; the motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and carried unanimously. Seeing no questions or comments from the public or the council, the hearing was closed at 7:05 PM.

MINUTES – Craig Hudzinski made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the Town Council Meeting held on March 9, 2026. Brent Stetler seconded and it passed unanimously.

JEFF RUSTIN – Jeff attended the meeting to discuss worsening flooding issues affecting his business, Excel Tool, located on Main St./US 421, over the past two years. He reported that water has entered the building at least three times, and that customers and employees have had to walk through several inches of water from the parking lot to access the building. Jeff stated that Billy Walker identified a collapsed tile along State Road 421, which the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) subsequently filled with gravel and paved over. Jeff provided photos to the Town, which were distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. Jeff further explained that, once floodwaters recede, mud is left on the parking lot, creating a slippery safety hazard until it recedes. Additionally, based on his security camera footage, when the northbound lane of State Road 421 is flooded, northbound traffic shifts into the southbound lane, creating an additional safety concern. Jeff requested that the Town allocate funds for repairs. Council President Melinda Jobe explained that an engineer must first identify the problem and noted that the stormwater fund is currently limited. Billy stated that while the issue could potentially be resolved with a spot repair, it is unclear whether INDOT would permit that approach or require a full repair to prevent future issues. He added that any work would require an INDOT permit, adherence to INDOT specifications, and the use of a contractor for traffic control and signage. Billy also reported that the line had previously been jetted and inspected by camera, but only gravel - placed by the State - was found, and the equipment could not pass through the collapsed section. He noted that the tile itself appeared to be in poor condition. Billy stated he will contact INDOT-approved contractors to obtain cost estimates for repairing the affected area. He also shared that INDOT has indicated the Town is responsible for the tile within the roadway, while INDOT is responsible only for the roadway storm structure. The issue is located near the center of the lane. Council member Craig asked whether a sump pump could be installed, to which Jeff responded that he already utilizes one; however, flooding in the roadway causes water to return to the property. Maureen Hayden of Commonwealth Engineers recommended that the Town contact State legislators and invite

them to view the site and better understand how INDOT's prior actions may have contributed to the issue. Melinda Jobe stated she will reach out to State Representative Mark Genda.

FIREWORKS – Amber King provided the council with a letter prior to the meeting requesting approval to set off fireworks at the town park again. The letter detailed requirements they will abide by per previous year approvals. After a brief discussion, Walt Minnick made a motion to approve Amber's request to set off fireworks at the town park. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it passed unanimously. The date will be July 4, 2026, with a rain date of July 5, 2026.

RES #2026-4-2 METER DEPOSIT FUND – Tara Walker explained that the meter deposit fund contains an overage of \$2,131.46 that has remained for many years. This balance is attributed to former residents who are deceased or have moved and cannot be located. She noted that unclaimed overpayments and deposits are now regularly submitted to Indiana Unclaimed Property; however, the funds in question date back prior to 2008 and lack any identifying names or addresses, making it impossible to determine the rightful owners. Craig Hudzinski made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-4-2, authorizing the transfer of \$2,131.46 from the Water Utility Meter Deposit Fund #6104 to the Water Utility Operating Fund #6101. The motion was supported by Brent Stetler and passed unanimously.

PARK REC LEAGUES – Billy Walker stated he does not anticipate any issues between either league interested in using the park ball fields this summer. He added that, based on their expected usage, he believes the percentage of responsibilities is agreeable. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the 2026 License Agreement for the Sheridan Rec League and Indiana Magic. The motion was seconded by Walt Minnick and passed unanimously.

MULTI-USE OF A SINGLE METER ORD #2026-4-1 - Melinda Jobe opened the discussion by noting that this item had been tabled at the March council meeting to allow councilmembers time for review. A lengthy discussion ensued, including issues surrounding situations such as: a downtown business with only a bathroom is located underneath a residence that owner of the business resides; and a downtown building where, until recently, was owned by one person owning two buildings side-by-side with only one meter serving both buildings. While Craig Hudzinski agreed that each resident and business should have their own meter, he believes those situations deserve special consideration. Brent Stetler stated that if a property owner is responsible for the service, they should also be responsible for installing the required infrastructure. Jerry Faucett concurred, especially if such requirements are outlined in ordinance. Jerry also asked Jay Moore what timeframe should be established in the ordinance for compliance. After discussion, it was agreed to allow property owners six (6) months to come into compliance with the new requirements. Billy Walker stated that he does not have the equipment to perform the taps himself; however, all associated costs would be added to the property owner's tap fee, as all labor, materials, and expenses are passed through accordingly. Following further discussion, Brent Stetler moved to read Ord. 2026-4-1 by title only. The motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and passed unanimously. Brent Stetler then moved to approve Ord. 2026-4-1 on first reading, seconded by Jerry Faucett, and the motion passed unanimously. Brent Stetler moved to suspend the rules to allow passage of Ord. #2026-4-1 at the same meeting, seconded by Jerry Faucett, and the motion passed unanimously. Brent Stetler then moved to adopt Ord. 2026-4-1 on its second reading, seconded by Jerry Faucett, and the motion passed unanimously.

SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT – Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the payment for Commonwealth Engineers Inv. #66139 in the amount of \$3,000.00. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it carried unanimously.

KIRKLIN BRIDGE ELECTRICAL UPGRADE - Bill Brock reported that they have met with their architect, Duke Energy, and Brian Jones and they have determined that the electrical upgrade needs to be completed before any other work proceeds. Their plan is to run electrical service underground from near the Fiberhawk building at the park, bore through the parking lot, and connect to a pad-mounted green transformer located near the drive-through gate. From there, service will continue underground to the west side of the new building, where it will enter and connect to an 800-amp distribution panel. Of this capacity, 400 amps will serve the concession area and new building, while the remaining 400 amps will support the park's existing 300-amp service, leaving an additional 100 amps available for future expansion. This upgrade will also eliminate the existing overhead wiring and replace the approximately 35-year-old electrical panel. Brian Jones has ordered the electrical panel, which is expected to arrive within 60 to 90 days at an approximate cost of \$10,000. The boring project will not begin until after the Kirk's Crossing Festival. Some sections of relatively new concrete will need to be removed during the process but will be replaced upon completion. The project is not yet scheduled with Duke Energy. Tara Walker advised the council that they will need to determine which fund or funds to use for the expense and referred them to their fund and appropriation reports. She welcomed them to contact her with any questions regarding statutorily allowed fund uses, while reminding them of the expected effects of recent legislation. Because the agreement was finalized after the 2026 budget was completed, an additional appropriation will be required to cover the expense. Bill Brock noted that the remaining \$20,000 of the council's agreement with them will likely be needed by November. Tara asked the council to decide on the funding source(s) in time for her to advertise the additional appropriation ahead of the next meeting. Melinda indicated she would at least determine the fund for the initial portion. Bill ended by saying that their project at the park may ultimately be completed in stages.

PARK - Billy Walker reported that the new playground equipment is scheduled to be installed the week of April 27. He stated that the park has been de-winterized and the water has been turned back on. He added that the pickleball court and restrooms are expected to open around the first of May. He reported that the caps and lids project continues to progress, with another order to be picked up within the next month. Billy also announced that he applied for a Community Foundation grant, and the town has been awarded \$20,000 for park improvements. The primary purchase will be an ADA-accessible merry-go-round. He will complete the necessary paperwork to receive the funds. He further noted that the town continues to accept donations for new backstops at the park. Melinda Jobe reported that someone had carved vandalism into the green slide at the playground. Billy stated that he would inspect the damage and noted a company that repairs plastic. Tara asked whether The Bridge still planned to install cameras at the park, and Ms. Jobe confirmed that they do. Mr. Walker also stated that the playground equipment will be pressure-washed.

STORMWATER RATE – Melinda opened by stating that while no one wants to discuss a stormwater rate increase, it is necessary due to the project the Council has been considering. Discussion followed regarding project costs and the local match required for an Indiana Office of

Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) grant. Maureen Hayden noted that it is anticipated the initial planning grant portion may be funded by both the county and OCRA. Tara stated that, to meet the required 10% match for a potential OCRA construction grant of \$750,000, the town would need \$75,000. It was discussed that the town currently bills \$5.00 per improved lot, generating approximately \$1,855 per month, which would require a considerable amount of time to accumulate sufficient funds for the match since much of it depends on how much is required to be spent in the meantime for smaller projects until the larger one can be completed. Maureen added that a final construction cost cannot be determined until the planning phase is completed. Clinton Poole recommended a \$5.00 increase with a possible 3% automatic annual adjustment, similar to the water rate structure. Melinda also raised the possibility of a \$5.00 increase now, with an additional increase next year, rather than implementing a larger single adjustment. Brent Stetler noted that the storm water board would need to make a decision at their next meeting on May 11 at 6:45pm. The storm water board consists of Brent Stetler, Jerry Faucett and Clinton Poole.

