

Dillsboro Town Council

April 13, 2026

Town of Dillsboro Council meetings are live-streamed and archived on dillsboro.in as required by law.

The regular meeting of the Dillsboro Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on April 13, 2026, by Council President, Tim Benning, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council present: Tim Benning, Becky Fryman, Charlie Caldwell, Jerri Jackson and Dustin Kitchell.
Attorney present: John Watson

CM Kitchell made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on March 9, 2026, seconded by CM Jackson. All were in favor, motion carried.

Guest

TM Derek Walker stated that Conrad Gerdes is present regarding the request for US 50 West Sewer Extension and Annexation at 13591 US 50. It is going to be about 1,200 linear feet with a 8" sanitary sewer main and it would be tied into Twin Oaks. Run a little farther to get to Bank Street and then run parallel up US 50. Figuring construction from \$150,00 - \$250,000. C. Gerdes is planning on dividing the property, making it more developable and open to annexation. If there is one service connection, probably would never see a return on the towns investment. But this could open up for a couple of commercial users and the town would see a quicker return and then with annexation, the town would get property tax dollars.

C. Gerdes stated this was discussed several years ago. And is still interested in the sewer extension and annexation. C. Gerdes stated he has 12 acres and have talked to a realtor and is considering dividing his property into 2 properties. This other property could be developed for a business.

Council will discuss this later and get back to C. Gerdes.

Clerk-Treasurer – Rita Stevens

Fund balances (as of March 31, 2026): General is \$137,853.30. Water Operating is \$184,390.77. Sewer Operating is \$320,794.99.

The 12 month CD that came due in March. The interest of the \$500,000 CD was \$20,144.12. Reinvested the \$500,000 CD and another \$500,000 CD for 6 months for 3.61%.

At the ILMCT Institute & Academy that CT Stevens attended. Suzy Bass & Janet Alexander from the Local Government Services stressed the Clerk-Treasurers show their council the agenda of the Institute & Academy to show them how busy the schedule was. Council received a copy of it. They also recommend the Clerk-Treasurer to go to all the trainings available.

Fire Department – Jason Sullivan, Fire Chief – not present.

Police Department – Josh Cady, Police Chief

J. Cady stated things has changed with the Dillsboro Homecoming and have been receiving a lot of phone calls regarding the Dillsboro Homecoming.

Aurora EMS – Charlie Jackson

C. Jackson stated there has been 42 runs for the month of March with the Responder 5.

Also stated the addition of another vehicle for their fleet, a 2005 Dodge Durango, now in service as Car 51-01. The Chief, Dave Phelps, is operating that vehicle Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will be available for any second calls, so they don't have to rely on Moores Hill, Lawrenceburg or Ripley County.

Beautification – Charlie Caldwell

C. Caldwell stated that CM Fryman mentioned several months ago the town needs a outside Christmas Tree. CM Caldwell is going to get with TM Walker to see if there is a grant available for purchasing a tree.

Park Board – Thom Maltbie

T. Maltbie stated the Park Board is meeting tomorrow and will decide on the color for the pickleball court. This will begin this spring.

Main Street – Kami Hamilton, Executive Director.

The Community Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. Had around 250 kids.

The Dillsboro in Bloom is May 9. At the present time, there is 15 vendors. Which don't include the Farmer's Retreat to do a bake sale and the Dillsboro Elementary PTO Garden Club.

Quarterly reporting is due April 15.

Leslie Sutherlin, president of the Dillsboro Main Street Board, spoke on the Indiana Main Street On-Site Accreditation visit. L. Sutherlin stated received some feedback from OCRA and Dillsboro Main Street had a great accreditation visit and did receive a IAMS (Indiana Accredited Main Street) level. This is the mid-range level. They have very rigid organizational process which is called four pillars. Dillsboro Main Street has tried to follow some of that, but it's not happening due to lack of volunteers. They suggest for different committees of economic development, organization, promotions and design. These committees will have to meet separately and report back to the board. So the goal to Main Street is to increase the volunteers to fill these committees.

