

# Town of Darmstadt, Indiana

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

## Minutes of September 17th, 2024

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

### TOWN COUNCIL

Eric Gries, Council President  
Ray Engler, Council Member  
Cecil Poag, Council Member  
Crystal Kahre, Council Member

### CLERK-TREASURER

Mallory Lowe  
P.O. Box 20  
Darmstadt, In 47618

Darmstadt Town Council President Eric Gries called the town meeting to order on Tuesday at 6:30pm. In attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, council members Ray Engler, Cecil Poag, Crystal Kahre and attorney Josh Claybourn.

Engler made a motion, seconded by Kahre to accept the minutes from last month's meeting. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote. Engler made a motion, seconded by Poag to accept last month's financial report. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote. Engler made a motion, seconded by Poag to approve the accounts payable claims. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

### Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Lowe advised that tonight will be the public budget meeting and next month will be the budget adoption meeting. Lowe noted she continues to work with the insurance company to renew our insurance next month and that she has filled out several questionnaires now from a couple of different companies the agent has sent. Lowe stated that Torian is trying to get us back on normal insurance.

Lowe stated that she received a couple hundred sewer payments within the week they were mailed, so the mail delivery service was better last month and hopefully, the USPS has corrected their delivery issues from June. Lowe advised to council that the financial reports have gone over budget in the sewer department on a few line items and that we need to watch spending for the rest of the year. The sewer department has spent over \$597,000 this year, so far, and the current balance is \$431,257.

Lowe announced that the next conference is the Annual AIM Ideas Summit in Fort Wayne for 3 days Oct 8-10<sup>th</sup>. This 3-day event is for Council members, mayors, clerks, and everyone and the next AIM Roundtable meeting will be in Boonville on Wednesday, October 23 at Quail Crossing Golf Club.

### Fire Dept Report

Crystal Kahre read aloud the fire dept report from Brandon Zimmer.

### Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Deputy Chris Rowe announced that Mark Johnson and Josh Hischler will be the two new deputies for the Town of Darmstadt. They will be assigned to Darmstadt and will be available for questions and concerns. Deputy Rowe advised that they had 61 extra patrols in Darmstadt last month and 20 traffic enforcements in Darmstadt for August.

### Maintenance Dept Report

Cecil Poag read aloud Aaron Enlow and Mick Moreland's maintenance report. Mick Moreland worked with the line striping company to have several lines repainted throughout town and to make sure they put the lines down correctly. They ordered 40 tons of salt from the State Salt purchase program. The septic tank inspections and pumpings are going well. Poag advised that he contacted Don Hall, the resident who owns the property at the fork in the road where Hoing breaks off from Boonville-New Harmony west of the 4H center. Kate Potter and Carol Schlumpf have expressed interest in that corner to beautify it like the adopt of spot program. Kate and Carol will get with the property owner. The next phase of GeoSpatial's GIS project phase is going nicely. Poag stated that the guys removed a tree from Martin Road. Poag made a motion for council to revisit to consider reinstating the portable meters for Darmstadt, Engler seconded the motion. Council will announce a public special meeting to discuss reinstating portable meters.

### Old Business

#### 1. EWSU Mandate Charges Update

Josh Claybourn stated that since this is an issue that deals with pending litigation, we should have an executive session to discuss. Council discussed and will have executive session at 5:30pm before the regular October meeting.

## 2. Tractor and Backhoe Replacement Update

Ray Engler stated Juncker will be picking up the old tractor and pay us when it sells.

## 3. Ordinance Codification Legal Review

Josh Claybourn advised that he will send the council a list that needs reviews and submitted to American Publishing.

### New Business

#### 1. Public 2025 Budget Hearing

Mallory Lowe advised that a copy of the budget that was completed and reviewed with the Dept of Local Government Finance, has been distributed to the council and the public handouts tonight. Lowe explained that the budget we submit to the state is for the town money only which is tax money.

Lowe stated that sewer department money is completely separate, it is a self-funded department that does not receive tax money or town money. The sewer department operates only from sewer bills from about 550 properties. Lowe advised that the sewer department revenue to run the entire department, purchase equipment, supplies, payroll, payroll taxes, insurance, pay contractors and pay Evansville's monthly mag meter output, solely comes from our town's monthly sewer billing. There were no public comments or questions concerning the budget.

#### 2. Trinity LED Sign Variance Request

Kahre advised that Trinity Lutheran Church of Darmstadt will be updating their signage which will be an improvement and provide information to the community. Kahre made a motion, seconded by Poag to approve Trinity's new church sign. Motion passed by 4-0 voice vote.

### Attorney Comments

No further comments

### Board Members Comments

Ray Engler stated he has been working on the new State House bill requirements that would allow public meetings to be live-streamed. The requirement states that the deadline is the summer of 2025. Engler noted that he has calculated a way to do it with a basic camera and laptop for \$2,020 and proposed a new website that will be livestream-ready. Lowe added that she would like the website to be ready for online bill pay for Keystone's upcoming program which will allow residents more options to pay online. Engler advised that the cost would be \$5188 along with an annual webhosting fee of \$675. Poag made a motion, seconded by Kahre to accept the webcam, website, and laptop to abide by the new House bill requirements. Motion passed by 3-0 voice vote, Engler abstained.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer

