

Dillsboro Town Council with 2025 Budget Public Hearing

September 9, 2024

The regular meeting of the Dillsboro Town Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Doug Baker, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2025 Budget Public Hearing

Clerk-Treasurer (CT) Rita Stevens reported that at the August 26th council meeting, the Council recommended reducing the General Fund from \$393,900 to \$355,000, a cut of \$37,800. After consulting with the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF), it was determined that this reduction was unnecessary since the Maximum Estimated Funds of \$278,973 exceed the budget requirement. CT Stevens submitted the revised budget of \$355,000 as requested by the Council, before the Gateway submission deadline of August 30th.

Town Manager (TM) Derek Walker added that the Notice to Tax Payers can be misleading as the notice doesn't account for all town revenue, and suggested that an additional appropriation may be necessary in 2025.

The Adoption Meeting is scheduled for October 14, when the Council will vote on the final budget.

Being no public comment, CM Baker moved to close the public hearing at 6:05 p.m., seconded by CM Benning. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Council Meeting continued.

Council Member (CM) Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on August 26, 2024. CM Benning seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer – Rita Stevens

Sewer Adjustment Request: A request for a sewer adjustment of \$639.18 was submitted by Friendship State Bank at 12933 Lenover Street due to a major water leak. CM Fryman moved to approve the adjustment, seconded by CM Caldwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Six-Month CD: The town's six-month CD at Friendship State Bank, with a value of \$500,000, earned \$12,503.63 in interest and matures on September 15, 2024. A renewal option of 4.60% for six months was presented, compared to 4.3% for a 12-month CD. CM Benning moved to renew the six-month CD at 4.60% for \$500,000 from the Riverboat Fund, seconded by CM Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.

2025 Salary Ordinance: CT Stevens reminded the council that the 2025 Salary Ordinance needs to be approved at the December 9th meeting.

Utility Department - Matt Bauer, Superintendent

Bauer reported the team is performing well. They have cleaned up drainage work on the baseball side and will seed and straw when rain is forecast. The team is also working on clearing rights-of-way on US 50, Texas Gas Road, and other areas around town.

Sewer Plant Issues: Bauer noted recurring issues with moss clogging the returns at the sewer plant, which could lead to septic conditions. The west clarifier was drained and cleaned, following the yearly maintenance schedule.

Training: Bauer and Eric Graver will attend CEU training in Lawrenceburg on September 17, sponsored by the Alliance of Indiana Water.

Autosampler Purchase: Bauer requested approval to purchase two new autosamplers for the sewer plant. The final and raw sample locations require accurate, automated sampling. The total cost, including installation, is \$22,240.37. TM Walker confirmed funds are available in the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund. CM Benning moved to approve the purchase from Emerald Coast Wave for \$22,240.37, seconded by CM Caldwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Truck Replacement: Bauer is obtaining quotes to replace the 2011 F350, which has over 300,000 miles and several mechanical issues. The vehicle is essential for various tasks, and Bauer recommends keeping it as a backup. CM Baker suggested getting a quote from Country Chevrolet in North Vernon in addition to HAAG Ford, Kelsey Chevrolet, and Jeff Wyler Dodge.

Employee Lunch: Bauer thanked Doc and Garnette Cleeter for providing lunch from Janet's Diner on September 6th, with extra items added by Janet's Diner. Thanks also to Janet's Diner.

The Fence at the park is planned to be sprayed and cleaned.

Parks – TM Derek Walker

Water Fountain: The Soccer Club purchased a drinking fountain for the soccer shelter, and the town will handle the installation.

Grant Submission: TM Walker submitted a grant to the Dearborn County Community Foundation for concrete sidewalks near the baseball restrooms.

Main Street – Kami Hamilton

Fundraiser: Cheryl Drury of Flowers & Gifts of Love is organizing a First Responders Fundraiser on October 13th to benefit the Dillsboro Fire Department. The event will include a parade through town. CM Jackson moved to approve the event, seconded by CM Benning. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney – John Watson

DCRSD Meeting: The Dearborn County Regional Sewer District will meet on September 12th. TM Walker and Attorney Watson will attend to discuss ongoing issues, including approvals from IDEM and financial concerns. A final proposal will be presented at the September 23rd meeting.

Old Business – TM Derek Walker

Stellar Pathways: If awarded, funds will be allocated toward streetscaping, sidewalk improvements, and affordable housing projects. OCRA will visit Dillsboro on October 3rd, with an open house at Greendale Middle School that evening. TM Walker and CM Baker, both on the steering committee, urged Council members to attend the OCRA meeting, as the town may need to provide a 20% match, amounting to \$1.1 million.

Façade Improvement Matching Grant (FIMG): The FIMG awards were scheduled for November 11, but since it is Veterans Day, TM Walker recommended moving the meeting to November 18. The council and Main Street need to appoint a review committee member, which will be tabled for a future meeting.

Main Street Sewer Issue: TM Walker is meeting with two property owners regarding potential easement issues on September 13th.

New Business – TM Derek Walker

Vacuum Jetter Truck: The City of Greendale offered to give Dillsboro their 1996 LN 8000 Vacuum Jetter Truck after Greendale purchased a newer model. Repair costs a total of \$2,859. TM Walker recommended accepting the truck, which has an estimated value of \$40,000. CM Benning moved to accept the truck, seconded by CM Caldwell. Motion carried unanimously.

November & December Meetings: Due to the holidays, TM Walker recommended consolidating the November and December meetings. CM Benning moved to hold one meeting on November 18 and one on December 16. CM Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CM Baker asked if the Town could review our water rates without paying for a rate study. CM Baker recommended an annual review so that increases would be minimal and to avoid the large increases like that required in the last rate ordinance. TM Walker will check on this.

Being no further business. CM Fryman made a motion to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Seconded by CM Caldwell. All in favor. Motion carried.



Rita Stevens, Clerk-Treasurer

