MEETING MINUTES

PRINCE'S LAKES TOWN COUNCIL

2027 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

PRINCE'S LAKES TOWN HALL, 14 E LAKEVIEW DR, NINEVEH, IN 46164

September 21, 2026

Council President Henson called the Adoption Hearing to order at 6:00 pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT LINDSEY HENSON, COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT BRYAN TEARMAN, COUNCILOR CHARLIE BOURNE, COUNCILOR ANTHONY GIGER,

COUNCILOR ABSENT: COUNCILOR KEVIN HARRISON

CLERK-TREASURER PRESENT: ERICA LYDEN-GIGER

TOWN ATTORNEY PRESENT: LEE ROBBINS

STAFF PRESENT: MARSHAL GREG SOUTHERS, UTILITES SUPERINTENDENT SCOTT BLACKWELL, STREET DEPT SUPERVISOR TONY PIKE

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jon Query – HWC, Jim Higgins, Greg Nelson, Richard Hanlin, Terry Abel

ADOPTION HEARING FOR BUDGET PUBLIC FORUM:

Clerk-Treasurer Erica Lyden-Giger stated she previously sent the 2027 budget documents for Council review. The newly proposed budget includes new Home Rule funds from the Parks department. These Home Rule funds are exempt from review by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). Janet Alexander and Mrs. Lyden-Giger reviewed the budget prior to the meeting and Mrs. Lyden-Giger believes the budget will be funded and asked Council to adopt on first reading. She also stated the adoption meeting will be on Monday October 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

- No public comment

After discussion,

- Council President Henson motioned to approve the 2027 budget on first reading. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.

With no further business before the Prince's Lakes Town Council, Council President Henson closed the 2027 budget adoption meeting at 6:04 P.M.

Council President Henson called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

Mrs. Lyden-Giger stated she sent Council Resolution 2026-04 for additional appropriations for the current 2026 budget. The additional funding is to cover newly created park funds, as well as to provide necessary additional appropriations for both the Police Department (PD) and MVH.

- Council President Henson motioned to Resolution 2026-04. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Jon Query from HWC Engineering presented the HWC Engineering Water Main Project Contract for the Town's partially funded water main project. He stated a significant portion of the design work had been completed previously under a Department of Defense (DOD) grant. This original design included an interconnection with Edinburgh; however, the Edinburgh interconnection has been officially excluded from the scope of this project. Mr. Query indicated that additional surveying is required in the next few weeks to fully complete the design. Permitting for the water main project is expected to be finalized in early 2027 and bidding will probably be in January 2027. The construction is projected would begin around March 2027 and is anticipated to last approximately one full year. Coordination concerns about the one million dollar grant that was awarded with the help of Congressman Shreve were raised due to the recent resignation of Trafalgar's Town Manager. Scott Blackwell is actively tracking the situation to identify and establish contact with the new representative once appointed.

- Council President Henson motioned to approve the HWC contract and allow Lindsey Henson to sign on behalf of the Council. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.

Tim Fisher addressed the Council and said he had an extremely elevated water bill of approximately $500, with his next bill expected to exceed $400, due to a severe toilet leak. He formally requested a bill adjustment or a structured payment plan, citing a medical hardship resulting from recent neck surgery. Because the leaked water passed directly down the drain system and entered the municipal wastewater system, the Town is legally unable to issue a waste water credit. Council however approved a payment plan allowing Mr. Fisher to pay a flat fee monthly until his outstanding balance is completely caught up.

William Abel Jr experienced a massive leak, resulting in water bills of $322 in July and $822 in August. An inspection revealed that the leak was underground, located on the customer's main water service line. It resulted in the loss of 73,000 gallons of water. The source of the leak was identified as a highly substandard "SharkBite" fitting repair performed five years ago by Gearing Underground, who was acting as a subcontractor for Duke Energy. Because the leak occurred underground on the service line prior to entering any home drains, the water did not enter the wastewater system. This qualifies the resident for water-side relief under local statutes. The wastewater is managed by Nineveh Conservancy District and he will need to contact them for the wastewater credit. Mr. Blackwell stated he will contact Nineveh Conservancy and give them the information showing the leak.

- Council President Henson motioned to charge $3.00 per thousand gallon plus the regular bill and credit back the rest to Mr. Abel and also allow Mr. Blackwell to figure the amount of the credit and adjust the bill. Councilor Giger seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Council President Henson motioned to approve the August 17, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.

