

OCTOBER 7, 2025
GARRETT COMMON COUNCIL
GARRETT, INDIANA 46738

Meeting opened with the Pledge to the Flag and called to order at 7:00pm; Garrett City Hall Council Chambers by the Chair Mayor Todd A. Fiandt.

Members present – Toby Jordan, Amanda Charles, Bobby Diederich and Brian Best / Absent – Dave Demske
Also, present – Clerk Treasurer Marcie Conkle, City Attorney Chad Rayle, Police Chief Gerald Kline, Fire Chief Doug Castator and City Planner Madalyn Sade-Bartl.

MOTION BEST TO APPROVE WITH PREVIOUS MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, SECOND DIEDERICH – UNANIMOUS.

CITIZENS / PETITION REPORTS:

Dave Vanderbosch – Electric Superintendent

No intent to be disrespectful. Discussion of previous meetings mentioning Electric wages as well as previous administration and wages for electric and no follow through on those wage increases. Best asked about wage study by Scott Bowles and encouraged us to use study. Vanderbosch stated it's difficult to hire today, and we do not offer contract wages. My fear is we're going to lose employees. I have been with the city for 42 years and have devoted 40 years to the Fire Department. I hope you take this in consideration. Further discussion held.

Mayor, Thank you Dave for your years of service and to all the electric department. Mayor again read other areas on lineman wages. Anywhere from \$32 to \$40 +

Hiring for all departments are hard. When people have left it was because of voluntary termination. Mayor also contacted Cities on AIM salary studies for wages and other cities use AIM salary studies as well.

Brian Best – value the Electric Department, you do dangerous work and I thank you. Council can decrease but not increase. I support/encourage Mayor and Electric to continue discussion and present if needed following statue deadlines. Council can reduce wage ordinance but they cannot increase. I'm committed to fairness, encourage unbiased study. When did the Mayor and Dave sit down and discuss this? We did not said Vanderbosch.

Jordan and Charles – both agreed that wages need to be looked at sooner.

Council has the authority of Police / Fire Wages. Diederich – I have a problem with giving across the board raises. Contract work, electric is falling behind.

Joe Henderson – Thank you to the Electric Department, I appreciate you guys. Had a dispute in his front yard and talked to the Mayor and Chief on what happened. Public Police Complaint form. Had a kid come out with brass knuckles and threatened me. Officers did nothing about it. Ex-wife hit him with her car and police never did anything there as well. Captain Pepple said it's a mutual intimidation. Asked to speak with Chief Kline and I was denied. The 2nd time I called police they refused to do anything. This fella had other complaints on him.

How many complaints have we seen? Police are not doing their jobs. What is it going to take? Chief Kline took statement and protective order but have to get report from Chief first. Jordan asked what was the time line on this? 2 days per Joe. Pepple did not tell Chief. Had to take time off of work. Who sees these complaints? Just the Chief per Kline. Mayor sent videos to other officers. Jordan asked if a report was made? It's being done now per Chief. Discussion was held. Diederich asked if Joe could take it to the county himself? Officers have to be the one to send to the prosecutor. No statement and did not get Chief when I asked for him. Police said not enough evidence and did not do a report. Joe directed questions to the Council on what is the policy on taking statements? Depends on the situation, per Kline. Jordan stated that he believes Chief Kline is trying to do what's best for the city.

Daniel Rhoades – Over summer notice sidewalks on 100 block by the VFW is falling apart. City Planner Madalyn will have 50/50 project for next year. It's still up to the property owner to take care of the sidewalk.

Matt Hartman – Things to think about. Also discuss issues with wages. Dave 42 years and myself 27 years. Need to retain our employees. If I have to go back and be on call every other week, I will leave. Utilities in Auburn pay \$17.00 more.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Dept. – Chief Kline

- Stats to date
- Reviewing 6 applicants

Fire Dept. – Chief Castator

- Stats for September

STAFF REPORTS:

Planning Dept. – Madalyn Sade-Bartl

- Madalyn explain Rezoning Ordinance from C1 to C3 for Maryann's Flower Pot.

