

April 14, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

Denny Richardson, Council President, opened the public hearing to the proposed Ordinance 2025-1 establishing rates and charges for the use of and services rendered by the Waterworks Utility of the Town of Glenwood, IN. Denny led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present besides Denny were Jo Temple, Council Vice-President; David Miller, Council Member; Mary Richardson, Clerk-Treasurer; Paul Sembach, Utilities Supervisor-Operator; Chris Reynolds, Marshal; Brayton Buckley, Code Enforcement Officer; and Geoffrey Wesling, Town Attorney. An attendance sheet was made available for non-officers and citizens.

Mary provided information explaining the water rate increase. The last increase was in 2020 based on an Asset Management Plan provided by Baker Tilly. The plan projected revenue and expenses for a ten-year period. The projection included annual rate increases. However, no rates were raises. The Council was working on a water construction project and then the project to obtain water from Connersville was in process. This would have required a water rate study and rates would be adjusted at that time.

In 2022, the utility revenue tax was eliminated and the rates were decreased. It is no longer feasible to wait to raise the rates. The water fund had had a loss for the past four years. A transfer from the reserve fund is now required to pay bills. The reserve fund is needed to pay for high-end costs such as painting the water tank. The rate listed in the ordinance is what the Asset Management Plan shows should be the rate today, minus the utility revenue tax deduction. Customers have had the benefit of lower rates than projected since 2020.

Denny stated that all speakers must go to the podium and state their name and address. Each speaker will be allowed three minutes. There were no comments or questions from the audience.

A motion was made by David Miller and seconded by Jo Temple to close the public hearing. Approval was unanimous.

Denny then opened the council meeting.

A motion was made by David Miller and seconded by Jo Temple to approve the March 10, 2025 council meeting minutes. Approval was unanimous.

A motion was made David Miller and seconded by Jo Temple to approve the Allowance of Payroll Accounts Payable Voucher and the Register of Accounts Payable Vouchers. Approval was unanimous.

General Fund	\$6,969.25	Water Utility Deposits Fund	\$300.00
Motor Vehicle Highway Fund	\$389.92	Sewage Utility Operating Fund	\$4,622.44
Park Fund	\$517.84	Payroll Fund	\$6,877.58
Water Utility Operating Fund	\$9,184.52	Total	\$28,861.55

#### Unfinished Business

After considering the information provided to support the water rate changes, a motion was made by David Miller and seconded by Jo Temple to approve Ordinance 2025-1 Establishing Rates and Charges for the Use of and Service Rendered by the Waterworks Utility of the Town of Glenwood. Approval was unanimous.

Mary provided the Council with an ordinance to transfer \$10,000 from the water depreciation fund to the water operating fund. A motion was made by David Miller and seconded by Jo Temple to approve Ordinance 2025-2 to transfer \$10,000 from the water depreciation fund to the water operating fund. Approval was unanimous.

Mary reported that a letter supporting the project to bring water from Connersville was received by Senator Jean Leising.

Thomas Barclay, Commonwealth Engineers, confirmed they had submitted the water project renewal application to the State Revolving Loan Fund. Thomas also submitted a funding request to Congressman Jefferson Shreve. The Congressman plans to submit a grant request to Congress for \$2 million dollars that will cover the design cost. This is an 80/20 match. Thomas will reach out to Fayette County Commissioners and ECDC for the match since they have expressed interest in this project. The Town will also need more support letters that Thomas and Mary will work to obtain. The timeline is tight as the grant needs to be filed by May 2.

Mary clarified the potential for Glenwood to file for a TIF to obtain all the Rush County property tax revenue for Falmouth Farm Supply (Glenwood Grain LLC). It was previously mentioned that Glenwood could receive \$120,000 annually from a 6.5 million-dollar project planned by Farm Supply. Mary and Denny went to the Rush County Auditor's office. Glenwood is now receiving 48% of their \$10,872 annual taxes.

Mary and Jo went to the Rush County Assessor's office and discovered that the tax assessment is not necessarily increased by the amount of a project. There are several factors to consider. What looks like a similar project has been built at the Falmouth Farm Supply in Falmouth. Mary researched the property tax and it appears the assessed value was increased by 1.2 million dollars resulting in a tax increase of \$10,634. The Council should understand how the proposed Glenwood project is different from the Falmouth project before pursuing a TIF.

Jo provided information from the Town's IDEM representative who has been Glenwood's field representative for thirty years. Jo was advised to be careful of the TIF as in the field rep's experience the taxes are never as proposed. Jo stated all the requirements to drill for a well. The costs are great to consider purchasing the property, running pipes, drilling, paying engineers, etc. If the well is far away from the treatment plant, the pipeline would be expensive. It usually takes several times to drill at an average permit cost of \$1000 each time. The field rep stated Glenwood has very limited water. The field rep has been involved with Glenwood's search for water. One was found but the nitrates were too high. Money could be spent on a well and it may not pass IDEM's inspection. This is a very high risk. The field rep does not recommend the town invest in obtaining a new well when the town has the two working wells.

Mary noted that the State Board of Accounts will not approve the Town spending money for an additional well when it is for the benefit of another property. With the information received plus the previous recommendations from two engineers, the Council agreed that no action can be taken on this matter.

David Burkhart representing the Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department, stated that he has not yet obtain a quote for stone for the fire station lot.

Mary stated she is still working on the animal ordinance revision.

Mary presented a noise ordinance to the Council for consideration. Geoff had reviewed the ordinance. A motion was made by Jo Temple and seconded by Denny Richardson to have a public hearing at the May 12, 2025 council meeting to review Ordinance 2025-5 regulating noise within the Town of Glenwood, Indiana. Approval was unanimous.

Brayton stated he had reviewed the standard ordinances from the American Legal Publishing and did not notice any conflicts with town ordinances. Mary stated she will work on sending the town ordinances to the company to post on our website.

The Council discussed the proposed equipment purchases, including badges, with Chris and Brayton, Mary questioned why the badge is listed as Deputy Marshal when the office is an unpaid Reserve Officer.

It was explained that they both understood the official job but it is best practice to use the Deputy Marshal title in the public. Geoff agreed with the practice and that the town records can be based on the official title.

A motion was made by Jo Temple and seconded by Denny Richardson to approve the revised salary ordinance adding a one-time stipend of \$500 to the Marshal and Reserve Officer to cover the cost of a service weapon. The stipend will be paid on the May payroll. Approval was unanimous.

Mary provided the Council with livestreaming information from other towns. Some are using Owl products and loading them on YouTube. Others are purchasing GoPro 12. Denny mentioned that some of these type products do not pick up well and have issues. He does have a quote to consider at the May meeting. It was mentioned that Glenwood's IT person is setting up the streaming for Rush County. Mary will contact him for information.

The Council discussed getting the town key inventory updated. Jo stated that the IDEM field rep stated that the wells can only have one key in the possession of Paul and one key locked as a backup. Denny said he and Paul have not yet walked around and assessed all the property keys. A motion was made by David Miller and seconded by Jo Temple to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to purchase a locked key cabinet. Approval was unanimous.

Paul provided an update on the Wellhead Protection Plan Phase II due on May 14, 2025. Since council members will be attending the meeting, Paul will notify Mary in advance of the meeting date so that a special meeting 48-hour notice can be posted.

#### New Business

Mary had passed along information to the Council regarding Senate Bill 1 which will reduce property taxes which is a primary town income. She provided legislators information for them to contact. Mary contacted AIM for a sample resolution but nothing related to a town our size.

Mary provided an update from the Park Board meeting prior to the council meeting. The Park Board was concerned about people leaving the doors open and flies and insects entering the building. Jo said she has not encountered an issue with this after rentals. There was discussion about damage to screen doors. After the discussion, a motion was made by Jo Temple and seconded by Denny Richardson to authorize Jack to obtain a quote for a metal screen door for the west door only. Approval was unanimous.

The Park Board is planning a community supper in July but waiting on the date to ensure they have the playground information prior to the supper. A motion was made by Jo Temple and seconded by David Miller to approve the purchase of meat, buns, drinks, and supplies for the July community supper. Approval was unanimous.

#### Reports

Mary stated she is attending the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (EIRPC) meeting on April 24.

Mary reported that Rush County has contracted with HWC Engineering to revised the entire zoning ordinance and make it easier to research sections online. HWC has also taken the solar ordinance prepared by the APC committee and will tweak it for a public hearing in May.

Denny reported on the recent Rush County and Fayette County Solid Waste Management meetings. Both counties are getting new equipment to crush boxes.

Jo stated she has received complaints regarding vehicles at a house of SR 44. Brayton stated he believes they have current registrations and nothing can be done. He will follow up on the complaint.

Jo said this same house burns trash. Brayton will follow up. Mary noted that there is a state law against burning and the fire department will hose out the fire if called.

It was noted that clean up day is scheduled for June 7. Denny is having difficulty finding reasonable priced dumpsters.

The Council discussed pot holes on SR 44 have been filled. Mary stated she received a complaint through the website. Mary called INDOT to report the pothole at the flashing light. A couple hours later she was told it was fixed.

Denny and Mary reported on the Foundation's Lilly Gift VIII steering committee's quarterly meeting. They are getting new brochures for the homeowner's grant for property improvement. The income level has been raised. There are public engagement meetings that homeowners can obtain.

There will be a meeting scheduled soon to discuss the design of the park improvement being financed by the Lilly grant. Mary recommended the Park Board attend.

HWC Engineering has scheduled a meeting with the Town officers on April 25 to get a better understand your town's current staffing capacity, challenges, and priorities. The Lilly grant will help fund a Rush County Community Coordinator position. It was agreed that since this is not a town meeting, to meet with HWC in Rushville.

Mary reported that the Rural Development annual report was sent and approved. The report contained seven files.

Mary said Randy Herbert repaired her computer as the sound was not working. Mary asked to clean the files to speed up the process. A speed test was performed and the Frontier internet was .21 megabits. Randy said that is half what can be obtained with a 20-year-old dial up computer.

Paul Sembach provided his written and oral report. The door at well #2 needs replaced. Paul is working with the State Board of Health on samples.

#### Other Business

A citizen stated that there is loud music again on Durbon Street. The Council said the noise ordinance may help.

A motion was made by Jo Temple and seconded by Jo David Miller to adjourn the meeting. Approval was unanimous.

Mary M. Richardson, Clerk-Treasurer