June 1, 2026

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met at the Town Hall on the 1st day of June, 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, Mike Brewer, Michelle Sarault

Also present: Jud Barce, Brad Lane, Clayton Bohlinger, Jake Pool, Sawn Cain, Cindy Estes, Ken Smith, Gail Lange, Julie Newell, 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

Michelle Sarault made the motion to approve the May 4th, May 11th meeting minutes and May 19 Executive meeting. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

The Council received the recommendation of the Plan Commission approving the Town's Comprehensive Plan (Plan No. 24-103). Mike Sanders motioned to approve Resolution No. 2026-0601 approving the Town of Fowler Comprehensive Plan. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

Jud Barce presented an update regarding the unsafe building located at 112 and 114 East Fifth Street. The property owner requested additional time to complete demolition, cleanup, and tuckpointing work. The owner proposed completing one additional dumpster by the July meeting and another by the August meeting while continuing progress toward compliance. Mike Sanders motions to extend the compliance deadlines. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jud reviewed proposed amendments to the Town's nuisance ordinance. The amendments clarify procedures for animal nuisance violations, establish documentation requirements following animal bite

incidents, and transfer authority for livestock and similar land-use variance requests to the Board of Zoning Appeals rather than the Town Council. The amendments also require proof of current rabies vaccination or testing following bite incidents and clarify enforcement procedures after quarantine periods. Michelle Sarault motions to suspend the rules and consider Ordinance 2026-0601-2 on its first reading. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Michelle Sarault motions to approve Ordinance 2026-0601-2. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Laura Fisher gave an update regarding preparations for the annual Fourth of July Festival including scheduling entertainment, coordinating vendors, arranging for the parade, and organizing volunteer support. There was also discussion on traffic control, public safety, and coordination among the Police Department, Fire Department, Street Department, and Parks Department to ensure adequate staffing throughout the holiday weekend.

New Business

Julie Newell, representing the Veterans Council, appeared before the Council to provide an update on the Hometown Heroes Banner Program. Julie reported that the initial expectation had been approximately thirty-five banners; however, the community response resulted in applications honoring eighty-seven veterans. Additional banner locations and bracket options were discussed to accommodate the increased participation. Council members discussed installation methods, placement of banners on existing poles, and the possibility of utilizing additional brackets where appropriate. Julie advised that banner production was underway and anticipated delivery during the second or third week of June, allowing installation prior to the Fourth of July celebration. The Council expressed appreciation for the overwhelming community participation and the efforts of the Veterans Council. Mike Sanders motions to approve the additional banner installations as presented. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Department Heads

Kim Bratton, Park Board President ask the Council if they would consider Resolution No. 2026-601-2 declaring the pool snow cone machine as surplus property. She advised the equipment had been unused for several years and no longer served a practical purpose. Mike Brewer motions to suspend the rules and consider Resolution 2026-0601-2 on its first reading. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Mike Brewer motions to approve Resolution 2026-0601-2. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Kim discussed the previously approved replacement pump from Landmark Aquatics for the baby pool required additional parts after Landmark Aquatics discovered the existing motor configuration differed from the original specifications. Kim had an updated quote for the additional parts. Mike Sanders motions to approve the revised quote contingent upon removal of the duplicate labor charges. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Kim also had three quotes for repairs to the pond well. The Park Board had recommended Finley Drilling. John Budreau did recommend Peerless based on prior experience and the company's proposal to diagnose the problem before replacing equipment. Council members discussed the advantages and costs associated with each proposal, including the possibility that the issue could simply be clogged well screens rather than a failed pump. Mike Brewer motion to approve the Finley Drilling quote. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clayton Bohlinger reported that two aeration motors at the wastewater treatment plant failed within approximately one week of each other. Fortunately, replacement motors were available for temporary use while the damaged units were sent out for rebuilding. Quotes from Aaron Budreau were presented comparing the cost of rebuilding the existing motors versus purchasing new units. Mike Brewer motions to approve rebuilding both wastewater treatment plant aeration motors. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley presented five right-of-way permit applications that had previously been reviewed and approved by the Street Superintendent. Several of the permits involved emergency utility work. The five applications were: 3 NIPSCO applications for 507 S Grant Ave, 701 W 2nd, 106 E 2nd, Axis Fiber at 1102 E 8th St and Meade at 301 E Elm St. Michelle Sarault made the motion to approve the right-of-way permits. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara discussed PTO time for previous employee Grant Wagner. After the Council discussed the Town's personnel policy, Mike Brewer motioned to approve Grant's vacation time. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Council discussed separating the combined Water and Wastewater Superintendent position into two individual department head positions. Michelle Sarault motioned to approve separating the Departments. Clayton Bohlinger will be the water superintendent and Jacob Pool will be the Wastewater superintendent. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara then presented an amendment to the Salary Ordinance, Ordinance 2026-0601-1, reflecting the revised superintendent positions and hourly wage. Mike Brewer motions to suspend the rules and consider Ordinance 2026-0601-1 on its first reading. Mike Sanders seconds. Mike Brewer motions to approve Ordinance 2026-0601-1. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara discussed a quote from Hoosier Fire in the amount of $1,863 for the replacement foam flow sensors for the Fire Dept. Michelle Sarault motions to approve the quote. Lisa Sarault seconds. Jason Fisher abstains. Motion carried.

Sara asked the Council if they would consider approving a part-time position within the Clerk's Office to assist with increasing administrative responsibilities. Mike Sanders motions to approve a part time clerk. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara stated that a plastic newspaper and pamphlet display located near the State Farm office had not been used for several years. Katrina Molter from State Farm thought that it belonged to the Town and

asked if it could be removed. Council members agreed the display could be removed if determined to belong to the Town.

Sara also discussed a hazardous tree limb located near 503 North Fifth Street that extended over the public sidewalk. An additional tree at Highland Park also required trimming for public safety. Michelle Sarault motions to hire a contractor to remove the hazardous limbs and perform the necessary tree trimming. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the fuel suppliers Keystone and FS Heritage as options for each department. Following previous discussions regarding changing fuel carriers, Mike Brewer motions that each department head gets to select the fuel supplier that best meets the needs of their department. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jason Fisher stated that the Fire Dept would be washing down the sidewalks and street before the 4th of July.

Council members also noted that Milestone Contractors expect downtown paving work to begin immediately following the Fourth of July holiday, with completion anticipated in mid-September.

An update was provided on the downtown mural project. The Community Foundation awarded a $2,000 grant through its Arts and Humanities Fund, and additional private donations have been received. Based on current funding commitments, the project is expected to be fully funded pending final coordination with the Benton County Commissioners regarding use of equipment.

Claims

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

Adjournment

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

Approved:

Jason Fisher, Council President

Attest:

Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer