

WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
January 13, 2026

Council members present

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Richard Hill | |
| President | <u> X </u> |
| Debra Hendrickson | |
| Vice President | <u> X </u> |
| Tim Brown | |
| Member | <u> X </u> |
| Brad Goedeker | |
| Member | <u> X </u> |
| Joe Sayler | |
| Member | <u> X </u> |

Other Town Officials

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Jenny Roberts | |
| Clerk Treasurer | <u> X </u> |
| Carmen Young | |
| Town Manager | <u> X </u> |
| Stephen Watson | |
| Town Attorney | <u> X </u> |
| Makayla Rich | |
| Deputy Clerk | <u> X </u> |

Call to Order

- R. Hill called the meeting to order at 6:15pm

Roll Call – Quorum requirements reached. All present.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Reorganization

- T. Brown stated he is good with leaving it the way it is. J. Sayler is fine with leaving President and Vice President as they are – no need to reorganize. Consensus agreed.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosures

- S. Watson read disclosures for Tyler Croy and Brian Smith.
 - B. Goedeker made a motion to accept the conflicts of interest disclosures. D. Hendrickson seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

Minutes 12-16-25

- B. Goedeker made a motion to approve the 12-16-25 minutes. J. Sayler seconded the motion.

PASSED 4-0-1 (T. Brown abstained)

Minutes 12-22-25

- B. Goedeker made a motion to approve the 12-22-25 minutes. D. Hendrickson seconded the motion.

PASSED 3-0-2 (T. Brown and J. Sayler abstained)

Voucher Packet 1-13-2026

- D. Hendrickson asked about the Context Design bill and what exactly that was for. C. Young explained that it was to prepare and guide the parks board members on expectations. As well as preparing the Parks plan.
- Discussions were had on negative balances and moving money to different appropriations. R. Hill asked about balancing each month and the need to still have Adam Stone. Both R. Hill and D. Hendrickson voiced the desire to have Adam Stone be present at the meetings. C. Young stated he is still reconciling but the goal is to turn that over to the Town to do once learned.
- R. Hill asked J. Roberts about the benefits of using Adam Stone. J. Roberts stated that there is benefit for Adam Stone for reconciliation until she has learned. She felt this would be better discussed under new business.
- B. Goedeker made a motion to approve the 1-13-26 Voucher Packet. D. Hendrickson seconded the motion.

PASSED 4-0-1 (J. Sayler abstained)

Financial Report

- M. Rich discussed the financials. D. Hendrickson requested a copy of the December Settlement once received. (June packet)

Old Business

- **Resolution 2026-01, Amendment of Employee Handbook to Add Mechanism for Addressing Employee Issues Concerning Town Manager**
 - S. Watson explained amendment that adopts the addition to the handbook for addressing employee issues concerning Town Manager.
 - R. Hill asked if there would be a memo sent out to all employees with this change. C. Young stated yes, the latest changes will be sent out to all employees.
 - J. Saylor made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01. T. Brown seconded the motion.
PASSED 5-0
- **Ordinance 2026-01, Amendment of Town Code to Add Human Resources Duties to Town Manager Position (First Reading)**
 - S. Watson explained the Ordinance that moves HR duties under the Town Manager.
 - J. Saylor made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01. D. Hendrickson seconded the motion.
PASSED 5-0
 - D. Hendrickson made a motion to suspend the rules. J. Saylor seconded the motion.
PASSED 5-0
 - D. Hendrickson made a motion to accept Ordinance 2026-01 - Second Reading. J. Saylor seconded the motion.
PASSED 5-0
- **Stone Municipal Group Supplemental Agreement Update**
 - J. Roberts stated there is a lot of benefit to Stone Municipal and they have helped a lot. However, she said she needs more training, specifically Keystone (software) training. Stone can operate in Fund (Keystone program) but does not know how to train in it. J. Roberts has a proposal from another company to train in new business. Council agreed to go ahead and discuss the request.