UTILITIES SUPERINTENDENT - Billy Walker provided the Council with a written report prior to the meeting. He reported that he is soliciting bids for well cleaning and hopes to present them at the next meeting. The UV chamber and stairator have been cleaned, UV bulbs have been installed, and disinfection season began April 1. He noted that operations are currently running smoothly. He also reported that Aerzen serviced the blowers at the wastewater treatment plant. Blowers #1 and #3 are operational; however, Blower #2 will need to be rebuilt due to bearing failure in the motor. He is currently awaiting quotes for both repair and replacement options. In addition, Buckeye Power serviced the generators at both plants. The water treatment plant generator is operating well but requires a new battery. The generator at the wastewater plant, which dates to the 1990s, is suffering from fuel injector issues and he is waiting for those costs. He also stated that he has compiled substantial documentation regarding recent stormwater events and will be attending the meeting at the county in May.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - Brendon Bright thanked the community for attending the recent ceremony in support of the officers involved in the November shooting incident. He also expressed appreciation to the Kirklin American Legion Auxiliary Unit 310 for delivering teddy bears they collected for children, which will be distributed during calls as part of their "Mission Bear Hugs" program. He reported that he, Justin Brewer, Brandon Garber, and Jay Rosen attended a 24-hour mandatory training over three days at the Indiana Marshals Association Conference in Indianapolis. Since the last council meeting, the department responded to 28 calls for service. Of those, 2 were ordinance violation warnings. Officers conducted 20 traffic stops, resulting in 3 citations and 19 warnings.

CLERK TREASURER – Tara Walker provided the following reports to the town council prior to the meeting for month ending March 31, 2026: Revenue, Appropriations, Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustments Register, and the Monthly Statement of Reconciled Accounts; and the Accounts Payable Register ending April 8, 2026. Seeing no questions, the town council signed the Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustments Register and the Accounts Payable Register. Melinda Jobe reviewed and signed the Statement of Reconciled Accounts and bank statements prior to the meeting. **MISC** – Tara informed the council that townwide cleanup day is scheduled for June 6, 2026 and that our pest control service went up \$2.00. Tara presented the council with a quote from Boyce/Keystone, the town's software company, which would offer residents the ability to set

their utility bill on autopay. The costs would be a one-time set-up fee of \$2,390.00 with an annual maintenance fee of \$1,105.00. Tara added that it had been a frequent request over the past few years and the cost would be split between both utilities. After a brief discussion, the council declined due to the cost of \$1,105.00 per year. Tara stated that the town's current capital asset policy leaves a significant amount open to interpretation and would benefit from being more comprehensive. She spoke with a former SBOA auditor who charges \$110 per hour to assist in developing an improved policy and indicated that only a limited number of hours would likely be needed to update the town's existing policy. Melinda expressed support for the proposal; however, Brent Stetler and Jerry Faucett were not in favor of proceeding at this time, stating that they did not have a sufficient understanding of capital assets. Tara acknowledged that the topic can be complex. The matter was tabled until the May meeting.

ADJUSTMENTS – Walt Minnick made a motion to approve leak adjustments for the following accounts: Assembly of God, \$111.38; Carla Gant, \$173.75, and Shane Kohl, \$86.93. The motion was seconded by Brent Stetler and carried unanimously.

COUNCILMEMBERS – Jerry Faucett expressed concern regarding the March 9 council meeting vote for Peerless Midwest well cleaning. Billy is soliciting more quotes to see if another company can offer the same service with the same inclusions less expensively. After discussion, Jerry Faucett made a motion to void the Peerless Midwest \$32,570.00 quote approval made at the March 9 meeting for now. The motion was supported by Craig Hudzinski and it carried unanimously.

Seeing no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.

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