Very appreciative that the town helps provide Main Street with K. Hamilton the Executive Director. Need to maybe create a memorandum of understand between Dillsboro Main Street and the Town

of Dillsboro to clarify what the expectations are and work more like a partnership. An example to this is a Façade Committee. Creating a façade grant for people who have rentals to increase economic development, historical elements of Dillsboro. Also looking at things that might allow Main Street to help with the three-story building or other things. Need to bring back economic development to get people to come and visit the various businesses.

The Tac Room Salon's grand opening is April 18. Encourage council members to show up. Main Street is going to have a booth.

L. Sutherlin is also the director of the Aurora Public Library District which includes Dillsboro, Aurora and the Depot. Dillsboro is under construction at the present time and should have a ribbon cutting in June. The library will have reservable meeting spaces and study rooms and a outside deck. And then a Bookmobile garage. Have expanded the children's area. There will be a history kiosk which will have all the history items that was in the basement to view.

Attorney – John Watson

On March 26, 2026, the DAU (Dillsboro Ambulance Unit) filed a motion to file third-party complaints against individuals and two of them were Jim Thatcher and Doug Baker. The claim against D. Baker is a defamation claim. J. Watson stated D. Baker was the Town Council President at the time when these allegedly ambulatory statements were made, but they were made on his Facebook account, not an official town account, and so far as J. Watson can tell now, they weren't made necessarily in his official capacity, but merely as a citizen. If D. Baker made those statements in his official capacity and could be attributed to the Town of Dillsboro, the town will want to let the insurance carrier know.

Town Manager – Derek Walker

The month of March, the town purchased 3.9 million gallons of water. Averaged 128,000 gallons per day. Down 20,000 from the month of February when there was a lot of leaks. The biggest consumption was March 2nd of 161,000 and the lowest was 91,500.

The wastewater report, the plant received 7.3 million gallons of waste. Nearly twice as much water as was purchased. The wave, the flow of heat got 653,000 gallons on March 5, so there is still infiltration issues. There was 2 ½ inches of rain in three consecutive days. The lowest day was at 102,000 on March 1, followed a relatively dry period. There was 236,000 gallons per day average for the month, the plant operated at 53% load capacity.

There was 3 notable repairs to the towns sanitary sewer system that were identified in the last televising project in the fall of 2024. Corrected all those issues on Rose Street, Wood Street and Washington Street.

The permit requirements for IDEM with the sewer plant, there is an ultraviolet light, so after everything goes through the treatment process, the last thing it does is get hit with some UV lights before it's kind of discharged out into the open ditch. So those go on operation in April.

At the park, all of the restrooms are opened up and a basketball hoop was fixed.

The Dearborn County Regional Sewer District have completely connected their main to the Lakefield at the sewer plant. They are still working on their system that goes towards Lake Dilldear and wants to do some testing. Possible having flow in a month.

The utility employees did the spring leaf pick up. Grass mowing has started.

The Redevelopment Commission is meeting on April 15 to discuss the Lenover Street property. Will be reviewing any written proposals.

The big code enforcement case on 12624 North Street, the son of the property owner has taken possession of it and so hopefully start cleaning up the property.

TM Walker stated that CT Stevens and himself have talked about some unpaid sewer balances. Some of these don't have water with Dillsboro so the water cannot be turned off if unpaid. They are Hoosier Hills water customers. Planning on sending customers notices and if not paid in 30 days, a lien will be filed.

TM Walker did state the Park Board will be meeting on April 14 and on the agenda is the color schemes on the pickleball court and have a change order request.

Did some televising sewers, had a couple backflow from the toilets. There wasn't too much complains and everyone's working with the town, so the town can identify these issues and prevent program issues. TM Walker showed council the map of areas already jetted and the ones not done yet.

Old Business – TM Walker

Solid Waste Contract RFR

Will be sending out the proposals to Best Way and Rumpke. Hopefully have this on the agenda in May.

Dillsboro Arts Request for Letter of Support (attached)

Dillsboro Arts have requested a letter of support, this is regarding a grant they are applying for to rehabilitation on the second floor. A long-term support from the town, including grant utilities, maintenance, and on boarding. Thom Maltbie stated the Art Center is pursuing funding to do anything that needs to be done in the construction. Three rooms upstairs can already be used but there is three rooms are not usable and will be getting volunteers to help clean it out. And just need the backing of the council to continue to do what the Arts have been doing. The grant application is

due April 15. CM Fryman made a motion for a support letter from council to the Arts, seconded by CM Caldwell. Motion carried. CM Benning will sign the letter.

Stellar: North Street Streetscaping Project 2026 Budget.

The town has a contract with Clark Dietz for engineering of \$300,000. The federal highway dollar is \$1.5 million towards construction of the project. In the budget is \$50,000 in riverboat funds. Was budgeting it for 2026, 2027 and 2028. But the constructions could be sooner and ask the state for if they can push the town up on the construction schedule. Have already spent \$50,000 on the engineering. The big invoice didn't get paid at the end of last year and got pushed over into this calendar year. So an additional appropriation of \$100,000 should get us through this year. Council decided to table this.

TM Walker also discussed the realignment of bank and wood street and the restriping of wood street and removing a stop sign on wood street.

Sewer Request for US 50 West Sewer Extension & Annexation: 13591 US 50

TM Walker stated there is nothing in the budget this year. It would be a good opportunity but it could be a risk also. It is going to cost \$150,000 to \$200,000 and it is a lot of money for one property. Conrad Gerdes is talking about a year. Council decided if C. Gerdes can find an investor in his other piece of property to come back to council and ask again.

Pickleball Courts Change Order Request.

Original was going to do 3 pickleball courts. But if the town wants to add the 1 tennis court in the middle, will need an 8-foot tall fence on the short ends and 4-foot tall on the long ends. The pickleball is 4-foot tall fence. For an additional \$8,000 of riverboat the town could put the tennis court in. After much discussion, council decided to leave it as 3 pickleball courts without the tennis court.

CCMG 2025-2 Bank Street Project: Clark Dietz Supplement Contract

INDOT contacted TM Walker, they didn't fund the Bank Street Project earlier, but now there is funding available. If the town can get everything to bid, the town can get it rated within this fiscal year, which would be in June. TM Walker got a proposal from Clark Dietz. There is money in the budget for roadway engineering for this project. This should not exceed \$17,820. There should be a bid opening in May. In MVH fund there is \$32,000 matched toward the construction of the project, so this is 20% match. The estimated project was \$120,000. There is \$40,000 for roadway engineering and that is where the \$17,820 would come from. CM Kitchell made a motion to approve the supplemental contract from Clark-Dietz, seconded by CM Fryman. All were in favor, motion carried.

CCMG 2024-2 Western Row / Guion Street, Main Street: Paul Rohe Pay Application.

Received the first pay application from Paul Rohe, which was work done in November for \$285,900.17. The contract amounts is \$533,238. There will be two pay applications when the project is done. CM Jackson made a motion to pay the first application of \$258,900.17, seconded by CM Kitchell. All were in favor, motion carried.

12916 North Street

TM Walker recommends to transfer the property of 12916 North Street to redevelopment since there was no proposals for the property. The last appraisal was for \$60,000. CM Fryman did make a motion to transfer the property but did not go any farther. Mike Stehlin stated he would like to put in a proposal for the building. Council decided to go ahead for Mr. Stehlin to give a proposal.

One Dearborn Stellar Pathways Program Project Signage

Council gave permission for TM Walker to update the graphics on the sign and the sign will be placed in the green space for the marketing of the project.

