

June 18, 2025

**TOWN OF AVILLA
AVILLA TOWN COUNCIL**

108 S. Main St. Avilla, IN 46710

THOSE PRESENT: Philip Puckett Jr., William Krock Jr., Andy Uhl, Rita Grocock, Brian Carroll, Glen Wills, Kierston Wright, Kevin Kelly, Brandon DePoy, Mike Hensinger, Jerry Krock, Robert Hardy, Matt Getts, Julia Dunlap, Diane Lewis, Jamie Meek, Ben Plikerd, Colin Harding, Lisa Duehmig, Adam Dunlap.

Town Council President, Philip Puckett, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Claims in the amount of \$1,153,180.42 were submitted to the council for approval. Andrew Uhl mentioned that there were no claims for Benson Communications for the month. There is over \$4000 owed. There was discussion. Rita Grocock stated that Benson would be paid Thursday. There was a discussion amongst the council members, and their understanding of what Rita said was that Benson would be paid Thursday. Claims in the amount of \$1,153,180.42 was presented by Philip Puckett, Jr., with the remaining balance owed to Benson to be paid Thursday. Andrew Uhl motioned to approve the claims, William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 - Nays 0

Philip Puckett, Jr. thanked Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock, for paying those bills tomorrow.

Approval of the minutes from April 17, 2025, was submitted to the council. Philip Puckett, Jr. stated that these had been delayed due to changes. There was discussion amongst the council as to the accuracy of the minutes. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes 3 - Nays 0

Approval of the minutes from May 21, 2025, was submitted to the council. William Krock, Jr. stated that he asked Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock to make some changes and she did. William Krock, Jr. made motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes 3 - Nays 0

Town Manager, Adam Dunlap, discussed the Town Manager report that was sent to council earlier in the week.

Superintendent of Utilities, Brian Carroll, discussed the Superintendent report that was sent to council earlier in the week. Andrew Uhl asked about the recent electric outages. Brian stated that it was different issues each time. Andrew Uhl asked about the new electric in the park. Brian said that it was ready to go. Town Manager, Adam Dunlap, thanked Brian for taking the initiative to think of and implement this addition to the park.

Brian Carroll asked for approval to pay for boring the electric line in the park. William Krock, Jr. made the motion to approve the boring of \$3500 to Ace Solutions. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Town Marshal, Glen Wills, presented his report.

Colin Harding, firefighter, gave the Fire Chief report in place of absent Casey Kintz. Colin requested approval to pay \$1789.64 for a new gas tank in truck 31 from First Response. Andrew Uhl made a motion to approve the repair. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Redevelopment Commission President, Mike Hensinger, reports that there is a potential buyer of the RDC building at 126 E Albion St.

Town Attorney, Robert Hardy, reported that pushing rate ordinances to the July meeting would be wise in light of Wolverine Power not having us a definite rate set yet.

Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock, would like the town to hire Audrey McSorley at \$120 per week, once a week, to clean Town Hall. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve hiring Audrey McSorley. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock, would like the town to reimburse Cassandra Holt of 310 Vice Blvd. for a confirmed water leak. Andrew Uhl motioned to reimburse Cassandra \$70.38 for lost water. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

New Business:

Ordinance 1681-6-25 to reopen Autumn Hill Drive was presented to the council for approval. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to suspend the rules. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Ordinance 1681-6-25 to reopen Autumn Hill Drive was presented to the council on first reading. Andrew Uhl made a motion to approve the ordinance on the first reading. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Ordinance 1681-6-25 to reopen Autumn Hill Drive was presented to the council on the second reading. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the ordinance on the second reading. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Ordinance 1682-6-25 to establish two different three-way stops at Rose St and Autumn Hills and Henrietta and Autumn Hills Drive was presented to the council for approval. Andrew Uhl made a motion to suspend the rules. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Ordinance 1682-6-25 to establish two different three-way stops at Rose St and Autumn Hills and Henrietta and Autumn Hills Drive was presented to the council on the first reading. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the first reading. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Ordinance 1682-6-25 to establish two different three-way stops at Rose St and Autumn Hills and Henrietta and Autumn Hills Drive was presented to the council on the second reading. Andrew Uhl made a motion to approve ordinance on the second. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Ordinance 1683-6-25, a fire burning ordinance, was presented to the council for approval. William Krock, Jr. asked if the burning of trash was included in this ordinance. Phil mentioned that burn barrels should be included. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to table the ordinance until next meeting. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Council President, Philip Puckett, Jr., brought up a discussion of code enforcement. Town Attorney, Robert Hardy, said that code enforcement is separate from the ordinances themselves and there are procedural hoops that must be jumped through to make sure that it is done right. Copeland specializes in this and it is sometimes prudent to go to a specialist. He recommends putting together a subcommittee composed of a council member, Glen, and either Casey or Brian to make sure that there is a plan going in because code enforcement is a large commitment. The subcommittee should discuss what the code enforcement challenges are and what is wanted from Copeland. Andrew Uhl, councilman, asked why the current ordinances are insufficient. Robert explained that they do not have an enforcement mechanism and do not establish procedures for how they are implemented and enforced.

