April 6, 2026

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met at the Town Hall on the 6th day of April, 2026 at the hour of 6:00 P.M., for a meeting pursuant to call in accordance with the rules of the Council. The meeting was called to order by Jason Fisher, Council President. On call of the roll of the members of the Council were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Jason Fisher, Lisa Sarault, Mike Sanders, Michelle Sarault

Absent: Mike Brewer

Also present: Mallory Redlin, John Budreau, Clayton Bohlinger, Brad Lane, Sean Heim, Damien and Anna Mohammed, Gail Lange, Laura Fisher, Doug Flynn, Sierra Brooks, Sara Finley.

Disconnect Hearing

No one was present for the disconnect hearing. Mike Sanders motioned to proceed with disconnects. Lisa Sarault seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Prior Minutes

Lisa Sarault made the motion to approve the February 2nd minutes. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Unsafe Building Orders were reviewed. 205 S. Grant – Owner reported the unsafe structure has been demolished and removed. Additional improvements including siding, roofing, and foundation work are planned. Council expressed appreciation for progress. Mike Sanders motioned to extend for 60 days for review at the June meeting. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

112/114 E. 5th St – Cleanup efforts ongoing with contractor scheduled for May. Council agreed to allow additional time due to scope of work. Mike Sanders motioned to extend to the June 1 meeting. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

807 E. 8th St – All required work has been completed. Lisa Sarault motioned to close the unsafe building order. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

901 E. 8th St – Property has not yet been served. Matter will proceed through publication and be heard at the May meeting.

102 N Grant Property – Ongoing title issues discussed. Property condition remains a concern. Council agreed to continue for review at the next meeting.

Miscellaneous Business

Council discussed a prior sewer backup at the Barrett property determined to be the Town's responsibility. Council agreed each situation should be reviewed individually. Lisa Sarault motioned to reimburse the homeowner's. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Brian Messer of Sound Advice presented on increased cybersecurity risks and recommended additional monitoring, backup systems, and future server replacement. Council discussed liability concerns and system-wide protection. Lisa Sarault motioned to approve a $306 monthly increase for enhanced cybersecurity services. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Council requested additional quotes for full system protection and server replacement.

Department Heads

Clayton Bohlinger reported on sewer maintenance, including jetting operations and ongoing projects. He presented estimates from Peerless Midwest for well repairs and lift station pump replacements. Michelle Sarault motioned to approve repair of Well #9 for $56,788. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding aging lift station pumps. Jake Pool received two quotes from Smith & Loveless for 4 pumps, 2 pumps for the East lift station for $34,999 and 2 pumps for the West lift station for $40,910. Due to age and risk of failure of the pumps, the Council agreed the replacement was necessary. Lisa Sarault motioned to approve purchase of all four pumps. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

John Budreau reported on street department activities including alley grading, limited leaf pickup, and seasonal preparation. He also discussed signage and barricade that are needed for the upcoming go-kart race event. John stated cost will be $2,724 with $180 delivery. The Council asked John to see if

Highway Safety Systems needs a down payment. John said he would contact them and find out. John requested approval to hire Mike Cain for summer help. Michelle Sarault motioned to hire Mike Cain for summer help. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sean Heim discussed nuisance concerns such as temporary fabric structures and property maintenance. Council agreed to review potential ordinance options.

Laura Fisher had the donation and expenses to give to the Council for Easter. Laura stated there was still a crowd even though she had to reschedule it to Sunday, April 5th. Donations were $775 and expenses were $1,325.66.

Sara Finley had permit to excavate application from NIPSCO for the Council to look over. John Budreau had already looked at it and signed. Mike Sanders made the motion to approve the application for 639 W 2nd St. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley had 2 quotes from Blueline Mulch and more. One quote is for the two Town welcome signs for $735.00 and the other quote is for Monarch Commons for $1,155.00. Michelle Sarault motions to accept the two bids for mulch. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley stated that Lee has asked for payback of his vacation hours that he has not used. With two police officers at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy this year, it was hard for him to use up all his PTO hours. Mike Sanders made the motion to pay the 40 hours. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley discussed round #2 of the BIG program. She would like to start it soon and will get the updated information to the committee to review. Michelle Sarault motions to approve round #2. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Claims

Michelle Sarault motioned to accept the claims. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business, Lisa Sarault motions to adjourn. Mike Sanders seconds the motion. All in favor motion carried.

Approved:

Jason Fisher, Council President

Attest:

Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer

The Council President then opened the meeting up again to decide who to use for the towns 4th of July fireworks for this year. Mike Sanders motions to approve Pyrotecnico Fireworks for 2026. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business, Michelle Sarault motions to adjourn. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved:

Jason Fisher, Council President

Attest:

Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer