



TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Bristol Town Hall Council Chamber

MINUTES

Call to Order

Council President Jeff Beachy called the Town Council Work Session to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chet Miller-Eshleman.

Roll Call

Members present: Doug DeSmith, Cathy Burke, Gregg Tuholski, Jeff Beachy.

Members absent: Dean Rentfrow.

Others present: Town Marshal Steve Priem; Legal Counsel Alex Bowman; Clerk-Treasurer Cathy Antonelli; Town Manager Mike Yoder; Assistant Fire Chief James Hanes.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as published.

Reports

Annual Update – The HUB

Chet Miller-Eshleman, Executive Director of The HUB, provided an annual update on services and programming. He highlighted continued growth in food pantry usage, increased volunteer engagement, and expanded Life Resources programming. Topics included parenting workshops, financial literacy, employment readiness, and community partnerships. Discussion included the HUB's role in supporting students impacted by school consolidation and continued collaboration with local schools. The Council thanked Chet for the update and his work in the community.

Town Manager

- **Old Streetlights:** Discussion was held regarding interest in purchasing removed streetlights. Council consensus was for staff to explore options for an auction or sale, potentially in partnership with a community event or online auction platform, with proceeds benefiting The HUB. Staff will return with a proposal.
- **Employee Retirement Language:** Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jill Swartz and Town Marshal Steve Priem reviewed proposed revisions to the retirement plan language to improve clarity. Discussion focused on employee match eligibility, timing of town contributions,

treatment of part-time employees, and consistency with budget practices. Council provided feedback and requested staff revise the language and bring it back for further review. No action taken.

- **Rieth-Riley Sidewalk Replacement:** Council discussed a quote for sidewalk replacement related to the INDOT project. Legal counsel advised that the project qualifies as a public work not requiring formal bids but does require additional quotes. Staff was directed to seek additional quotes to comply with statute.

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG):** Assistant Town Manager Jill Swartz presented a commitment letter supporting a grant application for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure with a 20% local match. Council President was asked to sign the commitment letter in advance of the April 5 submission deadline.

- **Project Updates:** Updates were provided on water main work at Elkhart and Division Streets, progress on the INDOT project and traffic impacts, sidewalk and detour arrangements, construction of the chemical building at the well field, and upcoming welding on the water tank.

Clerk-Treasurer

There was no report this meeting from the Clerk-Treasurer.

Town Attorney

- **Bristol Farmers Market License Agreement:** Legal counsel presented a draft license agreement with Bristol Community Church for use of parking lot space.

- **Motion to approve the license agreement as presented** was made by Doug DeSmith and seconded by Cathy Burke. Voting Yea: Doug DeSmith, Cathy Burke, Gregg Tuholski, Jeff Beachy. **Motion carried.**

- **Maple Street Properties:** Council was notified that the Special Warranty Deed transferring Maple Street properties from the RDC to the Town was recorded, confirming Town ownership.

- **Lambright Matter:** Council was advised that the Agreed Order to Quiet Title was executed and the case has been dismissed and resolved.

- **Raber Golf Course Management Agreement:** Legal counsel presented a professional services agreement for interim management of the golf course.

- **Motion to approve the Raber Golf Course Management Agreement** was made by Gregg Tuholski and seconded by Doug DeSmith. Voting Yea: Doug DeSmith, Cathy Burke, Gregg Tuholski, Jeff Beachy. **Motion carried.**

Other Comments / Questions

The Town Manager shared information regarding redevelopment activity at the former Robert Weed Plywood complex, including leasing by Patrick Industries and a potential new

RV startup company. The possibility of a future tax abatement request was discussed. No action taken.

Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn made** by Gregg Tuholski, seconded by Doug DeSmith. All in favor.
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm**

Jeff Beachy, Council President

Cathy Antonelli, Clerk-Treasurer

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Bristol Town Council meetings. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://bristol-in.municodemeetings.com/> for as long as this media is supported.