

A public hearing and the regular meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, May 11, 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, Shane and Brianna Kohl, Sherry Stowers, Kat Bell, Jake and Michelle Myers, Steve and Kristie Jones, Garrett Owens, Dan Carlisle, Danielle Miles, Jay Moore, and Clerk-Treasurer Tara Walker.

The Pledge of Allegiance and prayer were led by Melinda Jobe. She also reminded everyone that she is trying to keep the meetings more professional and asked that anyone not on the agenda refrain from talking or speaking out of line.

PUBLIC HEARING – Melinda Jobe opened the public hearing regarding an additional appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 for the Community Foundation Park Project Grant Fund #2403. Clerk-Treasurer Tara Walker explained that the appropriation does not increase the Town's budget, but is a required formality to allow expenditure of the grant funds received. Walt Minnick moved to approve Additional Appropriation Resolution #2026-5-2. The motion was seconded by Brent Stetler and passed unanimously. With no comments or questions from the public or Council members, the public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

MINUTES – Jerry Faucett moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 Town Council meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Brent Stetler and approved by the following vote: Jerry Faucett, Brent Stetler, Walt Minnick, and Melinda Jobe voted yes. Craig Hudzinski was not present due to a brief absence from the room during the meeting.

VARIANCE REQUEST FOR 303 N ILLINOIS ST – Garrett Owens provided information to the council prior to the meeting regarding his request for a favorable recommendation to the Area Plan Commission (APC) for the construction of a 24' x 48' pole barn on his property. Kat Bell of the APC was also present. Garrett stated that he had a survey completed which determined the Town right-of-way, measured from the centerline of N. Illinois St., to be 31 feet. He noted that APC regulations require a 15-foot setback from the right-of-way. Garrett explained his reasons for requesting the variance, including the location of trees he had planted, previous similar approvals, and that the structure would not create a traffic line-of-sight issue or encroach upon the right-of-way. Kat Bell reminded the council that the APC would take the council's recommendation into consideration, but that the APC would make the final determination after reviewing their criteria for a variance. Following discussion, Brent Stetler moved to provide a favorable recommendation to the APC for Garrett's variance request to build his pole barn within the 15' setback from the front ROW. The motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and carried unanimously.

SHERRY STOWERS – Sherry Stowers, who is on the board of the Partnership for a Drug Free Clinton County (PDFCC), asked the council to consider allowing placement of a NaloxBox within the Town. She explained that the NaloxBox would contain Narcan nasal spray for public use in emergency overdose situations and would be installed and maintained by Healthy Communities.

Sherry that the fire department was not an option for the location. After discussion, the matter was tabled until the June meeting to allow council members time to consider potential locations.

DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPING – The council reviewed a downtown landscaping proposal submitted by Smith Outdoors LLC in the amount of \$9,115.00. Melinda Jobe noted that the proposal exceeded the amount budgeted for the project and stated that the town could seek additional bids. The matter was tabled until the June meeting.

ORD #2026-5-1 – Tara Walker read Ordinance #2026-5-1 in its entirety, establishing the Community Foundation Grant Fund. Craig Hudzinski moved to approve the ordinance on first reading. The motion was seconded by Brent Stetler and passed unanimously. Craig Hudzinski then moved to suspend the rules to allow consideration of the ordinance on second reading at the same meeting. The motion was seconded by Brent Stetler and carried unanimously. Craig Hudzinski subsequently moved to adopt Ordinance #2026-5-1 on second reading. The motion was seconded by Brent Stetler and passed unanimously.

THE BRIDGE AGREEMENT – Due to errors identified in the original agreement signed in December 2025, Town Attorney Jay Moore prepared a revised version containing minor corrections. Brent Stetler moved to approve the revised agreement between the Town and The Bridge. The motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and passed unanimously. Mr. Moore explained that he had determined the agreement to be similar to a "Design, Build, Operate" agreement, which is significant because it alters the applicable bidding requirements and Davis-Bacon Act provisions, as The Bridge will be responsible for construction of the facility.

SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT – Brent Stetler moved to approve payment of Commonwealth Engineers Invoice #66376 in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. The motion was seconded by Craig Hudzinski and carried unanimously.

