

**Minutes of the Wingate Town Council Meeting
Held August 5, 2025, in Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Council member Andrew Lorenz.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Kyle Campbell and Andrew Lorenz were present. Curt Hadley was absent.

Also present and reporting on behalf of the Town: Town Maintenance Supervisor Jay Busse, Town Marshal Jared Kirby, Fire Chief Darren Forman, Janet Alexander, Suzy Bass, and Park Representatives Phil Bane and Mark Fruits.

Troy Elless (UMAC) was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes from July 8, 2025, meeting
2. July Financial Reports - Fund Report, Bank Statement, & Bank Reconciliation
3. Accounts Payable Docket for August 5, 2025, for \$309,662.75
4. Utility adjustments \$0.00

Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew asked if anyone wished to comment on any item not listed on the agenda.

West Null, the owner of the High Street Bar, inquired about town drainage options for the gutter drains, noting the absence of a tile in the alley and offering to facilitate future tie-ins. Jay Busse explained the master plan prioritizes sewer and water upgrades first, with drainage pending funding; no final plan exists yet. Mr. Null also raised concerns about the position of the concrete barricades, which restrict access to dumpsters. He stated that he has scheduled deliveries (e.g., a walk-in cooler on August 15). A discussion was held, and it was stated that the barricades were placed at the property owners' request to prevent settling issues. Following this discussion, the Council agreed to temporarily adjust the

position of the barricades (e.g., angle cut, moving them 15-30 feet or past the dumpster) for access, then reposition them after deliveries. There were no other public comments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Park Advisory Board: Phil Bane reported on the pavilion project's progress, including the resolution of invoice issues. Biddle's invoices lacked detail for IEDC approval, requiring the FBI to provide supporting bills. A discussion was held. Phil Bane will talk to the contractors about the need to bill the Town of Wingate by name on their invoices. A discussion was held regarding the balance of the grant and other outstanding invoices submitted by contractors. There was also a discussion about the exterior windows needing a barrier to prevent damage. Kyle suggested steel mesh to repel balls and rocks.

Town Maintenance: Jay Busse reported on several matters, starting with the cleanup of Cording Hall. The work has been completed; however, the invoice included an additional charge of \$2,500 for the removal of three fuel tanks. A discussion was held. Janet Alexander explained that since the original clean-up contract was approved for \$23,220, and it was stated that the charges would not exceed that figure, the Board should make a motion stating that they approved payment of the additional charges. Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the payment. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Jay also reported that one of the swing sets at the Park was damaged by a contractor working on the pavilion. The replacement swing set will cost \$1,500. Jay stated that Curt Hadley is looking into this.

UMAC Water & Sewer Operations: Kyle Campbell stated that he spoke with Troy Elless today and was informed that IDEM has issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Town due to effluent limits exceeded. A NOV requires corrective action within a set timeframe, and may lead to further enforcement. The Town expected this to happen, and it is one of the reasons the Town applied for the Master Planning Grant from OCRA.

Coal Creek Fire Department: Fire Chief Darren Forman reported that in July, the department responded to fourteen calls for service (11 EMS, 3 fire). He stated that, year-to-date, the department has received 114 total calls for service. He also updated the Board on the success of the Tractor and Car Show held at the Park over the weekend. The event was very well attended. He estimates that they had at least 2000 attendees.

Town Marshal: Jared Kirby stated that he responded to 30 calls for services in July. He also provided information gleaned from the Montgomery County Sheriff's mobile speed trailer. Reporting on Southbound traffic, there were 33,199 cars between June 19th and July 10th.

Northbound, there were 35,982 cars. The average speed was 44.26 mph. The highest speed recorded was going north 111 miles per hour.

OLD BUSINESS

Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Master Planning Grant

The public meeting has been rescheduled for September 10, 2025. The HWC Master Plan report has been submitted to OCRA, also the Town has paid HWC \$54,000

Website Status

Janet Alexander stated that Curt Hadley has full administrative rights over the website. She also said that the Pay.Gov Credit Card payment system went live today. This will allow town customers to pay their utility bills by credit card. A discussion was held on how to subscribe to website alerts. The new townofwingate@in.gov email addresses are also posted on the website. The Board asked Suzy Bass to include information about Pay.Gov in the next mailer, along with the water bill.

Replacement Street Signage

The Council discussed replacing town street signage, with Jay Busse presenting two options: replacing only missing signs (\$1,500 for 6- to 8-inch reflective green signs, posts, and hardware, excluding installation) or a whole town replacement (\$4,129.38 plus installation, with blue or traditional Wingate colors). Jay noted that he would install the posts using a hydrovac to avoid underground utilities. Member Andrew Lorenz proposed buying all the signs up front and installing them gradually to manage installation costs. Janet Alexander cautioned that the Motor Vehicle Highway / Street Fund appropriations are already over-expended for this fiscal year. She suggested an additional appropriation of \$4,000–\$5,000 from MVH 2201 or from the General Fund for this project. There was a motion to table this project until the next meeting. There was a suggestion that the Town use Public Safety LIT funds for the purchase of the signs due to issues with locating streets by the Volunteer Fire Department.

Codification Project

Janet Alexander stated that she has made no progress on this project to date. She asked them to table the report. Tabled.

Ordinance Enforcement

Andrew Lorenz requested updates from the Marshal regarding pending ordinance enforcement actions and cleanup progress. Jared Kirby, the Town Marshal, reported no new

enforcement actions beyond those pending with the Town Attorney, Stu Weliever. Jared referenced the following properties: 300 North Main Cross (previously discussed with Stu) and 115 South Main Cross (due to a vegetation issue). Andrew suggested having Jay Busse's crew to mow and clean up overgrown yards and then charging the property owners. Janet Alexander inquired about mowing costs, and Jay Busse explained that a regular unmown yard might cost \$60–\$80, but for 115 South Main Cross, additional challenges like a fence and 70–80 used tires could increase expenses. They also discussed the next planned Town Clean-up day, which will be held in October. They want to have it before Halloween.

Water Tower Equipment Update

Kyle Campbell explained that they have not yet been able to reach the antennas.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional Appropriation

Janet stated that the advertisement will be posted in the Journal Review in order to hold the public hearing for the proposed additional appropriations during the September 9, 2025 Council meeting.

2026 Town Budget Introduction

Janet explained that the 2026 proposed budget is scheduled for the September 9, 2025, meeting. She also said that the Adoption of the budget is scheduled for October 14, 2025.

Ordinance for Reserve Officer Position

Janet stated that this ordinance will need to be drafted by Stu Weliever. She explained that the process looks complex. Kyle will reach out to the attorney to draft an ordinance.

TASKS – ASSIGNMENTS

Andrew Lorenz reviewed the list of tasks.

- Jay Busse: Adjust barricades for Wes Null's access.
- Janet Alexander: Complete additional appropriations draft; research address signage ordinance (4-inch standard, fire dept fundraiser potential).
- Kyle Campbell: Consult Stu on reserve officer ordinance; fund street signs.
- Phil Bane: Communicate invoice details to Biddle.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Mark Fruits asked the Board to confirm the dates for the Fall Clean-up Day. The Board members said it would be held in October, but they have not finalized the date. There were no other comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Andrew Lorenz moved to adjourn, and Kyle Campbell seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Campbell, Council President
& Acting Clerk-Treasurer