Glen Wills, Town Marshal, stated that our present ordinance violations bureau is not current, would not hold up in county court, and many things are unenforceable. He stated that there are many challenges because of things like foreclosures which lend themselves to hard timelines. We need to figure this out before going to court. Certified mailings is often required. We need to be careful not to violate the law.

Robert Hardy stated that there is no enforcement officer. Some things are easier than others, and they require different things. We are starting from the ground up, but we can do some preliminary legwork on our own.

William Krock, Jr. made a motion to put a subcommittee together with Andrew Uhl at the head of it. Philip Puckett, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 2 – Nays 0 – Abstain 1

Council President, Philip Puckett, Jr. mentioned that three ordinances, 1678-3-25, 1679-3-25, and 1680-5-25, and four resolutions, 760-3-25, 761-3-25, 762-4-25, 763-5-25 have not been attested by the Clerk/Treasurer, and therefore not put into effect. Robert Hardy stated that the Clerk Treasurer does not need to be present to attest. The council could simply vote to indicate that this is what they wanted to have done and that they want them added to the town's codes.

William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the previously passed ordinances. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Andrew Uhl made a motion to approve the previously approved resolutions. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Councilman, William Krock, Jr., asked where the town is on taking credit cards for payment. Rita stated that she was not involved in this. Adam Dunlap stated that a contract from Invoice Cloud is being reviewed.

Councilman, Andrew Uhl, asked about bathrooms being unlocked for the Freedom Festival. William Krock, Jr. said that he spoke with Julie McBride concerning this and she has porta-johns so the park does not need to leave these open.

Councilman, Andrew Uhl, asked who was in charge of the batting cages and stated that they are in bad shape. Philip Puckett, Jr. recalled that the ball league always use to care for them. Andrew stated that he would reach out to them.

Avilla Chamber President, Kevin Kelly, thanked the Fire Department for letting the Fire Department to use the fire station for their fundraiser.

Resident, Diane Lewis, voiced concerns about unmowed lots. Adam Dunlap, Town Manager, stated that he reached out to the owner via letter, and he got a message back that it would get done. A week went by and Diane let Adam know that it still was not mowed. Adam went out and confirmed that it was not finished. He called the owner and was assured that it would be done this week. Kierston Wright stated that she was the one who initiated contact with the town manager on this because she actually lives back there and that she knows that it is being addressed.

Ben Plikerd from Benson Communications addressed the council and thanked them for working on getting them paid. He stated that it was brought to his attention that their emails were not reaching the Clerk Treasurer and, being the IT provider, was asked by a council member to discover why. He stated the reason was presented on the second to the last page of his report and stated that the council could make a town policy to prevent that from happening again. He presented three options to the council for timely payment; pay by ACH or credit card, pay annually, or take away the ACH pricing that the town now enjoys. He was open to other suggestions.

Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock, stated that she cannot pay bills she does not receive. Ben explained that they reached out to Microsoft 365 and got a trace route and discovered that 32 Benson emails were blocked at Rita's PC. Rita stated that she does not know how to block emails. Ben stated that moving forward, the council approves a policy so no one can block email through Microsoft 365 and that Benson Communications can disable that function for everyone.

Councilman, Andrew Uhl, asked Rita if they can pay the suggested annual payment. Rita said it could not. Attorney Robert Hardy said that a contract can be written to pay them annually.

Council President, Philip Puckett, Jr., wanted to know what could be done so that Rita's PC can unblock the Benson emails so that she can receive the invoices in a timely manner. Ben stated that he can, with the council's permission, enact a global policy to prevent anyone from blocking any email. Rita stated that if Benson does that then she cannot block anybody. Town Manager, Adam Dunlap, stated that she just stated that she did not know how to do that. The council agreed that Benson should enact the unblocking on all PCs.

Phil stated that sometimes there are tough issues, but we should all work to do what is right for the town.

With no further business to discuss for the evening William Krock, Jr. made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 P.M. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 - Nays 0

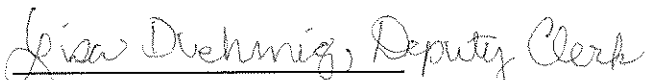
AVILLA TOWN COUNCIL


Philip Puckett, Jr., Council President


Andrew Uhl, Council Member


William Krock, Jr., Council Member

ATTEST:


Rita Grocock, Clerk -Treasurer