The budget public hearing and a regular meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 7:00pm at Kirklin Town Hall while being simultaneously livestreamed at www.youtube.com/@kirklinindiana.

Melinda Jobe opened the meeting and on the call of the roll, the following Council Members were present: Melinda Jobe, Jerry Faucett, Craig Hudzinski, and Brent Stetler. There is currently one council vacancy.

Also present: Billy Walker, Jennifer Bowman, Kenneth Jobe, Kortney Jobe, Mikayla Hendrickson, Michelle Hendrickson, Amber Hendrickson, Shane and Brianna Kohl, Dan Carlisle, Jay Moore, Danielle Miles and Tara Walker.

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

2027 BUDGET HEARING - Melinda Jobe opened the public hearing for the proposed 2027 Budget. Copies of the proposed budget were made available to those in attendance, and the public was invited to ask questions. Tara Walker stated that the proposed budget was also available online. Brent Stetler asked whether the town receives gas tax revenue. Tara confirmed that it does and explained that the town is also receiving distributions intended to offset revenue reductions resulting from the gas tax holiday. With no further comments or questions, the public hearing was closed at 7:06 p.m.

MINUTES – Brent Stetler moved to approve the minutes as written from the Regular Meeting held on August 10, 2026. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and passed unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY – Melinda Jobe introduced the matter of filling the Town Council vacancy created by the resignation of Walt Minnick. She reported that two letters of interest had been received, from Shane Kohl and Amber King. Melinda Jobe made a motion to appoint Shane Kohl to fill the vacancy through December 31, 2027, noting his attendance at council meetings and familiarity with current council matters. Current councilmember Craig Hudzinski stated that he had also previously expressed interest in the vacant seat at the previous council meeting and questioned whether he should also be considered along with those who had submitted written letters of interest. Discussion followed regarding whether consideration should be limited to individuals who had submitted written letters by the publicly announced deadline. Town Attorney Jay Moore advised that, because the political party had declined to fill the vacancy and the appointment had reverted to the town council, the council had authority to establish the procedure it wished to follow. He explained that the council could vote whether to require a written letter of interest or if a previously expressed oral interest was sufficient. Melinda stated that her concern was following the guidelines that had been established and publicly announced. Jay further explained the circumstances under which the vacancy had reverted to the council, including the political party's decision not to make the appointment because Minnick had also served as a precinct committeeman and a separate vacancy existed in that position. The council discussed the effect of appointing either Shane or Craig. Craig's current council term expires December 31, 2026, while Walt Minnick's term continues through December 31, 2027. It was discussed that if Craig were appointed to the vacant seat and resigned his existing seat, another vacancy would be created that the council could address at a

subsequent meeting, or, they could choose to appoint Craig Hudzinski to move to the vacant seat and ask Shane Kohl to fill the vacancy at the October meeting that would be left by Craig's resignation of his current seat. Following further discussion, Jerry Faucett made a motion to appoint Craig Hudzinski to the currently vacant council seat, effective that evening. Brent Stetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with following vote: Craig Hudzinski, yes; Brent Stetler, yes; Jerry Faucett, yes; Melinda Jobe, no. The council then discussed the vacancy that would result from Craig resigning from his existing council seat. It was determined that consideration of an appointment for that seat should be placed on the October meeting agenda rather than acted upon that evening because the matter was not included on the current agenda. The council discussed appointing Shane Kohl to fill the remainder of Craig's current term once the vacancy occurs. The council also discussed administration of the oath of office. It was determined that the Clerk-Treasurer may administer the oath during a council meeting, allowing an appointee to begin serving following appointment and administration of the oath. Jay recommended that Craig submit a written resignation from his current council seat.

WALT MINNICK – Tara Walker read a statement expressing condolences to Walt's family for their loss after his recent passing and gratitude for his many years of public service. She then read Res. #2026-9-1 in honor of Walt Minnick in its entirety, memorializing his lifetime of service, commitment, and leadership in various roles throughout his life, which will be part of the permanent record of the town. Jay Moore stated that Walt was on the Area Plan Commission when he started there in 1997 and that he served the county in zoning matters over several years. He added that Walt always paid attention, tried to make the right decisions, and was not afraid to take an unpopular position if he thought it was wrong. Melinda Jobe made a motion to pass Res. #2026-9-1. The motion was supported by Brent Stetler and it passed unanimously.

