

**State of Indiana  
Greene County  
City of Linton**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
July 14, 2025 - 6:00 P.M.**

**WELCOME – OPENING OF MEETING  
Mayor Preble opened the meeting at 6 p.m.**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**Linda Bedwell, Greg Sapp, Tony Richards, and Ed Singleton. Leslie Newman  
was absent.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ed Singleton to approve the minutes from the January meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Bedwell. 4 Ayes, passed.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS PROPERLY SIGNED**

A motion to approve the claims properly signed was made by Linda Bedwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Richards. 4 Ayes, passed.

**APPROVAL OF FUND & APPROPRIATION REPORT**

A motion to approve the Fund & Appropriation Report was made by Tony Richards and seconded by Greg Sapp. 4 Ayes, passed.

**APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL ALLOWANCE DOCKET**

A motion to approve the Payroll Allowance Docket was made by Greg Sapp and seconded by Tony Richards. 4 Ayes, passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Acceptance of Timber Proposal**

Mayor Preble stated that he had sent 13 emails throughout southern Indiana requesting proposals along with photos of the damaged areas from the tornado at the Boy Scout Camp and Muzzleloader area at the Conservation Club. He asked for replies that they had received the email. He received 3 replies and one proposal. The proposal was from Werner Brothers Sawmill in Jasper, Indiana. Mayor Preble recommended the council to accept the proposal. Werner Brothers will not be able to begin until fall of this year. Mayor Preble stated the closing date for the proposal is today. Councilman Greg Sapp asked if Werner Brothers gave an estimate of what the amount would be. Mayor Preble stated they did not. A motion was made by Tony Richards to accept the Werner Brothers proposal and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Sapp. 4 Ayes, passed.

### **Wastewater Utility Asset Management Plan**

Mayor Preble stated the task order would go to Commonwealth Engineering to assess assets which are now required by the State of Indiana. Brent Slover stated that the city would not be able to apply for any state revolving loans for projects unless this has been done. A motion was made by Linda Bedwell to accept Commonwealth Engineering for the assessment and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Singleton. 4 Ayes, passed.

### **Water Utility Asset Management Plan**

Mayor Preble stated this plan is very similar to the Wastewater Utility Asset Management Plan contracting with Commonwealth Engineering as well. A motion was made by Tony Richards to accept Commonwealth Engineering and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Sapp. 4 Ayes, passed.

### **Clarity Capital Consulting, LLC**

Mayor Preble presented a capital asset plan for the city itself. Consulting with Mike Crawley. Mayor Preble stated it would not be as detailed as the Wastewater or Water plans but something that needs to be accomplished as well for all the cities' assets. Clerk-Treasurer Claudia Walker stated by doing this it will help the city to be compliant with the State Board of Accounts. The Clerk-Treasurer stated that nothing has been updated since 2019. Clarity Capital Consulting was referred by several members of Krohn & Associates. The quote from Clarity Capital Consulting states the fee would not exceed \$22,000 but feels like it will be less.  
(\$150.00 per hour)

A motion was made by Tony Richards to approve hiring Mr. Crawley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Sapp. 3 Ayes, passed.

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTING**

Fire Chief Eric Carpenter stated that the ladder truck is now certified. He stated it is an older truck and not used every day, but nice to have if needed and fully operational. He spoke about the old Murphy's building collapsing on July 7, 2025, and no injuries with several departments helping. He stated the department had 87 EMS calls and 20 fire calls for a total of 107 runs for the month.

#### **Police Chief Paul Clark**

Chief Clark stated that every police department in the county as well as fire departments and volunteers showed up to help the night the Murphy's building collapsed and he appreciated everyone's help. The police department had 1,008 calls for service. This initiated 611 police investigations, 204 were traffic stops and 25 citations for the month of June.