Water Tank Rehabilitation Project

TM Walker stated there was 3 proposals for engineering received from HWC Engineering, Western Engineering and McGuire, Tank & Power just for the tank only. The proposals was for completely sandblast inside and outside, replacing valves and installing a 4-inch water line.

McGuire, Tank & Power gave a proposal of \$419,377 for just the tank. Received two engineers quotes. HWC Engineering was for an evaluation engineer of \$16,000, specification on the tank is \$22,500, valve replacement is \$5,000 and for the alternate 8" water main is \$7,500. Wessler Engineering was similar to HWC.

Another alternative would be to have Mike Holman do the water mains and valves. Did not received anything from Fleis & Vandenbrink but they was suppose to submit a proposal for a full blast, valves and water main but haven't received any. They was bought out by Curry & Associates and have done a lot of work for the town and did the specs on the last tank.

Staffing Update

TM Walker stated regarding the laborer position, none of the applications check out. So the town have hired more seasonal help. The hourly rate will be from \$13.25 - \$14.75. Jerry Caldwell will be at \$13.50 (2nd year), Mike McMullen at \$14.75 since he is going to do more work and Parker Owens at \$13.25. Still receiving applications. CM Jackson made a motion to approve the hourly wages for Jerry Caldwell at \$13.50, Mike McMullen at \$14.75 and Parker Owens at \$13.25. Seconded by CM Fryman. All were in favor, motion carried.

New Business – TM Walker

Homecoming Fair Council Parade Plans

Council, Clerk-Treasurer & Town Manger will be participating in the parade as in the past. CM Fryman volunteered to get the candy.

Sanitary Sewer Rates for DCRSD Connection

Attorney Watson has a Sewer Rate Ordinance that is strictly for the Dearborn County Regional Sewer District. The proposal is \$10.81 per 1,000 gallon treatment rate. The proposal is on the lower end and then in 6 to 12 months, can do a rate study and raise the rates. It was discussed to have it in the ordinance the rates could be changed. The Public Hearing date will be at the regular council meeting on May 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. CM Fryman made a motion to approve the public hearing date, seconded by CM Caldwell. All were in favor, motion carried.

Dillsboro Homecoming Festival

The Dillsboro Homecoming Festival is asking the town for a donation of \$5,000 to support the festival. CM Fryman made a motion to approve the \$5,000 from riverboat for the festival, seconded by CM Jackson. All were in favor, motion carried.


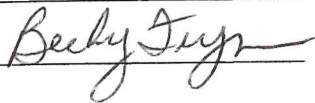
Special Meeting

The town council will have a special meeting on Apri 20 at 6:00 p.m. for discussion of projects that were not included in the 2026 budget.

There being no further business. CM Fryman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m., seconded by CM Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.



Rita Stevens, Clerk-Treasurer





TOWN OF DILLSBORO, INDIANA

13030 Executive Drive PO box 127 Dillsboro, IN 47018
(812) 432-3243 www.dillsboro.in

April 14, 2026

To the READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Grant Review Committee:

The members of the Dillsboro Town Council send this Letter of Support for the READI 2.0 Arts and Culture Grant Application from Dillsboro Arts Inc. We endorse the Community Studio Residency project and recommend the Dillsboro Arts application for funding.

Dillsboro Arts was founded in 2017, born from a unique partnership of a group of local community artists, the Town of Dillsboro and local businesses to repurpose an unused building in the center of our business district. The resulting Dillsboro Arts Friendship Gallery then grew to include The Porch outdoor performance venue, and the Creator Space for community-based arts learning; and now is planning studios and shared artists space to encourage and mentor young artists early in their careers - the Dillsboro Studio Residency: Mentoring Indiana Artists program.

We are proud to offer our support for this READI 2.0 Arts and Culture project and will continue to host and support Dillsboro Arts and its programming in our community. Thank you for considering this project to grow the vitality and livability of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Benning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Tim Benning, President
Town of Dillsboro Town Council