

**POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: December 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President Justin Rutledge at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT

- **Council President:** Justin Rutledge
- **Council Members:** Michael Baehl, Randall Rankin
- **Clerk-Treasurer:** Jodie Rankin
- **Attorney:** William Bender

Virtual Attendees:

In-person Attendees:

- List retained (4)

A moment of silence was observed on behalf of Larry Robb, long-standing Posey County first responder and retired Posey County Emergency Management Director.

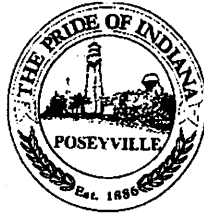
APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the following meetings were presented for review:

- **Regular Meeting:** November 13, 2024

Randy Rankin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Baehl seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)



CLAIMS DOCKET

The Claims Docket was emailed to the council members before the meeting for review. Clerk-Treasurer noted a few additions due to the payment of sales tax commitments and a Verizon cell invoice.

A motion to approve the Claim Docket was made by Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

PAYROLL ALLOWANCE DOCKET

The Payroll Allowance Docket was emailed to the council members before the meeting for review.

A motion to approve the Payroll Allowance Docket as presented was made by Randy Rankin, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank reconciliations for November 2024 were presented to the Council for review at the meeting.

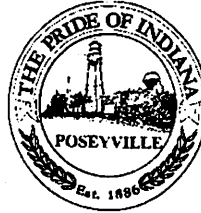
A motion to approve the Bank Reconciliation was made by Randy Rankin, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Theresa Bratcher, representing Heart of Poseyville Events, attended the meeting to express gratitude to the Town of Poseyville for allowing the use of the community center for their annual Christmas event. She shared that the committee learned valuable lessons during this year's event, which they plan to implement in future events. Overall, they were thrilled with the success of the celebration.

During the discussion, the issue of road closure for the Candy Cane Market was addressed. President Rutledge suggested keeping the road closed for the event next year to prioritize safety and recommended adding clear signage for patrons.



The council members, along with the clerk-treasurer, extended their thanks to Theresa Bratcher and Heather Morlan for their efforts in organizing such a wonderful event for the town. The committee has already scheduled the 2025 event for November 29, 2025.

No further action is required at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

The Clerk-Treasurer presented the proposed meeting dates to the Council for approval, noting that a few dates are not scheduled on a Tuesday due to town holidays. A copy of the approved dates is incorporated into the minutes.

The meeting dates will be posted on the town's website, sent to the Posey County News, and displayed at the meeting location prior to each meeting.

A motion to approve the 2025 meeting dates was made by Mike Baehl and seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

President Justin Rutledge presented the Council with the amended Subrecipient Agreement between Posey County and the Town of Poseyville. The agreement allocates \$325,000 and an additional \$200,000 in ARPA funds for infrastructure in the Farmington Ridge Subdivision development.

Clerk-Treasurer Jodie Rankin informed the Council that the \$325,000 has already been received and is currently invested. She anticipates the \$200,000 will be received around December 18, 2024, and she plans to invest it as well until final annexation and work on the project begin.

Randy Rankin made a motion to accept the Amended Subrecipient Agreement as presented and seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Jodie Rankin requested the Council approve Resolution 2024-12-10-01 Authorization Transfer of Appropriations. Mrs. Rankin stated the categories are close, but just in case an emergency happens before year-end, she requested a small transfer to three categories.



Randy Rankin motioned to approve Resolution 2024-12-10-01 Authorization Transfer of Appropriations, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

The Clerk-Treasurer informed the Council that she anticipates a visit from the State Board of Accounts auditors in 2025. To ensure compliance, several documents will need to be prepared in advance of their arrival. President Justin Rutledge noted that the town has been actively investing funds since July, and the resolution formalizes permission for these investments. He expressed gratitude to Clerk-Treasurer Jodie Rankin for her efforts in helping the town generate additional earnings from its funds.

Mike Baehl moved to approve Resolution 2024-12-10-02 Allowing Investment of Funds, Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Ordinance 2024-12-10-01 Authorizing Preapproved Payment of Claims was presented as an update to cover past and future payments as stated. Mr. Rutledge entertained a motion to suspend the rules of two readings.

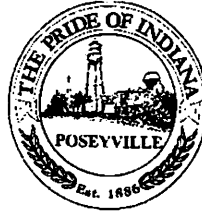
Randy Rankin moved to suspend the second reading requirement of Ordinance 2024-12-10-01 Authorizing Preapproved Payment of Claims, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Mike Baehl made the motion to approve Ordinance 2024-12-10-01 Authorizing Preapproved Payment of Claims, Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Posey County has requested the appointment of the 2025 Town Council representative on the Area Plan Commission. Mr. Rutledge currently serves in that capacity and indicated he could continue if so moved. Mr. Baehl made a motion to approve Justin Rutledge as the Area Plan Commission Town Council representative for 2025, seconded by Randy Rankin.



Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Posey County has requested the appointment of the 2025 Town Council representative for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Fallowfield currently serves in this capacity. Randy Rankin acknowledged Ron's great work on BZA and him for serving on the board. Mr. Fallowfield is moving to a new position that will not allow him time to continue through 2025. Mr. Rutledge requested we table the appointment for more time to secure an appointment. Ron will continue until we secure an appointment. He also asked if anyone was interested to please contact any Town Council Member or the Town Hall.

