

January 21, 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, Bill Ley, Glen Wills, Chris Arnett, Kris Houser, Eric Lawson, Casey Kintz, Petra Papai, Lisa Duehmig, Kiersten Wright, Diane Lewis, Michael Hensinger, Brandon DePoy, Brandon Bryant and Matt Getts.

Town Council President Philip Puckett Jr., called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Town Marshall Glen Wills presented a plaque to congratulate Kris Houser who is retiring after 20 years of service. He plans to stay on the force part-time.

Claims in the amount of \$584,886.44 were approved for payment, vote passed 3-0.

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

We are accepting resumes for the position of Town Manager that is open. It has been advertised in the newspaper. In the meantime, Bill Ley will serve as interim Town Manager. Ordinance 1693-01-26 (reflecting this interim position) was suspended for first and second readings and voted 3-0 and passed. There was a review of the Property and Casualty insurance renewal through Black and Ramer.

Brian Carroll gave the Superintendent's report: Ley Excavating had to help repair the water main break on Baum Street. The total cost was \$2,365.00. It was voted on and passed, 3-0. Badge reading systems have been installed everywhere except the Wastewater Plant. The door needs repaired to do so, the total cost is \$1,900 from Norden's Construction. Voted on and passed, 3-0. Our professional consulting agreement with Tanner Consulting LLC is to help with ongoing projects throughout the year, total cost is not to exceed \$10,000. Voted on and passed, 3-0. The boiler at the Water Plant has a leak that is not repairable. The best quote to repair/replace is from Hensinger's. Total cost is \$7,413.00. Voted on and passed, 3-0. Spring Clean Up Day for the Town was voted on and passed 3-0, to be set for June 6, 2026.

Glen Wills gave the Town Marshall's report: Code enforcement office is no longer in training and is on her own. He will be submitting a quarterly report regarding offenses and what has been done to resolve them. Glen is working with Attorney Robert Hardy to produce a Master Ordinance for code enforcement that will serve as a standard model. The working draft

should be ready at the February meeting. Town Council had no questions regarding the report Glen sent them. As is custom in the past, a retiring police officer receives his service weapon as another form of appreciation. Town Council voted 3-0 on this matter. Glen will probably purchase another vehicle in February. It was already approved in a previous meeting, but the extra equipment will need the check approved. Additional equipment includes a push bumper running between \$1,200-\$2,000 and rifle rack for about \$500.00. These amounts were voted on and approved 3-0. Brandon Baatz who currently works part-time, will be moving into Houser's position as full-time once Houser retires officially on 2/1/26. This is an internal high, voted on and passed 3-0. Salary will be voted on in a Special Meeting being held on 1/27/26 at 4:00, open to the public.

Casey Kintz gave the Fire Chief's report: First he thanked Kris Houser for being a good asset and source of help to him and the Fire Department. Kris will be missed. Calls for the month were fifty-six for service, one call missed. 2025 was a record year with 496 calls and fifteen total missed calls. That was one hundred more than the total for 2024. Casey sent quotes to the Town Council regarding another Utility/2nd Command Vehicle purchase to be able to rotate the staff and assure that the on-call staff could use this vehicle. The radio will still need purchased, which is between \$1500-\$2700 plus install price. This should come out of Public Safety Lit, but Town Council decided the money should all come out of the Cumm Fire Fund. The purchase was voted on and passed 3-0 for the purchase of the 2021 Red pickup truck for \$55,000, and to spend up to \$3,000 for the radio.

Jerry Krock gave the Park Department report: He would like to see the baseball league start paying something toward the utility bills for the concessions, etc. The Town Council agreed to table this and do some more research to see what other towns do. If this were decided on, there would need to be a contract in place between the Town of Avilla and the Avilla Baseball League.

Michael Hensinger gave the RDC report: The former Magpie's Pizza building has been sold to Seth Tipton, and it will be under construction soon. Michael also requested that the RDC be given access to our building after hours for their meetings since we now have a key fob system. Town Council will take it into consideration.

Robert Hardy gave the Attorney's report: He presented Ordinance 767-01-26 to allow the Town Clerk to process emergency payroll in the absence of Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock. He also stated that Clerk Treasurer has now missed seven consecutive Town Council meetings and that she is doing no work on her part.

Lisa Duemig gave the Town Clerk report since there is no Clerk Treasurer to give her report: Town Clerk and the Utility Clerk, Petra Papai, have received resumes and are going to begin

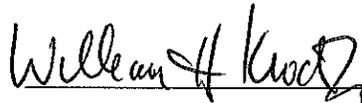
interviewing for the approved part-time office clerk help. We are still on track to go live in February with Invoice Cloud. We are also getting quotes for a new office workspace area that will better utilize the space with the third person coming in. The new computer needed for the part-time person was approved per the quote, \$1382.83 + the monthly reoccurring charge of \$58.97, voted and passed 3-0. Benson's quote for the presentation tv's above the Town Manger's office and the Superintendent's office was not approved. The 2026 holiday schedule was voted on, and it will remain the same as the 2025 holiday schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

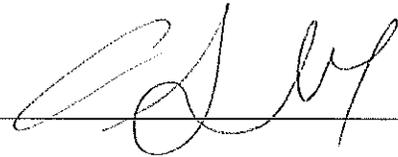
AVILLA TOWN COUNCIL



Philip Puckett, Jr., Council President



William Krock, Jr., Council Member



Andrew Uhl, Council Member

ATTEST:

