MEETING MEMO

OCTOBER 2026 – TOWN OF SUNMAN PUBLIC MEETING
DATE: 10.20.2026, TIME: 6:30 P.M., LOCATION: 604 N. MERIDIAN ST., SUNMAN, IN 47041, LIVESTREAM **LIVESTREAM:** HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@TOWNOFSUNMAN
ARCHIVED MEETINGS: HTTPS://WWW.TOWNOFSUNMAN.ORG/COUNCIL-MEETING-ARCHIVE

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Randy Zins called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 6:37 PM

Roll Call

Present: John Kellerman, Carol Eckstein, Megan Dell, Randy Zins, Julie Brock & Connor Getz in for Cheryl Taylor.
Absent: Cheryl Taylor, Brian Maynard (Breavement)

Adoption of the Agenda - Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the agenda, 2nd Megan Dell.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Rainy Day Fund — $16,000. Council discussed appropriating $16,000 of existing Rainy Day Fund money for 2026 budgetary authority. The Clerk-Treasurer explained that the funds already existed and this action placed them in budget line items, rather than creating new revenue. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the additional appropriations for the Rainy Day fund, 2nd Megan Dell.

REPORTS

- **Town Marshel**

  Marshal Brian Maynard summarized recent law enforcement activity and cooperation with the Ripley County Sheriff's Office, Indiana State Police, and other agencies. He noted that community volunteers assisting pedestrians during Halloween would act as private citizens rather than as Town-authorized crossing guards. He also warned that incidents attributed to Sunman on the Crime Radar app were not always accurate and encouraged direct verification with the Police Department.

  Deputy Position — Salary. The Marshal requested the ability to recruit an academy-certified part-time deputy at $20 per hour, for 20 hours per week. The annual estimate discussed was $20,800, using $10,000 in budgeted funds and approximately $10,800 in Local Income Tax funds. Questions included long-term sustainability, scheduling flexibility, part-time status, benefits, and funding. Carol Ecstein motioned approve having John prepare a salary ordinance amendment. For the deputy position, 2nd Megan Dell.

Reserve Officer Program. The Marshal reviewed participation and costs associated with the reserve program, including insurance, uniforms, and vehicles. He intends to evaluate inactive members and discuss potential program changes and liability questions with the Clerk-Treasurer and insurer.

Ordinance Violations. Several property owners complied following notice. The Marshal described the Town's process of initial Clerk-Treasurer correspondence followed by citations for unresolved violations. The Town Attorney discussed filing cases with evidence of certified-mail service attempts when recipients do not accept delivery. Records of mailed and returned notices will be maintained to support enforcement.

- **Utility – (report attached)**

Utility Manager Connor Getz thanked staff for covering operations during training and acknowledged Krueger's seasonal flower donations. Departments discussed Halloween candy distribution, with $200 from water and $200 from wastewater proposed for utility participation. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the purchase, 2nd Megan Dell.

Leaf Pickup Schedule. Leaf collection is planned for Tuesdays and Fridays beginning the week of November 2, 2026, and continuing as conditions warrant, normally several weeks. Residents should place leaves at the lawn edge and avoid hydrants, trees, and parked vehicles that obstruct collection equipment.

Backflow Preventer — Chlorine Room, WW. A backflow protection installation at the wastewater treatment facility was discussed as a preventive safeguard, with a cost of approximately $2,500 and an invoice still anticipated. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the purchase, 2nd Megan Dell.

Auto-Chlorinator. A quote from Living Waters for wastewater chlorination equipment was reviewed. Council discussed using Rainy Day money because of wastewater fund constraints. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the purchase from Rainy Day Fund pending the conclusion of the additional appropriation process, 2nd Megan Dell.

Aerator for WW Lagoon. An aerator installed at the facility was reported to be functioning well. Council discussed purchasing it from employee Joe Mitchell for $500 instead of repairing more costly existing lagoon equipment. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the purchase from Ralph Mitchel, 2nd Megan Dell.

- **Park**

Julie Brock reported the Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., ending at the Sunman American Legion, with activities afterward. The outdoor restroom needs floor painting prior to winter closure, and existing floor paint may be used. Park operating balances, including an internet expense overage, were reviewed.

