

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
December 23, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 23, 2024, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council Members Michael Leman, William Daily, Alex Mikel and Bryan Miller were present. Also present were Keith Fraine, Director of Operations; Janet Anglemyer, Clerk-Treasurer; Ben Wright, Superintendent of the Electric Department; Henry Aguayo, Superintendent of the Water Department; Assistant Chief Trent Stouder, Police Department; Austin Langdon, Superintendent of the Street Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Nate Lockwood, Cemetery Sexton; and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

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

MINUTES: Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024, meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

CLERK-TREASURER: Ms. Anglemyer submitted the docket with one amendment. She explained that check number 53486 to United Healthcare in the amount of \$64,142.48 had been amended. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the docket as amended, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer then presented Ordinance 18-2024, regarding annual emergency transfers. Ms. Anglemyer requested that the Council declare an emergency and pass the ordinance on all three readings to complete the transfer in 2024. Mr. Daily made an emergency and pass Ordinance 18-2024 on three readings, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer presented Ordinance 19-2024, amending the 2025 wage ordinance to create a Senior Deputy Clerk-Treasurer position. She asked the Council to declare an emergency and pass it on three readings. Mr. Miller asked what the purpose of the new role was, and Ms. Anglemyer explained that it was immediate need due to the incoming transition to the new Clerk-Treasurer, but that it is a long-term hedge against any other changes in the Clerk-Treasurer's personnel. Mr. Daily asked why the position was being created now, and Ms. Anglemyer conceded that it should have been created before now. Ms. Anglemyer explained the need to educate and cross-train the employees in the office. Mr. Leman noted that the Town would have its first new Clerk-Treasurer in 23 years and stated that he saw value in a senior deputy that could operate the office in the Clerk-Treasurer's absence. He also explained that he had been concerned about the pay increase and suggested that the Town utilize consultants to review job descriptions and pay levels in the future. Mr. Mikel agreed regarding the value in the position. He appreciated the opportunity to talk through the issue with the Clerk-Treasurer's staff. Mr. Daily asked for the amount of the raise and Ms. Anglemyer explained that the hourly rate increased from \$27.45 per hour to \$32.50 per hour. Mr. Daily noted that was an 18% raise, whereas other employees had only received a 3% increase. Mr. Miller noted that the Clerk-Treasurer selected the employee hired for the position. Mr. Daily expressed concern given the changes in the office. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-2024 on three readings, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, (Leman, Mikel, Anglemyer), 2 nays (Daily, Miller). Ms. Anglemyer told the Council that the accrued interest on the bond anticipation note had included a bank fee and presented the 2025 Baker Tilly agreement for the Council to review. Mr. Mikel stated that he would like to participate in the utility reviews. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Baker Tilly agreement as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer asked

the Council to approve the Services Agreement with the Bremen Chamber of Commerce and noted that it contained the standard \$10,000.00 payment. Mr. Leman asked to table the matter while the Council considered how to pay for the new park employee. Mr. Miller made a motion to table the Chamber of Commerce Services Agreement, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer presented the Janitor's Agreement with Martha Whitsel and noted that it had a 3% increase. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the agreement as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer informed the Council that she had promoted Jamie Soule to the position of Deputy Clerk-Treasurer as of December 30, 2024. She also told the Council that she had received notice that the IRS mileage reimbursement was increasing to \$0.70 per mile in 2025. The Council Members confirmed that they had each signed their nepotism declarations. Ms. Anglemyer thanked the Council and the Department Heads for dressing formally for the meeting and thanked them for her positive experience as an elected official. The Council, the employees present, and the audience thanked Ms. Anglemyer for her service to the Town of Bremen.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner told the Council that the UTV ordinance would be available for the second and possibly third reading at the first meeting in January. Mr. Wagner also told the Council he had submitted an article to them regarding changes in state road funding. Mr. Wagner presented a proposed 2025 contract and explained that he and Mr. Fraine had worked out the terms. Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the contract as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner described the results of the READI grant award. Mr. Wagner then asked the council members if they were prepared to take action on appointment of the fifth council member. The council members briefly discussed the candidates. Mr. Daily made a motion to appoint David Bailey, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 1 nay (Mikel).

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was brought before the Council.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Vicki Brown appeared on behalf of the Dustin's Place organization. She described the group's grief support program and explained that they had a new opportunity to occupy more suitable place in the Lifplex building in Plymouth. She told the Council that they could lease the space for \$1.00 per year but would need to renovate it themselves. She noted that 13% of the families served by the program were from the Bremen area. Ms. Brown told the Council that Dustin's Place needed \$231,000.00 for all of the renovations and requested \$30,000.00 from the Town. Mr. Leman asked if Dustin's Place was a non-profit organization, and Ms. Brown confirmed that it was a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Mr. Mikel expressed support. Ms. Brown added that the group was focused on preventative care, and that their grief services should reduce addiction and suicide rates in the future. The Council discussed whether opioid funds could be applied to the request.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Fraine submitted his report to the Council along with a slate of reappointments. The Council discussed the slate of appointments. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the reappointments as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Assistant Chief Stouder had no new information to report on behalf of the Police Department.

Mr. Wright had no new information to report on behalf of the Electric Department.

Mr. Langdon had no new information to report on behalf of the Street Department.

Mr. Main asked the Council for action on the request for the park assistant position raised at the last meeting. Mr. Leman expressed support for the position, and the Council discussed how to fund it. The Council asked the Park Board to formally create the position to move the process forward.

Mr. Lockwood had no new information to report on behalf of the Cemetery Department.

Mr. Cunningham had no new information to report on behalf of the Wastewater Department.

Chief Neher had no new information to report on behalf of Fire Department.

Mr. Aguayo had no new information to report on behalf of the Water Department.

Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Each of the Council Members thanked Ms. Anglemyer for her service and wished her a happy retirement. The Council Members also thanked the Department Heads for dressing formally for the meeting. Mr. Mikel made a motion to adjourn the meeting to reorganize, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.


REORGANIZATION: Ms. Anglemyer presided over the meeting. Ms. Anglemyer called for nominations for president. Mr. Mikel nominated Mr. Leman to serve as president, which was seconded by Mr. Miller. No other nominations were made. Mr. Leman was approved as president by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Leman chaired the remainder of the session. Mr. Leman called for nominations for vice president. Mr. Miller nominated Mr. Daily to serve as vice president, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel. No other nominations were submitted. Mr. Daily was approved as vice president by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Mikel made a motion to close the reorganization session, but Mr. Wagner asked if they needed to assign liaison positions. Mr. Mikel withdrew his motion. Mr. Miller made a motion to maintain the same liaison assignments, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Mikel made a motion to adjourn the reorganization session, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Mikel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:



Janet M. Anglemyer,
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen


Michael Leman, President