

**Minutes of the Wingate Town Council Meeting
Held July 8, 2025, in Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Kyle Campbell, Curt Hadley, and Andrew Lorenz were all present.

Also present and reporting on behalf of the Town: Town Maintenance Supervisor, Jay Busse of Busse Excavating, Janet Alexander of Local Government Services, Troy Elless from UMAC, Park Advisory Board Members Mark & Sally Fruits, Joyce Stonecipher, Phil Bane, and Darren Forman, Fire Chief, Coal Creek Fire Department.

Curt Hadley offered to chair the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Janet Alexander explained that she included a Consent Agenda on tonight's agenda, explaining that a consent agenda groups routine items like minutes and standard financial reports into one item, which the board can consider in a single motion. The following items were presented under the consent agenda.

1. Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2025, meeting
2. June Financial Reports - Fund Report, Bank Statement, & Bank Reconciliation
3. Accounts Payable Docket for July 8, 2025, for \$40,557.63
4. Utility adjustments \$88.20

Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda. Curt Hadley seconded his motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Curt asked if anyone wished to comment on any item not listed on the agenda. No one asked to speak.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Park Advisory Board Updates on the Pavilion Project - Mark Fruits reported that the new Pavilion building is under construction, and they will hold a ribbon cutting tonight at 7:30 P.M. Curt stated that he is working with IEDC, following up on the READI 180 Grant Funds.

Curt also shared information he received from Tyler Wilson concerning the youth baseball season. He reported that there were six baseball teams, one softball team, and 46 games were held, including five tournaments. He estimated that over 3000 people attended the games at our Town Park over the summer. Curt also stated that the Boosters have a QR code set up that people can use to donate funds to the park via the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

Town Maintenance Supervisor Jay Busse provided the Board with an Invoice for the work done by Busse Excavating to repair the water pit at Star Gas Station for \$1,835.00. Kyle Campbell made a motion to add the charges to the Star Gas Station water bill. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

Jay also provided a copy of the proposal from Walden's for \$23,220.00 to clean up the demolition debris at Cording Hall. The work will be completed in late July, around the 22nd. Kyle Campbell made a motion to accept the quote and to sign the agreement. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

Troy Elless reported on Water & Sewer Operations. He stated that algae growth in the lagoon has resulted in additional IDEM violations. Otherwise, he said that everything else is running smoothly.

Coal Creek Fire and Rescue Chief Darren Forman reported that during June, the department received 13 calls for service. Ten of the calls were EMS, and three were for fires. Nine of the calls came from Wingate, one call from Mellot, and one call in Linden. The Chief stated that year to date, the department has responded to 101 calls.

The Fire Chief also reminded everyone that the annual Tractor Show will be held on the 1st weekend in August, along with a Sweet Corn Roast, Concessions, and the Car Show.

Town Marshal Jared Kirby stated that the two electronic speed signs have been installed. He also stated that the Sheriff's mobile speed trailer has been set up on Highway 25. He provided his monthly report showing that he responded to 32 calls for service in June.

A discussion was held regarding purchasing two additional electronic speed signs and poles. These would be paid for using Public Safety LIT funds. Kyle made a motion, seconded by Andrew, to order two more speed signs & poles for installation. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Master Planning Grant Study Update: P.E. Keegan Dunn (HWC Engineering) presented the completed report for submission to OCRA, explaining

that the deadline is the end of July. Keegan provided a summary explaining that they evaluated all utilities, identified needs, and formulated a list of recommended projects.

Water Utility Upgrades: Electrical improvements to the wellhouse, install remote monitoring, pressure transducers, a portable generator, remove/replace water tank lining, replace galvanized mains/services. Estimated cost: \$1,640,000.

Wastewater Project: Replace duct line/gravity sewers, pumps at west lift station, air release valves/cleanouts on force main, install an Aero-Mod System package plant, and clean closure of the lagoons. Estimated cost: \$4,779,000.

Stormwater Project: Improve drainage on Garfield, Washington, and Vine Streets (curbs/swales). Estimated cost: \$85,000 (potentially local funds; larger options evaluated but more expensive).

Keegan reviewed the proposed schedule of next steps, starting with the submission of the report to OCRA, which would be followed by a 30–60-day review, then a local public hearing, which would be held in September or October. The public hearing would be to discuss submitting an application for a State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) loan and an OCRA grant in 2026 for wastewater improvements. He stated that the Town would need to engage a financial advisor for rate analysis to develop scenarios with/without grants. Designs would need to be submitted by April 2026. Kyle Campbell made a motion to submit the report to OCRA. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the wastewater treatment plant and the ongoing issues with IDEM. Troy Elless explained that if IDEM puts the facility under enforcement, which is likely due to the number of violations, this could help the Town when they approach OCRA and SRF. If the Town takes no action, IDEM will likely impose a compliance plan/schedule.

Town of Wingate Website Status Update: Curt Hadley explained that he is working on email access issues and domain security with SHI. This has delayed the public launch until the problems are resolved to ensure email functionality.

TDS Update: Kyle Campbell confirmed that there is sufficient bandwidth for streaming.

Review of Draft Policy regarding Remote Participation Policy in Meetings. A discussion was held regarding the proposed policy. The Electronic Meeting Policy allows council members to participate remotely via electronic means (e.g., video or phone) under specific conditions: at least 50% of members must be physically present at the public-accessible meeting location; remote participation is limited to no more than 50% of meetings annually unless exceptions apply (e.g., illness or emergency); technical setups must ensure

visibility, audibility, and public access, with livestreaming required after July 1, 2025; roll call votes are mandatory during remote sessions; remote attendance is prohibited for key actions like budget adoption, personnel reductions, or tax increases; and meetings must be noticed 48 hours in advance, with minutes noting remote participants and recordings available for 90 days. Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the proposed policy. Kyle Cambell seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

The Proposed Materiality Threshold Resolution was presented. Janet Alexander explained that Resolution No. 2025-01 establishes materiality thresholds for reporting irregular variances, losses, shortages, and thefts in compliance with Indiana Code and State Board of Accounts requirements. She stated that the need to adopt this resolution is to comply with an SBOA regulation that has been in place since 2015/2016. She said that regardless of the amount, all thefts are reported to both the Town Board and the County Prosecutor. The resolution will be effective immediately upon passage. A brief discussion was held. Curt Hadley made a motion to approve the proposed resolution. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

American Legal – Codification – Progress Report: Janet Alexander reported that she is still working on the revisions and has shared several proposed ordinance revisions with the Board Members, Jay, Jared, and Troy. She plans to have a draft prepared in time for the August meeting.

The Board revisited the approved debris removal from Cording Hall. The Town signed an agreement with Walden's for the property clean-up, which should begin July 22nd – 24th. This was discussed and decided at the special meeting held on Wednesday, June 18th, at 6:00 P.M. Janet asked the Board members for copies of the minutes or notes from the special meeting.

Update on Ordinance Enforcement actions or cleanup progress. Jared stated that he would not be able to attend the July 29th hearing at 11:00 A.M. in Superior Court II. This hearing concerns the Town of Wingate's lawsuit against Ronald Gard. A discussion was held, and Andrew Lorenz agreed to attend on behalf of the Town.

Water Tower – Equipment: We still don't know which companies have put their antennas on the Water Tower. We need someone to inspect the equipment to confirm who owns it. Kyle Campbell may climb up there.

PAY Gov Credit Card Payment System Agreement -Curt Hadley will work with Suzy Bass to set this up.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Additional Appropriation: Janet Alexander explained that it will be necessary to adopt an additional appropriation ordinance to fund the extra costs of the cleanup and other projects that have taken place. She will advertise the ordinance for a public hearing at the September meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Janet Alexander explained that neither she nor Suzy will be able to attend the scheduled August 12 meeting. She asked if the Board would be willing to reschedule the regular meeting to August 5, 2025. A discussion was held. The Board agreed to reschedule the monthly meeting to August 5, at 6:00 P.M.

Curt Hadley reviewed the list of tasks/assignments that remain pending following this meeting.

1. Jay – Schedule Cording Hall debris removal with Walden's
2. Jared – Order two additional electronic speed signs
3. Curt will contact Suzy Bass to coordinate the PAY Gov Credit Card Payment system.
4. Curt will work with Janet Alexander regarding ADA document modification.
5. Curt will provide Janet with a memorandum from the June 18th meeting.
6. Janet Alexander will look for sample ordinances requiring a minimum 7-inch reflective numbering for home addressing.
7. Jay Busse will replace the missing street signage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comments

A resident asked the Board for clarification on water billing rates/thresholds (e.g., over 2,000/3,000 gallons.

Another resident asked a question regarding the comment that all the homes in Wingate have septic tanks that retain solid waste and that only gray water is treated by the town.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle Campbell