CLERK-TREASURER

Cheryl Taylor

- **Meeting Memoranda.** The Council received memoranda for the September 15, 2026 regular meeting, September 22,2026 budget work meeting, September 22, 2026 executive session, and October 6, 2026 budget adoption meeting. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the memorandums, 2nd Megan Dell.
- **Utility Adjustments, Fund Reports, and Financial Statement.** The Clerk-Treasurer discussed account adjustments for verified leaks, penalties, and service issues. A larger upcoming wastewater adjustment related to a St. Nicholas sprinkler malfunction was described. September fund and financial reports were presented; the spoken report corrected month labels appearing on agenda materials. A motion and second to approve reporting were recorded. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the utility adjustments, fund report, and financial statements, 2nd Megan Dell.
- **APV Register.** The Clerk-Treasurer presented the accounts payable voucher register, noting that a printed August label should have referred to September. The numerical amount is unclear in the automatic transcript and should be confirmed from the register. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the September APV register, 2nd Megan Dell.
- **Debit Card Purchases.** Purchases, including sign materials, a drinking-water-related charge, a sympathy gift, and lodging for professional training, were reviewed. A motion and second were recorded for approval. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the debit card purchases, 2nd Megan Dell.
- **Retain Seasonal Employee.** Council discussed extending seasonal employee David Bowen through November 24, 2026, to help with winterization, machinery, and property and utility maintenance. Compensation for November was to be allocated to water and wastewater. A motion and second were recorded. Staff also reported that the sewer jetter had been repaired. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the the retension of David Bowen until November 24, 2026, 2nd Megan Dell.

OLD / UNFINISHED / TABLED BUSINESS

Noise Ordinance — Fourth of July — 2026-13. Council discussed state-protected dates and hours for consumer fireworks and whether proposed local restrictions were permissible or necessary. Members also discussed existing noise provisions and enforcement. The proposed amendment was not advanced; the discussion indicated the prior motion had failed. No new ordinance adoption is documented in the transcript.

Indiana LTAP Traffic Count Program. Council discussed borrowing electronic traffic-monitoring signs or counters for up to four weeks to collect objective speed and volume information on Eastern and Western Avenues. Location, device condition, usefulness of data, and the loan agreement were discussed. The Town Attorney was asked to review applicable terms and liability before proceeding.

313 Western Avenue — Alan Investments. The Town Attorney reported on property enforcement issues and the status of the business entity, including possible complications involving inactive corporate

registration and bankruptcy. Council discussed options to address violations and safety concerns while legal review continues.

Executive Session — Employee Reviews and Policy Changes. An executive session was discussed for November 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., involving employee reviews and related personnel and policy issues. The Council discussed allowing employees to review their evaluations. Meeting notice of executive-session and employee invitation shal;l be handled by the Clerk-Treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

Bond / Speed Limit Signs — Winner's Circle. Council considered a request relating to traffic signage and subdivision issues. The Town Attorney raised concerns that Town installation or maintenance could affect its position on responsibility for subdivision roads and outstanding developer obligations. The matter was left for further review. John Kellerman shall reach out to the Bond holder.

Temporary Parking Sign — Great Finds. A request for time-limited parking serving the Great Finds business was discussed. Council supported preparation of a proposed ordinance amendment establishing a two-hour parking restriction at the affected frontage. Carol Eckstein motioned to direct John Kellerman to draft the necessary parking amendment, 2nd Megan Dell.

Training — Fall Conference, Utility Manager and Clerk. The Council reviewed expenses and reimburcement requests for Cheryl Taylor and Connor Getz related to the fall conference. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the reimbursements, 2nd Megan Dell.

Training — AIM, Megan Dell. Council discussed AIM training and associated expenditures for Megan Dell. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the invoice for payment, 2nd Megan Dell.

Appointment — Ripley County Emergency Management Advisory Council. Carol Eckstein motioned to appoint Marshal Brian Maynard to represent the Town, 2nd Megan Dell. Discussion addressed emergency management coordination, planning, sheltering, and cooperation with county officials and the American Red Cross.

Resignation — Planning & Zoning Representative, Micah Webster. Carol Eckstein motioned to accepted Micah Webster's resignation due to family obligations, 2nd Megan Dell. The Council discussed the time commitment of the position and plans to seek applicants so Sunman remains represented. Appointment of a successor was deferred to a future meeting. The Council thanked Micah for his service.

COMMENTS FROM THE FOOR

No public comments were made

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Eckstein motioned to adjourn at 8:21 pm, 2nd Randy Zins.

NEXT MEETINGS

- November 10, 2026, 6:30pm, Executive Session
- November 17, 2026, 6:30pm, Regular Public Meeting

Memorandum approved this 17th day, November, 2026.

_____

Randy Zins, Council President

_____

Carol Eckstein, Council Member

_____

Megan Dell, Council Member

_____

Attest, Cheryl Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer

OTHER MATTERS TABLED

- DORA
- Master Meter – Trees
- Local Tax Option
- 313 Western Avenue
- Annexation