May 4, 2026

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met at the Town Hall on the 4th day of May, 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: Jud Barce, Ken Smith, Shawn Cain, Paula Furerur, Brian Brown, John Budreau, Clayton Bohlinger, Cindy Estes, Brittany Besse, Sara Finley.

Public Hearing – Comprehensive Plan

Jason Fisher opened the public hearing regarding the Town of Fowler Comprehensive Plan. Ken Smith and Shawn Cain provided an overview of the project and discussed future planning opportunities including housing, infrastructure, transportation, utilities, and future grant opportunities. The Comprehensive Plan was funded through an Indiana OCRA grant with local matching funds from the Town. Discussion was held regarding Plan Commission review requirements prior to final adoption. No formal action was taken at this time. Jason closed the public hearing.

Disconnect Hearing

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

Approval of Prior Minutes

Mike Sanders made the motion to approve the April 6th minutes. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Jud Barce provided updates regarding unsafe building orders at 102 N Grant Ave. property. Discussion was held regarding removal of junk vehicles and title issues connected to the property. It was reported arrangements are being made to have the vehicles tagged and removed.

Discussion was also held regarding the property located at 901 E. 8th Street. The Town had completed publication requirements after unsuccessful service attempts. Council reviewed concerns regarding the deteriorated garage, overgrowth, and cleanup needs. Michelle Sarault motioned to extend the unsafe building order for 60 days to allow additional time for compliance. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Additional discussion occurred regarding title transfer procedures associated with the property. Jud Barce explained the legal process required to properly transfer ownership of the properties.

Brian Messer from Sound Advice returned to discuss cybersecurity upgrades and updated estimates for Town facilities. Brian reviewed computer replacement needs, network upgrades, server concerns, and security planning for Town departments including the Police Department, Fire Department, utilities, and Street Department. Council discussed future budgeting and additional review of the proposed improvements. No formal action was taken.

New Business

Judy Roach appeared before the Council regarding an ordinance violation involving a dog bite incident. Judy requested a continuance due to recent surgery and explained changes that had been made to secure the animals on the property. Council discussed vaccination records, safety concerns, and future compliance requirements. Mike Sanders motioned to continue the ordinance violation hearing until May 11th to allow additional documentation to be submitted. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Paula Fuehrer and Brian Brown from the American Legion requested approval for the annual beer garden permit. Mike Sanders motioned to approve the request. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Council reviewed an agreement with Municipal Civil Corporation related to Comprehensive Plan engineering services. Mike Sanders motioned to approve the agreement. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Department Heads

John Budreau presented a rental agreement from Highway Safety Services for signage and barricades related to the Fowler Grand Prix event. Michelle Sarault motioned to approve the rental agreement. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

John also discussed replacement of the Town street sweeper with a newer gasoline-powered model due to ongoing maintenance issues with diesel exhaust systems. Discussion was held regarding funding sources and long-term maintenance savings. John had a proposal from Best Equipment for a Tymco 435 sweeper for $183,436.00. This also includes the trade in of our current sweeper for $45,000. Mike Sanders motioned to approve purchase of the street sweeper for. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clayton Bohlinger requested approval to interview and potentially hire additional summer help for the utility department. Council discussed applications received and seasonal staffing needs. No formal action was taken pending interviews.

Clayton also updated the Council regarding the upcoming water project and complications with Well #9 repairs due to access limitations. Additional evaluation will be required before repairs can proceed.

Sara Finley presented information regarding proposed DORA districts within Fowler. Discussion was held regarding designated permittee locations, signage requirements, and participation by local businesses. Council agreed the program could benefit community events and downtown activity. Mike Sanders motioned to suspend the rules to consider Ordinance 2026-0504 establishing DORA districts. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Mike Sanders motioned to approve ordinance 2026-0504 regarding establishment of two DORA districts within the Town of Fowler. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley had the Form 322 and CF-1 from Deno's as well as the CF-1 forms for abatements.

Mike Sanders made the motion to approve form 322 and CF-1 forms. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Sara also had CF-1 forms for American Gardenworks and Millennium Real Estate. Michelle Sarault made the motion to approve the CF-1 forms. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley had the 2026 firework agreement for Pyrotecnico for $20,000. Mike Sanders made the motion to approve the agreement. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara had a new policy for writing off uncollectible municipal utility accounts. This policy establishes procedures for identifying, reviewing and writing off uncollectible accounts. Sara had a spreadsheet for the Council to look over for unpaid utility balances. There are 21 accounts for a balance of $74.24. Michelle Sarault motions to approve the policy and the spreadsheet. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara had a letter from Paige Wojciechowski. She is interested in being a member on the park board. The council looked over the letter. Mike Sanders made the motion and recommended Paige for the town board. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mike Sanders picked for two business spotlights. They are Fowler State Bank and Fowler Community Center.

Sara stated to the Council that Scott and Amy Marquie are building on Brouilette property west of Golf Heights. It is out of town, but they will be tapping into our sewer line. They have asked to have trash pick up at their residence. Sara called Waste Management and they were ok with picking them up.

Jason Fisher discussed the trash along the East St. ditch. Last year the County paid for the clean up. Jason said Fowler Pest Control could do it. John Budreau said that he would be able to help clean it up as well.

Jason also mentioned the Fowler's Finest 4H group would like to do some clean up as part of community service. Some options were to help at the park or the flowerbed at the flagpole at the old depot.

Jason mentioned the hero banner across the street from the town hall. The County Veteran's office has put an order in for more banners and they hope to have them up by July 4.

Claims

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

Adjournment

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

Approved:

Jason Fisher, Council President

Attest:

Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer