

**Meeting of the Town Council of Hometown, Indiana**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Hometown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road**

A public meeting of the Hometown Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at Hometown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Hometown, IN. Present were town council members Michael Aker (P), Patricia Freck; Brad Hite; Tina McDonald; and Brandon Seifert; Town Manager Hannah Walker; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Resource Officer Brandon Reichert; Mike Hawk of Hawk Haynie Kammeyer & Smith; five (5) members of the public and zero (0) members of the media. The meeting was streamed on the Town's YouTube Channel.

Michael Aker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COUNCIL ACTION**

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2026, regular meeting. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve the general, water, and sewer claims dated February 17, 2026, in the amount of \$3,775,266.36. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to introduce Hometown Ordinance 2026-003, an Ordinance for collecting and writing off debt owed to the Town of Hometown. Patricia Freck seconded. Hannah Walker provided an overview of the ordinance, which would see the town employ the Association of Indiana Counties Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System (TRECS) to allow the town to secure delinquent payment from customers. After no further discussion, the motion was carried 5-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to consider Hometown Ordinance 2026-003, an Ordinance for collecting and writing off debt owed to the Town of Hometown. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to adopt Hometown Ordinance 2026-003, an Ordinance for collecting and writing off debt owed to the Town of Hometown. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve an updated quote from Fort Wayne Toyota in the amount of \$42,744.55 for a 2026 Toyota Grand Highlander XLE FT4253. Brandon Seifert seconded. Hannah Walker noted that the original quote was approved in the amount of \$41,812.55. However, the town wanted to add Ziebart protective coating at a cost of \$995.00. She also noted that the selling price of the vehicle decreased from the original quote by \$63. She is asking the council to cover the \$932 difference in price. After no further discussion, the motion was carried 5-0.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve Hometown Resolution 2026-005, a Resolution regarding extension of water sewer services for 17330 Lima Road. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve the secondary plat for Cascata Bluffs as presented. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to appoint Rob Green to serve the remaining term on the Hometown Utility Service board. Brandon Seifert seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to hire a third-party firm to investigate the town's current water and wastewater capital plans. Patricia Freck seconded. McDonald said that members of the public have expressed concerns about the status of the town's utilities and its available capacity. She would like to have the town's current water and wastewater capital plans investigated by a third party. Patricia Freck said that she is happy with Engineering Resources and trusts the work they are doing, but for the sake of the public, she has no issue having the information looked at by a third party. Brandon Seifert questioned the need to do it now, after he suggested doing something similar in 2025. McDonald said the council was not interested in a 20-year connection with Fort Wayne City Utilities and did not need to pursue any additional overview at the time. Seifert said the town is unable to compete in the big utility market and that engineering firm has failed them. After no further discussion, the motion was carried 5-0.

Brad Hite made a motion to donate \$500 to Friends of Hometown Parks Inc. to assist in the Easter Egg Hunt at Hometown Community Park. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Outside of items listed under Council Action, the following New Business was brought forth:

- Hannah Walker provided an update on the 2026 Community Crossings Grant application program. She said the program is opening an additional \$75 million in funds for communities who were not awarded during the first round of awards. INDOT has informed the town that its application is considered a priority project for the new funding and is requesting that the town bid out the project prior to an award. The town plans to advertise for bids on February 25, 2026, and bids will be open on March 19, 2026.
- Ryan Schwab provided the council with a quote for website migration from ProudCity. He noted that the town's current website hosting company, Core, no longer plans to offer web hosting services as of December 31, 2026. Michael Aker asked to see more quotes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business was brought forth.

## **REPORTS**

Brandon Reichert had no report.

Outside of items listed under Council Action, Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had no further report.

Town Manager Hannah Walker had the following report:

- The Developer for Simon Lakes Estates has requested a variance on sidewalks and is requesting to put money for sidewalks into a fund for future sidewalks. Patricia Freck said she would like to see an escalation fee assigned to the funds since the cost to install them in the future will be higher than current costs. She would like to have the developer put the sidewalks in even if they get torn out later. No action was taken.
- The Town is looking to have its property on Trinity Street and Old Lima Road appraised for potential sale. She is asking if the council would consider paying for an appraisal of the old Post Office property – owned by another entity – for potential purchase. Council wanted to see what appraisals cost but had no issue including the third property. Brandon Seifert said that the Hometown Redevelopment Commission could also pay for the appraisals.

- The water line for the Willow Creek Middle School property has past pressure testing. The school corporation is looking at getting permits lifted and the line dedicated to the town for ownership and maintenance.
- Town Hall will be a stop for the Spice & Ice Festival on Saturday, February 21. Chili, cocoa, and a craft station will be hosted at Town Hall. The event will also feature some carriage rides and ice sculptures.

Mike Hawk of Hawk Haynie Kammeyer & Smith had no report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sherry Myers, representing the Huntertown Gardening Club, addressed the council about the flower boxes that have been installed throughout town. The club is looking to install more and is looking for funding. Patricia Freck said the council would be interested in purchasing flowers for the boxes. No monetary amount was approved.

After no further public comment was brought forth, Tina McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Patricia Freck seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Attest: Michael Aker  
Michael Aker  
President

Ryan Schwab  
Ryan Schwab  
Clerk Treasurer