#### **Brent Slover**

Mr. Slover thanked all the city departments for their help on July 7, 2025, as well. Mr. Slover said that crews would be in the NW section of the city pot holing around water meters starting tomorrow. The light department is continuing with pole replacement. Gas and Water have finished work on 9<sup>th</sup> St NW as well.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Before public comments Mayor Preble read the Policy for Public Participation at Council Meetings.

Mr. John Cotter wanted to thank the city on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and the Freedom Festival for all the support getting ready for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities.

Mr. Adam Wence wanted to thank all city workers for their great response to issues happening in the city. Since the collapse of the Murphy's building, he was concerned about other old buildings in town and if any thought of checking those buildings were in the city's future. He also was concerned about government transparency and stated he has asked about minutes of meetings not being posted in

a timely manner on the city's website in the past. He stated the minutes have not been posted for the last 6 months. He also expressed regret that the live streaming did not meet the deadline, but glad to see it will be in place for the next council meeting.

Harold Smith is the owner of the Murphy's building and wanted to thank all the first responders for the quick response to the collapse of his building. He stated the building was fully insured. He asked the city to provide him with invoices regarding the cleanup. Mr. Smith expressed concerns regarding the Policy for Public Participation.

Mrs. Bedwell gave an update regarding the fundraising for the AM Risher Aquatic Center. As of today, the amount raised includes \$1226 from donations with the float being in the Freedom Festival parade, \$3,500 from MX Motorcross, \$3,500 from Dave Carpenter, \$100 anonymous donation. She stated they have approximately \$14,000 raised. She stated they are waiting on their 5013C (not for profit). When applying for grants this is one of the questions that is asked. Mr. Lehman helps at the pool and has been out, and she wanted to thank the people who have stepped up and help with the pool. Linda also requested a print out of how the 15,000 in insurance money received from the pool was spent. Mrs. Bedwell also thanked the TZU CHI Foundation for helping people whose homes were unlivable due to the tornado. This was done only through the Red Cross and 20 families were helped. She wanted to thank them as well as John Waterman for connecting her with them.

Mayor Preble stated there would be a meeting open to the public on September 11, 2025, regarding the status of the pool. Mayor Preble announced there would be a fundraising meeting at the west shelter house on July 16<sup>th</sup> and another meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Linda Bedwell stated there would be a softball tournament fundraiser coming up for the pool. Wendy Bailey is organizing a Safe Night Out this year to help replace the National Night Out on August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Roy Clark Building.

Mr. Sapp wanted to thank the city for the cleanup and response given when the Murphy's building collapsed. He also stated in regard to building inspections that were mentioned earlier in the meeting, it is difficult to do any type of downtown inspections without any zoning ordinance or enforcement mechanisms. Also, he stated many downtown buildings are owned by individuals that are not engaged in the community and not available to talk to about their buildings. Being part of

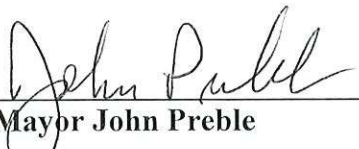
Energize Linton and Redevelopment Committee, he realizes firsthand the difficulty getting in touch with owners. In addition to being a downtown building owner there is a lot to keep buildings maintained.

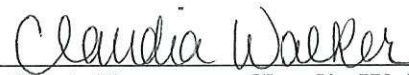
The Murphy's building was over 125 years old, and Mr. Smith has owned the building for less than 1 year and would like the community to keep that in mind and he is actively working to save some of the downtown buildings.

Mayor Preble stated he is trying to contact all out-of-town owners and so far, has talked to one. Linda Bedwell asked the mayor if people helping assist the owners, would the city be able to assist with their drone. The mayor said yes it would be possible.

Harold Smith stated that an individual from a company out of Indianapolis contacted him that specializes in downtown revitalization and has access to federal and state grants. Mr. Smith suggested they meet with the mayor and the redevelopment commission.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linda Bedwell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Singleton. 4 Ayes, passed.

  
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Mayor John Preble

  
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Clerk-Treasurer Claudia Walker