Topeka Town Council
124 E. Lake Street, Topeka, Indiana
General Meeting Minutes October 12, 2026 4:00pm
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Call to order by President, Adam Lambright

Roll Call
Present: Council Member, Adam Lambright, Ray Folk, Marlynn Mast, Justin Geigley, Steve Schrock, Lea Parks Clerk Treasurer

Others in Attendance: Town Attorney Tony Manns, Stewart Bender Town Manager, Stan Strater Jr Marshal, Cyndi Sadewasser Deputy Clerk, Tracey Persing, Harold Gingerich, Mark Webster, Casey Erwin DLZ, Zach Morris, Savana Morris, Fritz Helmuth, Larry Yoder, Eric Dunithan

Approval of Agenda as Presented with flexibility
Motion to Approve: Ray Folk Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes

Minutes from previous meeting of September 28, 2026, for Common Council Meeting
Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes

Minutes from Town Staff Meeting of October 8th, 2026
Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: Motion Passed as Made
Abstain: Ray Folk and Marlynn Mast

Lea Parks, Clerk-Treasurer

- Claims – Request Approval to Pay Claims
  Motion to Approve: Marlynn Mast Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes

- Public Adoption Meeting for the 2027 Budget – Adam Lambright call to open and due to no questions or comments – Adam Lambright Call to Close
  Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes
  Justin Geigley made a Motion to Adopt 2027 Budget Ordinance 2026-10-12
  Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes
  Waive Second Reading of the 2027 Budget Adoption Ordinance 2026-10-12
  Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Marlynn Mast Vote: All Ayes

- September 2026 Monthly Financials
  Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes

- Executive Session Memorandum 10.12.2026
  Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Marlynn Mast Vote: All Ayes

- Employee Handbook – Policy 518 GenAI Usage – Request to put in Employee Handbook to stay Compliant – Advisement from Town Attorney to Adopt as Written with the Expectation of things changing over time with AI

Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Marlynn Mast Vote: All Ayes

- Medical Insurance – Recommendation to stay with AIM Insurance and for 2027 whether or not to have Town Council on Medical Insurance or not – Steve Schrock made motion to Exclude Town Council on Medical Insurance with ending date of 12.31.2026
  Motion to Approve: Steve Schrock Seconded: Ray Folk Vote: Motion Failed
  Vote Oppose: Marlynn Mast
  Town Council discussed further – Steve Schrock made motion to Exclude Town Council on Medical Insurance with ending date of 12.31.2026
  Motion to Approve Steve Schrock Seconded: Ray Folk Vote: Motion Passed as Made
  Vote Oppose: Marlynn Mast

- Tracey Persing – Requesting to purchase his old town cell phone for $1.00 deemed surplus property
  Motion to Approve: Ray Folk Seconded: Justin Geigley Vote: All Ayes

Stewart Bender, Town Manager/Fire Chief

- CCMG – API Pay App #2 – West Lake St - $345,162.18
  Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes

- 119 S Harrison – Sidewalk – Request Verbal Replace when concrete workers are here in town in the coming weeks – Request to not exceed $1,200
  Motion to Approve: Steve Schrock Seconded: Justin Geigley Vote: All Ayes

- Morrow St – Damage – Tabled
  Motion to Approve: Ray Folk Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes

- Ligonier PD – Car Damage – Marlynn Mast made motion to pay $500
  Motion to Approve: Marlynn Mast Seconded: Ray Folk Vote: Motion Passed as Made
  Vote Oppose: Steve Schrock
  Justin Geigley brought attention to the Invoice amount being $503, Amended Motion Followed
  Motion to Approve: Marlynn Mast Seconded: Ray Folk Vote: Motion Passed as Made
  Vote Oppose: Steve Schrock

Town Marshal

- Breaching the Barricade Conference – Tracey Persing and Stan Strater Attended

Town Attorney

- Town Sidewalk Ordinance – Tabled
  Motion to Approve: Marlynn Mast Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes

- Positive Recommendation to the RDC on Approving the Reimbursement Agreement Schedule in the Amount of $3,957,973.94
  Motion to Approve: Ray Folk Seconded: Justin Geigley Vote: All Ayes

Other

Adam Lambright – Introduced discussion regarding Town Marshal following Performance Improvement Plan
Move Forward
Motion to Approve: Ray Folk Seconded: None Vote: Motion Died for lack of a second

Dismissal of Town Marshal
Motion to Approve: Steve Schrock Seconded: Justin Geigley Vote: Motion failed to pass for lack of a majority
Vote Oppose: Ray Folk
Abstained: Marlynn Mast, Adam Lambright
Further discussion followed
Move Forward
Motion to Approve: Ray Folk Seconded: None Vote: Motion Died for lack of a second
Dismissal
Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: None Vote: Motion Died for lack of a second
Dismissal
Motion to Approve: Steve Schrock Seconded: Justin Geigley Vote: Motion failed for lack of a majority
Vote Oppose: Ray Folk, Marlynn Mast and Adam Lambright

Adjournment

- Meeting Adjourned by President Adam Lambright at 6:01pm
  Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Seconded: Steve Schrock Vote: All Ayes
- Next General Council meeting October 26, 2026, at 4p.m

Adam Lambright, Council President

Justin Geigley, Council Vice President

Ray Folk, Council Member

Steve Schrock, Council Member

Marlynn Mast, Council Member

ATTEST Lea B. Parks

Lea Parks, Clerk Treasurer