New Business

- **Proposed Services Contract with Local Government Services, LLC**
 - J. Roberts explained that she has not gotten a lot of training from Stone Municipal and reached out to Keystone and they don't offer training. She is asking for training from Local Government Services. She has reached out to several other municipalities, and all have directed her to this company.
 - J. Roberts is asking that the money for her training be shifted from Stone Municipal to Local Government Services. The contract is for \$180/hr and Stone was \$2500/month.
 - J. Saylor stated that whatever funds were set aside for training, he is in favor of that being what J. Roberts would want it to be.
 - R. Hill asked about the areas that she is struggling with, length of time for the contract, and any expectations she has for this training.
 - J. Roberts stated she could put something together but it's not just her – the whole team is struggling. This potentially is training for her whole team. R. Hill asked M. Rich about her training, and she stated she had received very minimal training from the previous clerk treasurer. M. Rich said that if someone knew Keystone in and out, she could see how that could benefit not only the clerk treasurer position. She further explained that there are issues, isolated within Keystone, that no one knows how to fix.
 - R. Hill asked C. Young about the specifics of the amount of Stone Municipal's fees that are for training. C. Young explained that the training was to be month-to-month as needed. She has spoken with him about no longer using him for the supplemental training and he is fine with that. C. Young also stated that the goal in working with Stone Municipal is to get the Town balanced and then they would phase out but that has taken longer than expected due to the change in the position.

- J. Saylor recommended that they could put in a not to exceed amount for training monthly. R. Hill asked about the length and times of training. J. Saylor stated 20 hrs monthly would come to \$3600/monthly and asked if that would be enough time. J. Roberts stated that she thought it would.
- B. Goedeker agreed that they want her to be successful and made a motion to approve the contract with Local Government Services with an amount – not to exceed in the amount of \$3600. J. Saylor seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

- S. Watson asked about the supplemental agreement with Stone Municipal and if it only included the training.
- J. Saylor made a motion authorizing the Town Manager to re-negotiate Stone Municipal's Supplemental contract to reflect that they are no longer training. T. Brown seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

- **Resolution 2026-02 Approving Core 5 Second Amended SB-1 Project Update**

- Amy Nooning, Dentons, law firm in Indianapolis, spoke representing Core 5. She explained the original abatement in 2021 that was granted to Core 5 to develop 2 sites with 2 separate buildings. In 2024, Core 5 came before the council with an amended SB1, modifying the start date and completion date of building 2. They are back to update the council on the progress and for them to consider a second amended SB1 to allow for an extension of the construction dates. Building 1 has already exceeded the estimated assessed value. Site 2 is designed and ready to go, and the utilities are on site. National and regional economic market conditions have necessitated the pausing of the development of site 2. She stated that once building 2 is constructed, it is estimated the assessed value would be \$60 million. Original estimate was \$41.6 million.
- Doug Armbruster, Senior VP and Managing Director of Core 5, spoke about the project and market conditions they have faced.
- D. Hendrickson stated she didn't have a problem with it, considering how the market has been. J. Saylor stated he wasn't opposed to it, but the Town isn't getting the benefit that was originally promised to us. He feels if the Town is going to delay the benefit of our bargain, by delaying the timeline again, there should be some consideration for that. T. Brown agreed and is concerned about continuing to grant abatements. R. Hill stated he understood the market issues but is also concerned about granting multiple abatements.
- J. Saylor asked about C. Young's opinion. C. Young stated that Core 5 has been great with communication and keeping the town updated.
- D. Hendrickson made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02. J. Saylor seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

- **Dedication and Acceptance of Infrastructure for Saddlebrook Farms North Section 2A**

- Billy Patrick, Building Commissioner, presented the dedication and acceptance of infrastructure for Saddlebrook Farms Section 2A. Note – roll curbs will be placed on a 5 year maintenance bond.
- J. Saylor made a motion to approve the dedication and acceptance of infrastructure for Saddlebrook Farms Section 2A. D. Hendrickson seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

- **Consideration of Proposed Traffic Signal Timing Agreement with INDOT (Whiteland Road/Warrior Trail)**

- C. Young discussed the agreement with INDOT regarding maintaining the traffic signal at Whiteland Rd./Warrior Trail. This will hopefully alleviate some traffic issues.
- J. Saylor made a motion to approve C. Young to sign the agreement with INDOT pending legal review. B. Goedeker seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

Town Manager Report

- C. Young stated that she will be bringing some department stats to next month's meeting.
- C. Young let the council know we received some positive feedback and acknowledged Steven Richards and team for the quick response to the water leak.