JET'S ANIMAL SERVICE – Mikayla and Michelle Hendrickson attended the meeting representing Jet's Animal Service, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides DNR services in Clinton and surrounding counties and also operates as a cat rescue. Mikayla requested permission to conduct a boot donation campaign in town to raise funds for the organization. Melinda Jobe stated that she had no objection to the request but questioned whether INDOT approval may be required. Jay Moore agreed that they should contact the State and also recommended contacting Frankfort for additional information based on their experience with similar fundraisers. For safety reasons, Moore suggested conducting the fundraiser on State Road 38 rather than U.S. 421 due to the stop sign, though they were hoping to utilize the stop light at Hwy 421 and Madison St. Michelle stated that she would obtain additional information and follow up with Tara Walker.

TITLE VI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE – Brent Stetler made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-9-2, "Resolution Renewing the Title VI Implementation Plan." Craig Hudzinski seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. The annual update of the Title VI Implementation Plan is an INDOT requirement for continued eligibility for Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) funding.

SPECIAL EVENTS - The council discussed proposed Ordinance No. 2026-9-3, "Special Events Conducted on Town-Owned Public Property". Tara Walker explained that the ordinance was developed to establish a consistent process for organized special events held on town property, including requirements for certificates of insurance when appropriate. She noted that the town's

insurance representative had confirmed that organizations holding events on town property should provide a certificate of insurance when required and name the town as an additional insured. The intent of the ordinance is to ensure that requirements are applied consistently. Town Attorney Jay Moore reviewed the proposed ordinance prior to and recommended including provisions addressing temporary structures, tents, and canopies and clarifying when proof of insurance would be required. It was discussed that insurance would not necessarily be required for every use of town property; rather, the requirement would depend upon the nature and risk of the event. Ordinary uses such as small family gatherings, birthday parties, reunions, or informal recreational activities were not intended to be treated the same as larger organized or higher-risk events where somebody could get hurt. The council also discussed that an organization holding multiple similar events may be able to list multiple dates on one application, provided the nature of the events is adequately described. Tara stated that Jay can be contacted if there is any question on whether a certificate of insurance should be required. Following discussion, Brent Stetler made a motion to consider Ord. 2026-9-3 on first reading by title only. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Brent Stetler made a motion to pass Ord. 2026-9-3 on the title only first reading. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Brent Stetler moved to suspend the rules to allow the Ord. 2026-9-3 to be considered for passage at one meeting. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve Ord. 2026-9-3 on second reading. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously.

PROMOTION OF TOWN BUSINESS – Tara explained that the Promotion of Town Business appropriation is used infrequently for expenditures such as funeral memorial flowers, police department Halloween candy, and other authorized purposes and that it had not been updated since 1999. She stated that, based upon guidance received during municipal training, permitted uses should be specifically identified in the ordinance to reduce the possibility of an audit exception. She noted that the town had recently completed a clean audit and that the existing ordinance was very vague. The proposed Ord. 2026-0-4 amending Ord. 1-99-1 was therefore drafted, with review by Town Attorney Jay Moore, to more clearly define permissible expenditures. Tara explained that it was written to remain reasonable for future years and accounts for increasing costs without requiring frequent amendments to the ordinance. Following discussion, Brent Stetler made a motion to consider Ord. 2026-9-4 on first reading by title only. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Brent Stetler made a motion to pass Ord. 2026-9-4 on the title only first reading. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Brent Stetler moved to suspend the rules to allow the Ord. 2026-9-4 to be considered for passage at one meeting. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve Ord. 2026-9-4 on second reading. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously.

TRICK-OR-TREATING – The official townwide trick-or-treating hours were determined to be on Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

SANITARY SEWER PROJECT - Billy Walker reported that Commonwealth Engineers would begin sanitary sewer smoke testing on Wednesday morning as part of the town's ongoing wastewater project. Door hangers would be distributed to all homes and businesses the preceding day with instructions for residents and contact information for questions. Testing was expected to continue for several days. The Fire Department had also been notified. Billy stated that, to his knowledge, the entire town would be tested again, including properties that had been tested previously. Once Commonwealth completes its report, the town will receive a list of identified issues. Town Attorney Jay Moore will notify affected property owners and provide a

specified period of time for the property owner to make the necessary correction before facing penalties. Property owners with identified issues will be required to notify the town when repairs are made so the correction can be verified. Billy explained that approximately 70% of the property owners with issues identified during the previous round of smoke testing made the necessary corrections. Some remaining properties may have completed repairs without notifying the town, while other identified issues remain unresolved. Approximately $100,000 remained from the prior wastewater/inflow and infiltration (I&I) project. This second round of smoke testing will help assess the effectiveness of the town's previous I&I improvements and determine whether those improvements adequately addressed the town's infiltration and inflow issues.

