

310 LANE STREET
NORTH JUDSON, IN 46366

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Town Council of the Town of North Judson
Regular Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2025 – 6:30 PM

The North Judson Town Council met in Regular Session at the North Judson Town Hall, 310 Lane Street, North Judson, IN on the above date and time with the following present: Council President Rowe, Council Vice President Brown, and Councilmember Lewandowski, Banks, and Windbigler, and Town Manager Leszek present as well.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the agenda. Council Vice President Brown moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on April 21, 2025. Council Vice President Brown moved to approve those Minutes. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Old Business:

Town Ordinance Proposals for Zoning Modifications Update - Publication

Deputy Clerk Chaja confirmed that all five of Town Ordinances had been sent to The Leader for publication.

New Business:

Planning Commission/BZA – Vacancy Letter of Interest

Andrew Hughes sent in a Letter of Interest for the vacant position on the Planning Commission Board. There was a question about whether someone can serve on Park Board and the BZA/Planning Commission. It was unclear whether Hughes could serve on multiple boards. The Council will hold off their decisions until more information can be presented.

Recognition of Guest

Donna Henry was present on behalf of the Mint Festival Committee. She stated that the Mint Festival Pageant would be held at Norwayne Field on Saturday, May 17th. She also mentioned that preparations for the festival are nearly complete, including proofreading the Green Paper, which will be distributed the

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week before Memorial Day. Henry mentioned that there were some concerns about the festival closing access to a home on Main Street, but they are currently working out an agreement on finding a nearby spot. There was a detailed discussion on road closures, particularly around Keller, Main and Adair, with plans to maintain access to key alleyways and residential properties.

Bill Ramp was present but had nothing to discuss at this time.

Anita Goodman was present but had nothing to discuss at this time.

Department /Representative Reports

Clerk-Treasurer - Andrew Rowe (Not present, Deputy Clerk Chaja attending)

Deputy Clerk Chaja presented the following Customer Adjustment Requests:

- Account No. 6635002: Utility Customer had a leak that they had fixed and asked to have their account credited \$18.46, making their new amount due \$228.69.
- Account No. 380003: After the meter was read a leak was discovered and the meter was turned off until the leak could be repaired. They are asking for \$121.33 credit, making their new amount due \$186.65.
- Account No. 2810001: Utility Customer's payment was post marked well before the due date and we did not receive it until after causing a late fee. They are asking for their late fee to be credited back to his account in the amount of \$8.18.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the following Customer Adjustment Requests:

- Account No. 6635002: Utility Customer had a leak that they had fixed and asked to have their account credited \$18.46, making their new amount due \$228.69.
- Account No. 380003: After the meter was read a leak was discovered and the meter was turned off until the leak could be repaired. They are asking for \$121.33 credit, making their new amount due \$186.65.
- Account No. 2810001: Utility Customer's payment was post marked well before the due date and we did not receive it until after causing a late fee. They are asking for their late fee to be credited back to his account in the amount of \$8.18.

Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Town Manager Leszek presented the following Purchase Orders for Council Approval:

- P.O. 2795 to North Judson – Wayne Township Fire Department for 2023 and 2024 Pools Fills, in the amount of \$3,3764.00.
- P.O. 2796 to Liberty Mutual Insurance for Workers Compensation Renewal Quote, Quote #02108332-01, in the amount of \$1,109.00.
- P.O. 2797 to WTH Technology for Think GIS User Software License, Installation, Configuration and Training, Invoice 32849, in the amount of \$625.00.
- P.O. 2798 to The Leader/Pilot News for Advertisement for (5) New Ordinances, Invoice 117, in the amount of \$1,564.35.
- P.O. 2799 to Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC for February and April Billing, Invoice BTMA31418 and BTMA32447, in the amount of \$7,097.50.

Councilmember Lewandowski made a motion to approve the following Purchase Orders:

- P.O. 2795 to North Judson – Wayne Township Fire Department for 2023 and 2024 Pools Fills, in the amount of \$3,3764.00.

P.O. 2796 to Liberty Mutual Insurance for Workers Compensation Renewal Quote, Quote #02108332-01, in the amount of \$1,109.00.

P.O. 2797 to WTH Technology for Think GIS User Software License, Installation, Configuration and Training, Invoice 32849, in the amount of \$625.00.

P.O. 2798 to The Leader/Pilot News for Advertisement for (5) New Ordinances, Invoice 117, in the amount of \$1,564.35.

P.O. 2799 to Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC for February and April Billing, Invoice BTMA31418 and BTMA32447, in the amount of \$7,097.50.

Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Town Manager Leszek mentioned that they would need to schedule the next Redevelopment Commission meeting. The Council agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19th.

School Board – Doug Wilde

Nothing presented.

Building Inspector – Todd Jackson

Town Manager Leszek stated that Jackson has been issuing permits and working with Attorney Schramm regarding unsafe structures. Council Vice President Brown asked for an update on the current unsafe violations. Leszek informed him that there had been more properties added to the list that Jackson would be getting photo evidence of. Once Jackson is able to retrieve the photos then the Town would be able to start getting the unsafe structures taken care of.

Code Enforcement – Town Marshal Frank Thomas

Town Marshal Thomas stated that he usually has to contact Adult Protective Services (APS) due to the severe disrepair and unsanitary conditions of these properties. He explained that APS often declines to intervene since most of the individuals are choosing to live this way. Starke County lacks its own APS office, relying on support from Laporte's office. Thomas acknowledged that some residents are victims of circumstances, but some others neglect their property by choice. He did mention that progress has been made in enforcing ordinances including abandoned vehicles and debris are being removed from several properties. He also mentioned that he encouraged residents to take part in the Bulk Pick Up day the Town was hosting. While some responded well, others did not, and his officers will soon begin issuing citations to the non-compliant property owners.

Unsafe Hearing

Nothing presented.

BZA/Planning Commission

Nothing presented.

Redevelopment Commission

Nothing presented.

Park Board – Nick Radtke

Town Manager Leszek explained that several local churches had come together on Saturday to volunteer in the town park, aiming to give back to the community. The volunteers completed a number of painting and cleanup projects, including the concession stand building and the new dugouts. The effort lasted

about three and a half hours and had a strong community participation. This volunteer initiative is expected to become an annual tradition. The turnout and results exceeded expectations, and the contribution from volunteers was deeply appreciated.

Police Department – Town Marshal Frank Thomas

Thomas mentioned that a resident from Knox attended a party at one of the town's pavilions and complimented the new park, saying they prefer it over their own local park due to its quality. There were no other major updates from the Department.

Thomas presented the following Purchase Orders for Council Approval:

P.O. 2788 to Signal 10 for Install of 800 Radio in Chevrolet Tahoe (2014) and Ford Explorer (2016), Invoice 1247, in the amount of \$986.74.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the following Purchase Orders:

P.O. 2788 to Signal 10 for Install of 800 Radio in Chevrolet Tahoe (2014) and Ford Explorer (2016), Invoice 1247, in the amount of \$986.74.

Councilmember Windbigler seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Todd Jackson

Nothing Presented.

Utility Department – Utility Supervisor Kimberly Kapp

Utility Supervisor Kapp updated the Council on her crew's recent activities. The recent utility and maintenance updates include new generator transfer switch installed and functioning properly, repairs completed on the Jet Vac, cemetery water system repaired and operational, and the park bathrooms being repaired and operational. Kapp stated that the park bathrooms will only be open on the weekends if there's a scheduled event and organizers notify the town in advance.

Utility Supervisor Kapp presented the following Purchase Orders for Council Approval:

P.O. 2789 to Blue River Technologies for 55gal Polymer and Delivery, Invoice 100315-980, in the amount of \$2,349.00.

P.O. 2790 to USA Bluebook for Lab Supplies, Invoice INV00691632, in the amount of \$621.47.

P.O. 2791 to H&T Electrical for Repair Lift Station pde damaged in storm, Invoice 1953, in the amount of \$977.39.

P.O. 2792 to Landmark Materials for Pea Gravel, Invoice 14101, in the amount of \$537.21.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the following Purchase Orders:

P.O. 2789 to Blue River Technologies for 55gal Polymer and Delivery, Invoice 100315-980, in the amount of \$2,349.00.

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P.O. 2792 to Landmark Materials for Pea Gravel, Invoice 14101, in the amount of \$537.21.

Councilmember Windbigler seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Town Manager – Joe Leszek

Town Manager Leszek informed the Council that the mulch has been delivered and spread in the zipline area. A quote is expected next week for striping near the baseball fields. Standard 9-foot-wide spots will be marked, but options for wider spots are being considered to accommodate for larger vehicles. There were discussions about potentially paving the gravel area adjacent to the existing parking lot near George Street. Long-term planning includes developing the Shelter 3 area with power and improving accessibility.

Leszek gave an update on the current CCMG projects. Main Street has been repaved and the new sidewalks installed. He has also received positive feedback regarding the new sidewalks on Main Street. He also mentioned about a future project that will connect the sidewalk system through the park, along George Street and to the Highway, enhancing ADA access and pedestrian flow.

He also wanted to discuss a new AI-based Road Assessment Tool called "Violitics." The system uses smartphone sensors and GPS to map cracks and conditions. This will eliminate inconsistent human evaluations usually done by interns. The Town could subscribe to the program next year for \$6,200 a year for equipment and access. This would be significantly lower than traditional evaluations.

Leszek informed the Council that he received a quote from HWC for \$9,482.81 to install five cameras around the park and baseball field. The Council expressed interest, noting the deterrent and investigative value. Prior systems were prohibitively expensive, making this quote more feasible. No funds are currently budgeted, but they have the potential to relocate within the park funds. The Council requested more documentation before any decisions can be made.

Leszek presented the following Purchase Orders for Council Approval:

P.O. 2793 to Fleis & Vanderbrink for DES #2003029, Invoice 73167 and 73166, in the amount of \$6,843.31.

P.O. 2794 to USI Consultants for 2025-2 CCMB and DES #2101695, Invoice 24342, in the amount of \$5,365.00.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the following Purchase Orders:

P.O. 2793 to Fleis & Vanderbrink for DES #2003029, Invoice 73167 and 73166, in the amount of \$6,843.31.

P.O. 2794 to USI Consultants for 2025-2 CCMB and DES #2101695, Invoice 24342, in the amount of \$5,365.00.

Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Legal Updates – Town Attorney Justin Schramm

Nothing Presented.

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by the Council:

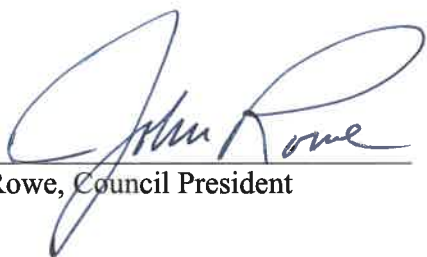
Nothing Presented.

Payment of Claims:

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Register – Payment of Claims in the amount of \$218,746.35. Councilmember Windbigler seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Councilmember Lewandowski made a motion to adjourn, Council Vice President Brown seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Rowe", written over a horizontal line.

John Rowe, Council President

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Rowe", written over a horizontal line.

Andrew J. Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer

Next regular scheduled meeting – Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.