

February 18, 2026 Minutes

TOWN OF AVILLA

108 S MAIN ST, AVILLA, IN 46710

THOSE PRESENT: Philip Puckett Jr., William Krock Jr., Andrew Uhl, Robert Hardy, Brian Carroll, Chris Arnett, Casey Kintz, Jerry Krock, Petra Papai, Lisa Duehmig, Kiersten Wright, Michael Hensinger, Brandon DePoy, Brandon Bryant, Kevin Kelly, Kyle Wilson, Nathan Moore, Grace Caswell, Katie Schaller, Rhonda Stienecker, Milton and Tracy Otero, and Joe Krettler.

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 \$1,496,598.79 were approved for payment, vote passed 3-0.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as submitted, vote passed 3-0.

Minutes from the 2/2/26 and 2/6/26 Executive Sessions were approved as submitted, vote passed 3-0.

The Town Manager position has been filled. Two Executive Sessions were held to discuss the hiring of Milton Otero. Voted on and passed, 3-0. He will be starting on 3/6/26. We thank Bill Ley for helping. He will come in as needed if Milton needs assistance/training. Milton attended this meeting and introduced himself and his wife, Tracy. He is excited to come to work for the Town of Avilla, and we are excited to have him aboard.

Brian Carroll gave the Superintendent's report: Chester Street lift station project is complete. A splice box was found that only had partial fiber spliced. The amount to complete is \$2,275 and the work will be done by MWM, LLC. This was voted on and passed, 3-0. Brian addressed the electric bills and our Wolverine bill being so high, due to the cold spell and the fact that the Storm called Fern was taken into consideration. Also, our new rates went into effect.

Lead line removal is an ongoing project. The yearly contract for 2026-2027 with 120 Water is \$13,200.00. This amount was voted on, passed 3-0.

Brian requested that he be able to attend the annual Alliance conference in French Lick. Cost is \$280.00 plus room cost. Voted on and passed, 3-0.

Chris Arnett gave the Town Marshall's report: Glen Wills is on vacation. Police Department would like to purchase eight AEDs to equip all of PD's cars. The cost is \$5,360 and would come out of the Unrestricted Opioid Funds. Voted on and passed, 3-0.

Casey Kintz gave the Fire Chief's report: Forty-one calls were received in the past 30 days, and none were missed. Best One Auto Care invoice was voted on and passed, 3-0, in the amount of \$2,435.63. This is for the upper arm repair needed on the passenger side tire in the new command vehicle. First Due Communications quote for \$2,618.00 for decals on the new command vehicle was approved. Voted and passed, 3-0. Colin Harding is resigning from his part-time position, however; he will stay on as a volunteer. Casey will begin searching for his replacement.

Jerry Krock gave the Park report: He is still waiting for a reply from the engineering company regarding the parking lot work to be done. Drones are supposed to be collecting information for them.

RDC had nothing to report.

Robert Hardy gave the Attorney's report: The Wirco abatement waiver paperwork is ready for signatures. This waiver was voted on and passed, 3-0.

Clerk Treasurer did not attend once again. She has missed eight consecutive meetings, and has not physically been to work since June of 2025, but she continues to receive her salary and paid benefits. We will continue to bring this up at each meeting until we have a resolution. Bill 1381 passed the House. It is going to the Senate now and hopefully will be in committee tomorrow or next week. The Town Council has been in touch with both Senators Sue Glick and Ben Smaltz.

Petra Papai and Lisa Duehmig gave the Town Clerk's report: A sewer write-off request was made for \$86.91 for Lewis Street utility customer Chris Clark. Voted and approved, 3-0. Quotes were presented to remodel the office area and get new desks. These quotes were tabled for next month. The part-time office clerk, Ashley Sturdivant, is doing a great job.

We are still on track to take credit card payments from our utility customers at the end of February. We are including a mailer along with the monthly invoices that go out to customers to make them aware. We are also posting it on the town board and on the Facebook page. A time clock solution is being investigated. Lisa and Brian have a demo meeting with TimeStar tomorrow. Also, we are getting quotes for a new phone system.

Plan Commission: Three appointments need made and they need to be elected or appointed Municipal Officials, or employees of the town. Bill Krock, Andy Uhl and Milton Otero will serve on the commission.

Grace Caswell from Visit Noble County, along with Katie Schaller and Rhonda Stienecker gave a presentation regarding America's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration and how it ties into our Town Festival. Rhonda has been hired as Director for the Noble County Council on Aging.

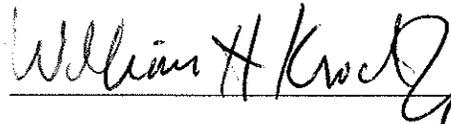
Restore Avilla's next project will be the Veteran's Memorial.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

AVILLA TOWN COUNCIL



Philip Puckett, Jr., Council President



William Krock, Jr., Council Member



Andrew Uhl, Council Member

ATTEST:

Leisa Dehning, Town Clerk