Randy Rankin moved to table the Board of Zoning Appeals appointment, which was seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

POLICE DEPARTMENT

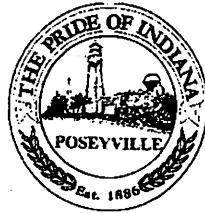
Marshal Carter submitted a run report to the council before the meeting. No action is required.

Marshal Carter provided an update on the speed trailer. The device does come with tracking software. It has been in place for four weeks, and he should have a report for the Council at the January 2025 meeting. No action is required.

Marshal Carter provided an update on his annual toy drive, which is funded by generous donations to the town. This year, the toy drive will assist 107 families within the community. Marshal Carter expressed gratitude to Ollie's on the north side of Evansville for their generous contribution through an additional discount, which has enabled the drive to support even more children. He also noted the rising cost of batteries needed for some gifts.

For those interested in contributing to the 2025 toy drive, donations can be made by contacting the Town Hall or dropping off a check at the Town Hall.

The Council thanked Mrs. Carter for wrapping all the gifts and Marshal Carter for his dedication to the program. No action is required at this time.



UTILITY DEPARTMENTS

Diana Powell, Utility Manager, submitted to the Council the new gas tracker rates that did drop to 8.9834. President Rutledge entertained a motion to accept the new gas tracker rate.

Mike Baehl motioned to approve the new gas tracker rate of 8.9834 for the period allotted, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

FIRE DEPARTMENT

President Rutledge addressed the Council and patrons regarding a meeting held with Mr. Jason Kolley prior to the approval of his appointment as Fire Chief. The meeting included Mr. Kolley, Clerk-Treasurer Jodie Rankin, Township Trustee Charles Carter, and President Rutledge. The discussion covered communication with the Town Hall, budgeting information, departmental concerns, and rules for budget operations.

Clerk-Treasurer Rankin described the meeting as highly informative and productive. He highlighted some excellent suggestions from Mr. Kolley. Mr. Rutledge noted his continued agreement for the appointment as Fire Chief. Mr. Kolley will have the authority to select his administrative cabinet.

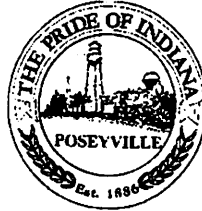
Mrs. Rankin informed the Council that Mr. Kolley has named Jeff Droege as Deputy Chief and Austin Ahrens as Assistant Chief, according to a recent email provided for website updates.

President Rutledge then entertained a motion to appoint Jason Kolley as the 2025–2026 Poseyville Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief. Randy Rankin made the motion, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

STREET DEPARTMENTS

None



PARKS DEPARTMENT

Clerk-Treasurer Jodie Rankin requested additional information regarding park operations following Officer Carter's November statement about the need to replace swings. Councilman Mike Baehl noted that Judy Baehl had purchased the previous swings and confirmed that new replacements would need to be ordered. Mrs. Rankin informed the Council that we did have money in the parks fund to allow such purchases. President Justin Rutledge acknowledged the need for swing replacements and suggested evaluating the condition and age of other playground equipment at the park. He also raised concerns about the park's accessibility, noting that families must cross two highways to reach it. Additionally, he highlighted that the park's shelter houses are located on land owned by an adjacent farmer, creating an issue with property insurance, which cannot provide a hold harmless statement for land the town does not own.

Mr. Rutledge proposed exploring the possibility of relocating the park when 2025 grant opportunities become available. He suggested potential sites, including the Community Center lawn, emphasizing that equipment could be arranged around the perimeter to maintain open space for community activities. No action is required at this time.

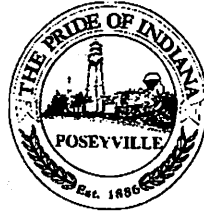
COMMUNITY CENTER

None

CEMETERY

Mr. Baehl thanked the mowing crew for their last time mowing and stated the cemetery looked much better after the last mowing. No other action was required.

President Rutledge concluded the meeting with a general statement regarding the 2025 Salary Ordinance. He clarified that the ordinance did not include a raise for



the Town Council, and Councilman Randy Rankin noted that the topic was never even discussed. President Rutledge further explained that, while the Council has expressed a desire to lower its pay, state statute prohibits such action. Clerk-Treasurer Jodie Rankin informed attendees that the annual renewal of the Salary Ordinance is a state requirement for budgetary and auditing purposes. A copy of the 2025 Salary Ordinance has been provided to the Posey County News.

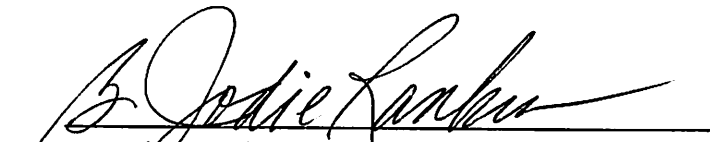
NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Poseyville Town Council will be on January 14, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. Motion made by Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned by a motion from Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


B. Jodie Rankin, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Poseyville

ATTEST:


Justin Rutledge, Council President