ORDINANCE REZONING MARYANNS FLOWER POT FROM C1 TO C3 #2025-11:

**MOTION, BEST TO INTRODUCE AND PASS ON 1ST READING THE REZONING FOR MARYANNS FLOWER POT FROM C1 TO C3, SECOND CHARLES – UNANIMOUS
BEST YES, DIEDERICH YES, CHARLES YES, JORDAN YES.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Clerk Conkle informed members that Doug Johnston here to present resolution for RDC that was not on agenda and asked for Doug to explain before council.

MOTION BEST TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND TO INCLUDE RESOLUTION 2025-03 FOR RDC, SECOND JORDAN – UNANIMOUS.

Doug Johnston explained the resolution to members and that has to do with Walmart and the TIF area expansion and that this is a time sensitive matter to get all of this done.

RDC RESOLUTION 2025-03:

Doug Johnson was here to explain resolution for Walmart expansion development Planning Commission. Will need to amend resolution for bond. All needs to be done for TIF expansion. **MOTION JORDAN TO APPROVE RDC RESOLUTION 2025-03, SECOND DIEDERICH – UNANIMOUS**
BEST YES, DIEDERICH YES, CHARLES YES, JORDAN YES.

ORDINANCE 2025-08 APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEE'S WAGES AND

SALARY: **MOTION BEST TO PASS ON 2ND AND 3RD READING AND ADOPT ORDINANCE 2025-08, SECOND JORDAN – BEST YES, DIEDERICH NO, CHARLES YES, JORDAN YES.** Jordan and Charles wanted it noted as to why they voted yes, this time. Jordan stated that his stance on this and that he voted no on this at the last meeting and why, he wants to vote no on this but he doesn't want to keep people from getting at least somewhat of a raise. Jordan does feel there is a gap somewhere that needs to be filled, specifically to the skilled trades. That being said he does understand that we are approving what is being presented to us and what is in our control. Jordan will make a second but under the contingency that this is not absolutely where it needs to be and further work needs to take place. Charles yes but with the reservation as she has stated before with the exact same things as Jordan has stated.

ORDINANCE 2025-09 POLICE AND FIRE WAGES AND SALARY

MOTION DIEDERICH TO REINTRODUCE AND PASS ON 1ST READING WITH CORRECT CHANGES FOR FIRE AS DISCUSSED IN THE LAST MEETING, SECOND CHARLES – UNANIMOUS
BEST YES, DIEDERICH YES, CHARLES YES, JORDAN YES.

ORDINANCE 2025-10 WAGE AND SALARY FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

MOTION DIEDERICH TO PASS ON 2ND AND 3RD READING AND ADOPT, SECOND CHARLES – BEST YES, DIEDERICH YES, CHARLES YES, JORDAN NO. Charles stated that she usually does not vote for this but feels this is a good group and who puts in a lot of time even on some weekends.

ORDINANCE 2025-07 BUDGET

MOTION JORDAN TO PASS ON 2ND AND 3RD READING AND ADOPT ON BUDGET, SECOND CHARLES – UNANIMOUS
BEST YES, DIEDERICH YES, CHARLES YES, JORDAN YES.

Bobby Diederich – would like to see Board of Works increase salary. Clerk Conkle stated those are good things to discuss in the budget meeting.

Amanda Charles – received an unprofessional email from Bob Danzer and would like for him not to use my personal email.

Would like to schedule a work session on November 8th @ 10am.

Toby Jordan – Security update?

MAYOR, TODD A. FIANDT

- Thank you to city crews for participating in the funeral session for Past Mayor Herb Kleeman
- October 25 / Fall Clean up at Washler's
- Conkle Parking Passes

Meeting Adjourned:

Mayor, Todd A. Fiandt

Clerk-Treasurer, Marcie L. Conkle