PARK – Billy Walker reported that WillyGoat Playground & Park Equipment was scheduled to begin installation of the new ADA-accessible merry-go-round on Wednesday. Installation was expected to take approximately two days and would include a poured-in-place surface surrounding the equipment. Following installation, Metzinger Construction will install new sidewalks connecting the parking lot to the existing sidewalks and to the merry-go-round, improving accessibility for individuals using wheelchairs or walkers. Billy stated that he would eventually like to connect the remaining playground equipment with sidewalks to further improve accessibility throughout the playground area. Billy reported that Jones Electric had completed most of its work associated with the electrical upgrades for the new park building and that the work had been inspected. The necessary boring had also been completed, and the project was awaiting Duke Energy to remove poles and place the remaining electrical lines underground. The park restrooms are temporarily closed due to the lack of electricity. Billy also reported that he had obtained bids to remove a large tree in the playground area due to several broken limbs hanging near the top of the tree. He stated that removal was necessary to eliminate the safety hazard. He noted the loss of shade and the possibility of planting additional shade trees in the park in the future. The possibility of accepting donated or memorial trees was also discussed. Tara Walker publicly thanked the family of Walt Minnick for designating the Town Park to receive memorial donations in his memory. Mindi explained that the family selected the park because of Walt's love for children and the Town of Kirklin.

STORMWATER – Billy Walker reported that Commonwealth Engineers had begun its storm structure assessment and mapping. Billy stated that he has been in contact with County Surveyor Dan Sheets. Billy reported that Commonwealth had already identified several storm structures that are collapsing and stated that portions of the existing stormwater infrastructure have reached the end of their useful life and may require complete replacement rather than repair. They will work with Dan Sheets to compile a drainage map of the area. Tara Walker reported that the town had been awarded a $27,000 OCRA Stormwater Planning Grant, which will give the town information to determine what and how improvements should be pursued. Melinda Jobe expressed her appreciation to Commonwealth Engineers, Billy Walker, Tara Walker, Tim Carson, and Stephen Ray for assisting with the application over several meetings, phone calls, and Teams Meetings as well as attending a meeting at the county level. She also added that she has received no responses from anyone interested in the Stormwater Board.

TOWN COURT - Town Attorney Jay Moore reported on research conducted regarding the possibility of establishing a Town Court. He explained that a Town Court would require a licensed attorney to serve as judge and would likely require additional clerical support. He also

noted that court administration and the collection and distribution of court costs would create additional administrative responsibilities and require access to the appropriate court and criminal justice computer systems. Jay discussed the potential revenues and expenses associated with operating a Town Court, noting that while the town could retain certain fines and court costs from ordinance violations handled through its own court, it would also be responsible for the costs of operating it. Based upon the anticipated volume of cases, Jay estimated that the town would likely need approximately 20 to 30 violations per month for a Town Court to be financially feasible. He estimated that operating a Town Court could cost approximately $15,000 to $20,000 annually and stated that he could not recommend establishing one at this time because the anticipated revenue did not appear sufficient to justify the expense. The council also discussed traffic infractions and the limited revenue the town currently receives from traffic citations due to stops being on US Highway 38 and US Highway 421 being a state fine. Steve Jones explained how the County Prosecutor's diversion program operates and noted that the Prosecutor's Office has used diversion funds to purchase equipment for the police department in the past but that the fund is depleted for 2026. Discussion then turned to the town's existing agreement with Frankfort City Court. Jay stated that he believed it would be beneficial for the town to continue using Frankfort City Court for unpaid ordinance violations so that applicable fines could be returned to the town. Tara Walker noted that the first unpaid ordinance violation under the town's current Ordinance Violations Bureau procedures had recently been forwarded to Jay for filing with Frankfort City Court. Discussion then turned to whether traffic infractions currently being filed through Clinton County Superior Court could instead be filed through Frankfort City Court and whether doing so would result in additional revenue being returned to the town. Jay stated that he would research the matter further, including discussing the process with the appropriate officials, and report his findings back to the council. Jay also explained that ordinance violation cases filed with Frankfort City Court may require a town representative to appear and present evidence regarding the violation. The council agreed to table further consideration of establishing a Town Court pending additional information.

UTILITIES SUPERINTENDENT - Billy submitted a written report to the council. Billy presented three quotes for removal of two trees that present safety concerns: one located at the Town Park and one near the corner of East Stowers and North Ohio Streets. Both trees have shown signs of deterioration. The following quotes included removal of both trees, hauling debris/cleanup and stump grinding as follows: Frontier Tree Service LLC – $6,000; Martin Tree Service – $5,200; and Good Air Tree Service (Enrique Graf) – $5,200, with a $300 reduction if the town could provide a local location for disposal of the material. Billy confirmed that the town could accommodate the disposal provided that approximately 90% of the material was chipped. Brent Stetler made a motion to accept the Good Air Tree Service (Enrique Graf) quote of $4,900, which is discounted from $5,200 since Billy can provide them a disposal spot. The motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Billy then provided an update regarding the ongoing investigation of water entering the stormwater structure near Potato Supply. Fluid Waste was brought in to camera the storm line in an effort to identify the source. The investigation traced the flowing water south along Ohio Street, across State Road 38 and almost to Madison Street; however, the source of the water had not yet been identified. During the investigation, tree roots and other obstructions were encountered and required cleaning before the camera could proceed. A previously buried storm structure was also located. Billy stated that the structure will be uncovered and the camera and root-cleaning equipment will return so the investigation can continue. Billy stated that he intends to retest the water at multiple locations for chlorine as part of the effort to determine its source. Tara Walker asked the council who deemed it a spring years ago. Jerry answered it was speculation. Commonwealth Engineers' ongoing stormwater assessment and mapping is also expected to assist the town in locating structures and determining how the various storm lines are

connected. Billy continues to coordinate with county officials. He also reported that Ortman Drilling had completed the cleaning and rehabilitation of Well No. 2. Required bacteriological samples were negative, allowing the well to be placed back into service. Prior to the work, Well No. 2 was producing approximately 85 gallons per minute. Following cleaning and rehabilitation, including a new well pump, production increased to nearly 200 gallons per minute. Melinda Jobe stated she was discouraged that Ortman took approximately two weeks to complete and stated that it should be considered when selecting a contractor for the rehabilitation of Well No. 1, which is anticipated for next year. Billy stated that the original expectation was only three to four days. Tara Walker presented an Aerzen invoice she received after the Accounts Payable Register was printed. Brent Stetler made a motion to pay Aerzen Inv #SEPI-26-005111 in the amount of $18,877.35 for replacement of the positive displacement blower at the sewer plant. A motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried unanimously. Billy reported that Metzinger Construction submitted the lowest quote for the storm drain repair near Excel, at slightly more than $14,000. SLB Pipe Solutions submitted a quote of approximately $46,000, and Mike Henry declined to submit a quote because he could not perform the work anytime soon. Billy reported that some alley work had been completed and that additional work would continue as time permits. He also reported an issue encountered while attempting to purchase tires for the town truck from Walmart using the town's tax-exempt status. The original transaction was canceled after the vendor's system would not properly process the tax exemption, resulting in a charge that required a refund to the town's credit card. Once the refund is confirmed, Billy will proceed with purchasing the needed tires.

TOWN MARSHAL – Steve Jones submitted a written report to the council. He reported that the police department conducted 54 traffic stops, issued 6 traffic citations, responded to 29 incidents, made a criminal arrest, and issued 3 ordinance violations during the reporting period. The Clinton County Sheriff's Office responded to 33 incidents. He stated that the pick-up truck was in good condition, however, the Ford Explorer had been at the Ford dealership in Lebanon for more than two weeks for diagnosis but was returned when the dealership could not identify any problems. Once back, the vehicle still failed to start and will be returned to the dealership for further evaluation of it once its new tires are installed. Steve reported that Jay Rosen had been released to return to active duty but needs a current bulletproof vest before returning to road duty as he was wearing an expired vest the night of the shooting. Two quotes were presented: Nelson & Company in the amount of $1,238.79, and Safe Life Defense in the amount of $1,213.00. Jay must also complete remaining ride-along/training time and become familiar with department policies and procedures before being placed on the schedule. Steve confirmed that Jay is now a member of the FOP insurance. Craig would like the town to have a copy of that prior to him being on the November schedule. Steve also discussed several additional items of department needs and wants provided on a list to the council. Melinda Jobe asked what his priorities are since the items on the list add up quickly. He explained that ammunition is required for the officers to complete their firearms qualifications by the end of the year and that delivery could take up to 60 days. Brent Stetler a motion to approve the purchase of ammunition from FourGuns in the amount of $1,319.20. The motion was supported by Craig Hudzinski and it carried unanimously. Steve presented a quote from Command Communications for three replacement radio batteries for a total of $464.97. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the quote from Command Communications in the amount of $464.97 for the batteries. The council discussed the remaining items on Steve's list such as a firearm and winter clothing for Steve and another patrol rifle. Due to the number and overall cost of the Steve's requested items, the council will review available funding before making additional purchases and requested that he get quotes. Steve then raised a concern regarding the notice requirements contained in several town ordinances. He explained that some ordinances require violation notices to be mailed to the property owner's address as listed in Beacon; however, notices are sometimes returned

when the property owner receives mail through a post office box that is not reflected in the Beacon property record. The discussion included alternative methods of providing notice, including personal delivery or posting notice at the property. Jay advised that the existing ordinances can be reviewed for inconsistent notice provisions and that a more uniform notice ordinance procedure can be adopted to cover all of them, while acknowledging there are some that may have specific requirements. Jerry Faucett asked if the property owner or the tenant receives the ordinance violation. Jay stated that the appropriate responsible party depends upon the nature of the violation such as occurring to real property or an individual's conduct..

CLERK-TREASURER - Tara Walker provided the council with the following reports for the month ending August 31, 2026: Revenue Report, Appropriations Report, Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustments Register, Monthly Statement of Reconciled Accounts, and the Accounts Payable Register ending September 10, 2026. With no questions from the Council, members signed the Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustments Register, and Accounts Payable Register. Council President Melinda Jobe reviewed and signed the Statement of Reconciled Accounts and corresponding bank statements prior to the meeting. **Insurance -** Tara reported that the town's property insurance and Indiana Public Employers' Plan (IPEP) workers' compensation renewal invoices were received late near the end of August and were due before the meeting. To avoid a late payment, the required premiums were paid prior to the meeting, noting that should the council not want it, the premium would be prorated back. Tara stated that she has requested that the renewal information be provided earlier next year so it can be presented at the August meeting before their renewal date. She explained that the increase in the premium of $3,329.00 was primarily due to increased property values. Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve the Hilb Group amount of $18,520.00, paid twice annually for property insurance and $5,242.00 for IPEP. The motion was supported by Craig Hudzinski and it carried unanimously. **INDOT US 421 Parking and SR 38 Intersection -** Tara reported that INDOT had contacted her regarding a complaint about parking along US 421. INDOT advised that it determines whether parking along a state highway is permitted and whether parking is parallel or angled; however, the town may establish parking time limits. Any such time restriction would need to apply generally rather than to a particular type of vehicle. The complaint appeared to involve a semi that had been parking along US 421. Tara reported that she had coincidentally spoken to a family member of the semi owner that day who advised her that the semi was now being parked elsewhere. The council agreed to table the matter and monitor the situation to determine whether additional action or parking restrictions are necessary. According to the INDOT traffic investigator Tara communicated with, the intersection does not currently meet the warrants for installation of a traffic signal. INDOT's analysis considers traffic volume, intersection geometry, roadway environment, crash history and engineering judgment. INDOT reported four crashes at the intersection during the previous four years, all involving property damage only, and advised that other options for the intersection have been considered but no decision has been made. Tara further reported that INDOT determines whether parking along the state highways may be angled or parallel and whether parking is permitted while the town can limit the times.

COUNCILMEMBERS – Jerry Faucett asked Jay for an update on Betty Catron's house that has remained in a deteriorated condition for several years. Jay explained that the process for declaring a structure unsafe and proceeding with demolition is governed by state law and requires the town to follow specific procedures, which may include obtaining an engineering evaluation. He advised that if the town ultimately proceeds with demolition, the town would initially be responsible for the associated costs, with those costs becoming a lien against the property. He stated that the town may not ultimately recover the full amount that would be required to be expended, and that, although the condition of the property needs to be addressed, the town must follow the proper legal process before taking action. Also discussed

was the ownership and property tax status of the property. Jay will further review the matter but warned the council of its potential cost.

Seeing no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

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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