Department Head Reports

- Chief Derek Cox passed out the Police department's annual report. He also let everyone know the Officer of the Year was awarded to Chris Speer. They also gave a 5 year service award to Chris Wilcher.
 - R. Hill asked about any issues with the light at Whiteland Rd/Warrior Trail. D. Cox stated he has been out there and taken calls regarding the issue. He feels it would be helpful for the maintenance of that light to be under INDOT now.
- Chief Eric Funkhouser discussed the desire to add the Opticom light system at certain lights in Whiteland to assist fire/police on calls. Opticom lights are part of an emergency vehicle preemption (EVP) system that uses coded infrared (IR) signals from vehicle-mounted emitters to communicate with traffic signals, giving first responders a green light for faster, safer passage through intersections. There is a federal grant that will pay 90% of the project.
 - J. Saylor made a motion to pursue the grant. D. Hendrickson seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

- Chief Eric Funkhouser also shared the fire department stats that included a 21% increase in call volume. He also let the council know that Medic 271 is moving back to the fire station in 2 weeks, which should lower response time.
- Chief Eric Funkhouser also discussed the need to get the fire hydrants back up and running and fully supports S. Richards efforts to do so.
 - R. Hill asked about the repairs to the ladder truck and E. Funkhouser stated that he should know more this week.
 - B. Goedeker commented on the difficulty S. Richards has had communicating with a lot of the hydrant companies and asked about any assistance E. Funkhouser could offer. E. Funkhouser stated he has been discussing this with S. Richards and put him in touch with an excavation company that could help. They also developed a new process/plan regarding the maintenance and testing of the hydrants.
- Armando DeSantiago, Public Works Coordinator, gave update on the trucks available for salt/snow. He also updated the council on the sheds – 2 will be moved in the next week.
 - T. Brown asked how the Town was doing on salt. A. DeSantiago stated that the Town is at about 80 tons now and has another delivery of 20 tons tomorrow.
 - T. Brown asked about the street garage building and debris clean-up. A. DeSantiago and C. Young have meeting next week regarding the rebuild. He also has a plan to get the debris cleaned up and has been working with Alan Whitaker to help.
- Steven Richards, Water Superintendent, spoke about the repairs to the fire hydrants and quotes received. Quote from Lawyer Excavation, not including materials, is up to \$10,000 per hydrant. The hydrant costs are just under \$7000/each.
 - J. Saylor made a motion to approve C. Young signing the agreement with Lawyer Excavation with a not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000 and \$70,000 for materials. D. Hendrickson seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

- Jesse Jones, Wastewater Superintendent, discussed the purchase of the fleet trucks. They are on order and will be here 9-10 weeks. He also stated the east oxidation ditch is completed and cleaned and now will get the handrail installed. He also stated Wessler has finished the wet weather inspections and will have report from them next week.
- Jesse Jones passed out 3 quotes to the council for the purchase of a VAC truck. He would like to move forward with the quote from Brown Equipment in the amount of \$550,000.
 - R. Hill asked about the warranty. J. Jones and A. DeSantiago gave details on the warranty, and they will get further clarification in writing.
 - D. Hendrickson made a motion to purchase the VAC truck from Brown Equipment for the quoted amount of \$550,000. T. Brown seconded the motion.

PASSED 5-0

Counsel Comment

Council Comment

Public Comment

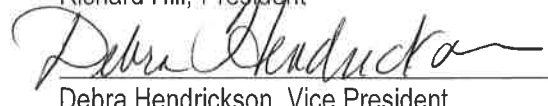
R. Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm

Passed by the Whiteland Town Council on this day 10 of February, 2026.

Aye



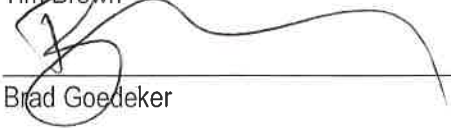
Richard Hill, President



Debra Hendrickson, Vice President



Tim Brown



Brad Goedecker

Joseph Sayler

Nay

Richard Hill, President

Debra Hendrickson, Vice President


Tim Brown

Brad Goedecker

Joseph Sayler

Attest:

Makayla Rich, Deputy Clerk


Clerk Treasurer