PARK – Billy Walker reported that the caps and lids program continues to be successful and stated that he and Tara would soon be picking up four trash receptacles, one bench, and two toddler-sized picnic tables. He further reported that the pickleball court and park restrooms are now open and that installation of the new playground equipment, previously delayed due to weather, was scheduled to begin on Wednesday. Billy stated that mulch would be installed around the playground equipment using donated funds if donated mulch could not be obtained. He then presented the following quotes for construction of a new concrete sidewalk connecting the open-air pavilion to the future ADA-accessible merry-go-round location: Metzinger Construction, \$4,750.00; Elite Concrete, \$6,900.00; and A1 Concrete, \$7,965.00. Tara publicly thanked Metzinger Construction for donating half of the normal project cost. Brent Stetler moved to approve the Metzinger Construction quote in the amount of \$4,750.00. The motion was seconded by Craig Hudzinski and carried unanimously. Billy also presented quotes for the purchase and installation of an ADA-accessible merry-go-round, including the poured-in-place (PIP) surfacing and shipping costs: WillyGoat, \$29,591.00; Midstates Recreation, \$45,352.00; and APC Play, \$46,428.00. He noted that the equipment currently has an estimated lead time of four to eight weeks and that the Town's \$20,000.00 Community Foundation Grant would be applied toward the project. Walt Minnick moved to approve the WillyGoat quote in the amount of \$29,591.00. The motion was seconded by Jerry Faucett and passed unanimously. Tara then announced that an

anonymous donor had generously purchased an AED machine for the park, including pediatric pads and a weatherproof, LED-lit case with thermostat control. She explained that the unit includes a lock system accessible through a code provided by 911 dispatch during an emergency. Billy also expressed appreciation for the many donations received for the park project and specifically thanked Brett Richardson for removing carved graffiti from the playground equipment, saving the Town both time and expense. He noted that the equipment will eventually require professional restoration. Billy also thanked Bill Lantrip for donating clear coat materials for the repaired areas and Jeff Rustin for allowing use of his tractor and tiller to prepare the site for playground installation.

STORMWATER RATE – Brent Stetler stated that the Stormwater Utility Board has declined to ask the town council to increase the stormwater rate. Melinda Jobe responded that, while she does not want to have to increase the rate, she feels bad for those affected by flooding such as those who live in the apartments and Capstone.

UTILITIES SUPERINTENDENT - Billy submitted a written report to the Council prior to the meeting. He reviewed several maintenance and repair needs at the wastewater treatment plant, including replacement of the two oldest influent pumps, repairs to an aging gearbox used as a spare for the tertiary clarifier, failing bearings on blower #2, and damage to a generator component caused by mice chewing and clogging the housing leading to the turbo system. Billy reported that replacement parts for the generator repair had been ordered at a cost of approximately \$625.00 and that he was awaiting more detailed cost estimates for the remaining repairs. Billy stated that Brian Jones of Jones Electric had helped save the Town thousands of dollars by assisting with the rebuilding of one of the UV light banks after the Town purchased the necessary parts. He further reported that he was still awaiting bids for a stormwater repair project at the intersection of E. Jackson Street and S. U.S. 421. Billy advised that he had met with State Rep. Mark Genda regarding cooperation with INDOT and does not anticipate any issues in that regard.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Justin Brewer reported that the police Ford Explorer would soon require new tires. He also advised the council that Chris Salaba resigned effective May 4, 2026, and that Marshal Bright may resign within the next month. Between the previous council meeting and May 9, 2026, the department conducted 12 traffic stops, resulting in 11 warnings and one citation, responded to 17 calls for service, and issued three ordinance warnings. Jake Myers and Steve Jones introduced themselves to the council and expressed interest in the Town Marshal position. Melinda Jobe stated that she would contact applicants regarding interviews and thanked them for attending the meeting.

CLERK-TREASURER - Tara Walker provided the council with the following reports for the month ending April 30, 2026: Revenue Report, Appropriations Report, Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustments Register, Monthly Statement of Reconciled Accounts, and the Accounts Payable Register ending May 7, 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. **MISC** – Tara informed the council that the Town's existing bank accounts with The Farmers Bank would be transitioned into higher-interest accounts while retaining the current account numbers.

ADJUSTMENTS – The council considered a request from resident Jennifer Rustin for adjustment of penalties on her utility account. Jerry Faucett stated that the council only adjusts water and sewer charges. Tara explained that Jennifer reported placing two checks in a single envelope, but only one check had been processed, leading her to believe that Karla may have inadvertently discarded the second check. Tara noted that while such an occurrence would be rare, it was theoretically possible. She further explained that the her office automatically corrects billing errors; however, penalty waivers in situations such as this should be a council decision. Following discussion, Jerry Faucett moved to remove penalties totaling \$18.02 from Jennifer Rustin's utility account. The motion was seconded by Brent Stetler and passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEMBERS – Melinda Jobe stated that she had received photographs and has safety concerns regarding the little girl sitting on a scooter seen in town. Justin responded that, while it was thought to be taken care of last year, the department was aware of the situation.

Seeing no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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