PARK BOARD REPORT:

Mrs. Lyden-Giger spoke on behalf of the Park Board. She said the permanent memorial flags have been fully installed in the park. The Board is currently awaiting the arrival of a heavy-duty solar light unit for the American flag. The Park Board received $7,800 in funding to address invasive plants. The funds were used to remove several problematic trees, as well as grind and completely remove their stumps. The remaining budget will be used to purchase and plant replacement trees. Under a community outreach component, four or five local residents participated in the project. Each resident received $195 in matching funds to help identify and remove invasive plant species from their properties. The annual Party for the Parks Festival has been scheduled for October 3rd, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There will be a dedication ceremony for the flags and to honor local Veterans.

TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:

Marshal Greg Southers spoke about Electric Bike (E-Bikes) and scooter safety. State law classifies e-bikes into three distinct classes: Class 1 and Class 2: Capable of speeds up to 20 mph. State law does not mandate helmet use for these classes. Class 3: Capable of speeds between 28 and 30 mph. State law mandates that any rider under the age of 18 must wear a helmet. Marshal Southers proposed drafting a local ordinance to require helmets for all youth operating e-bikes. Discussion was made about whether a helmet mandate should apply to all bicycles, or if it should be strictly confined to motorized/electric bikes. Councilor Giger expressed reservations about mandating helmets on standard, non-motorized bicycles. After discussion Council agreed minors under the age of 18 riding any form of electric-propelled bike or electric stand-up scooter, must wear a helmet. They will be prohibited from riding these electric vehicles between 30 minutes after sundown and 30 minutes before sunup. The ordinance will exclude standard bicycles and manual push scooters. Marshal Southers will work with Town attorney Lee Robbins to draft the e-bike and scooter ordinance for adoption at the next monthly meeting. Town Council will also update the Golf Cart Ordinance. Clerk-Treasurer Erica Lyden-Giger stated the Town's existing golf cart ordinance is outdated and contains inconsistencies and does not have language that include UTVs. Mr. Robbins will also update this ordinance.

UTILITY REPORT:

Superintendent Scott Blackwell told Council that the Town has received the official Certificate of Substantial Completion for the reservoir project as of August 24th. The water system has been fully tested and has successfully run at its maximum capacity for at least three consecutive weeks. The old reservoir has been completely removed and only minor punch list items remaining to be addressed by the contractor. The current recorded water loss is 77%. This loss is due to maintenance tasks, including system flushing and cleaning operations, as well as losing two or three feet of water from the bottom of the old reservoir during the demolition. Mr. Blackwell

stated calibrations were completed for all master meters. This included the master meters for Trafalgar, Cordry/Sweetwater, and the 10-inch meters feeding into the Camp Atterbury.
All meters successfully passed calibration standards except for the Cordry meter. That meter read is 2.5% off, which exceeds the limit of 2%. They are going to replace the meter for approximately $4,000, but the meter is outdated and has reached the end of its useful service lifespan. Plans are underway to connect the main wastewater lift station to the SCADA system this coming fall. Additionally, the utility department is actively exploring options to integrate wholesale meters onto the SCADA network. This integration will allow operators to track daily flows in real-time and significantly improve system documentation. Metering for the new fire station is currently being coordinated with HWC Engineering. All water usage at the station will be strictly metered. The only exception is when they fill fire trucks, but this will be manually documented based on known truck tank capacities. The ongoing water meter replacement project is continuing. To date, 1,250 out of the Town's 1,800 total residential meters have been replaced. The new meter at the Nineveh lift station has been installed and has completed its initial 30-day operational cycle. According to the data collected, a total of 1.56 million gallons passed through the new meter. In comparison, the Town billed for 916,000 gallons during the preceding billing cycle from July 15th to August 15th.
Mr. Blackwell said the exterior piping at the wastewater treatment plant was originally installed in 2010 and is showing significant wear. Much of the piping has degraded down to bare metal or the original primer coat, resulting in visible rust spots and needs to be recoated. This as a crucial preventative step. This includes sandblasting and repainting the 20-inch ductile iron piping located over the oxidation ditches, blasting and painting the grit lines situated at the wastewater building, blasting and painting the ductile iron structure inside the biosolids building and restoring the exterior surfaces of the facility's large backup generator. He has received a quote from Ellison Blasting of $46,500. They will utilize a specialized, highly corrosive-resistant Sherwin Williams epoxy coating system designed for harsh industrial environments. Mr. Blackwell asked for approval for the project.
Utility customers are successfully registering and setting up accounts on the new BS&A billing system. A recurring problem has emerged where existing customers have saved their Invoice Cloud portal credentials and are still attempting to make payments which causes payment processing failures. He also said that customers are finding the process of signing up for the new auto-pay system difficult to navigate on their own. However, administrative office staff can help this transition on behalf of the customer very easily. Mr. Robbins will officially contact Invoice Cloud to initiate the contract termination process and completely shut down the system to enforce a 100% transition to BS&A. The notification will detail the various ways Invoice Cloud failed to perform under the terms of their agreement.
Mr. Blackwell said he is striving to implement and maintain a ten year vehicle rotation schedule. He received quotes for a new half-ton pickup truck to support water department operations. The highest quote was $47,353. The lowest quote was $45,000 and asked Council for approval up to $47,000.00 for the purchase of the half-ton pickup truck.
An equipment auction is being planned for either October or November.
The plan to purchase a new heavy-duty dump truck has been placed on hold. The Town is strategically pacing its capital expenditures to ensure it can finish paying out-of-pocket for the ongoing, high-priority residential water meter replacement project before committing to further large-scale vehicle debt.

After discussion,

- Councilor Giger motioned to approve the quote with Ellison Blasting for $46,500. Council Vice President Tearman seconded. Motion carried.
- Councilor Giger motioned to approve of up to $47,000 for the purchase of the half-ton pickup truck. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Street Department Supervisor Tony Pike said street maintenance tasks have been completed. He replaced the throttle assembly and control cables on the municipal skid steer. He graded Levee Road, which is a gravel road. A new trench drain was installed at the end of Parmalee. The affected resident purchased all necessary drain materials, while Mr. Pike provided the installation labor.

The completed paving project did not include road milling prior to paving. This lack of milling created steep, hazardous drop-offs between the new elevated road pavement and several residential driveways, specifically noted at 202 Lakeview and along Nash Drive. He is actively adding gravel to the edges of these driveways where residents have reported issues. He said for all future road paving projects, the Town's bidding specifications will include road milling. This will ensure cracks are properly removed and road elevations remain flush with surrounding driveways and infrastructure. He officially submitted a new infrastructure grant application. The estimated local match portion required from the Town is now projected to be between $40,000 and $50,000.

Mrs. Henson stated Mr. Pike completed his professional certification to rate municipal roads, or his Pacer certification on November 20, 2025. Under existing Town salary ordinance, employees who obtain a certification are entitled to a $1.00 per hour pay increase. Mrs. Henson stated he was unaware he was able to receive the pay increase.

- Council President Henson motioned to give $1.00 per pay increase to Tony Pike and retro pay it back to November 20, 2025. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.

CLERK-TREASURER REPORT:

Clerk-Treasurer Erica Lyden-Giger presented General, Utilities, August 27, 2026 & September 10, 2026, allowance docket claims and ask the Council for approval in the amounts of $92,836.24, $451,115.373, $47,569.42, $44,752.70 and HWC invoice #23 for $18,144.75. Mrs. Lyden-Giger asked for Council to approved Transfer Resolution 2026-05, totaling $49,660.36.

This resolution authorizes the transfer of the Town's local matching portion of the paving project into the Community Crossings fund. This transfer allows the Town to pay the contractor, Dave O'Mara. She also asked for approval to pay invoice from contractor Dave O'Mara in the amount of $248,301.80. The grant funding received by the Town for the Community Crossings paving project was $198,641.44, with the Town covering the remainder through local matching funds.

- Council President Henson motioned to approve all claims as presented. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.
- Council President Henson motioned to approve transfer Resolution 2026-05. Councilor Bourne seconded. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Robbins said in 2008, the Town entered into a formal partnership agreement with the North Lake Conservancy to establish a temporary access road to be utilized during a major dam construction project. Under this agreement, mutual easements were granted to allow the Town to maintain and use the road for emergency vehicles. The contract stipulated that both the Town and North Lake Conservancy were required to place $25,000 in an escrow account, which would be utilized to restore the land to its original state if requested by property owner Russ Johnson. The physical entrance and exit to this emergency access road is currently being blocked off by the landowner. Mr. Robbins has located a copy of the agreement signed by Pete Ketchum; however, a fully executed copy signed by all parties was never returned to him or found in the Town's records. Mr. Robbins has reached out to Mr. Johnson to investigate the status of the agreement, the validity of the easements, and how the original financial escrow contract was ultimately resolved. He is currently waiting for a response.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. Henson said the tornado siren technician responsible for repairing the Town's siren is currently in out of state and they are scheduled to be here during the first week of October to install a new transformer/rectifier. The old decommissioned emergency siren is owned by the Town and is currently being stored on the technician's private property free of charge. We have not yet received a formal quote from the technician regarding a potential buy-back of the old siren unit.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Henson stated she would like to see changing local zoning and business ordinances to allow residents to operate micro-bakeries and produce stands directly from their residential properties. Council members raised concerns about traffic safety. Many Town roads, such as Nash Drive, are narrow, one-lane roads. Roadside stands and associated customer parking would create severe traffic hazards and block emergency vehicle access. A comparison was made to residential garage sales, which also cause temporary parking congestion. Council members noted that garage sales are temporary, highly infrequent events, whereas micro-retail shops would operate continuously. Mr. Robbins stating zoning laws do not currently permit commercial retail operations within residential zone classifications. He said clear, enforceable standards must be established to prevent residential properties from morphing into full-time commercial shops. He said the Council has two paths forward, draft a preliminary ordinance and refer it directly to the Planning Commission for review and formal comment. Or officially request that the Planning Commission study the issue and propose a set of standards. Have a Town sponsored farmers market once a week or once a month at the Town park, where ample parking and public restrooms are already available was also discussed as an option.

Mrs. Lyden-Giger said a MUST meeting is scheduled for this coming Friday at 10:00 AM at the County offices. This is an open public meeting. All fiscal officers from the County's taxing units will meet to discuss future funding structures. Any formal decisions or recommendations resulting from this meeting must receive a unanimous vote to be officially forwarded to the State. Because Prince's Lakes and Trafalgar have the smallest populations in Johnson County, we are not able to adopt our own rate. Financial advisor Jim Higgins provided clarification on the nature of the MUST meeting. He explained that the meeting is a voluntary county-level activity designed to

gauge whether there is absolute unanimity among local taxing units regarding the upcoming 2029 income tax distribution changes. The data and feedback will be compiled and sent to the DLGF and the Indiana General Assembly. He advised that May or June of next year is the best time for the Council to sit down for long-term budget planning and to ensure the Council can be educated on how these complex funding and tax laws will impact Prince's Lakes. This is because the State's legislative changes will not be finalized until April, and the County is not scheduled to formally adopt new income taxes until Fall 2028.

Mrs. Henson expressed frustration and disappointment that Council members failed to respond to multiple emails requesting a meeting with Jim Higgins to understand these critical future budget impacts. She also stated the Town was granted a multi-week free trial of the BAM weather notification system. None of the council members utilized or tested the BAM trial during its availability and expressed deep disappointment regarding the complete lack of trial usage and the lack of email responses from the Council.

She also explained she is in the Leadership Johnson County Program. The program is designed to build advanced leadership capabilities. It features participants from a wide array of career paths across Johnson County. As part of the curriculum, participants engage in community focused projects. The primary goal of participating is to bring back resources and grants to our community to help us out financially. She also stated we had our monthly head of department meeting and discussed employee compensation strategies. Department heads brainstormed outside the box ways to compensate and reward staff without relying solely on raises.

Department heads were asked to submit their ideas. Some ideas discussed were restructuring and expanding Paid Time Off (PTO) allowances, shifting the standard full-time work week from 40 hours down to 35 or 37.5 hours.

With no further business before the Prince's Lakes Town Council, Council President Henson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Lyden-Giger, IAMCA, CMO, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer

Council:

Council President Lindsey Henson

Council Vice President Bryan Tearman

Councilor Charlie Bourne

Councilor Anthony Giger

Councilor Kevin Harrison

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Town of Prince's Lakes Council meeting. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewin at https://www.youtube.com/@TownofPrincesLakes for as long as this media is supported