

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**September 14, 2026**

*Councilman Wotring*

~~Recorder Charles Mason~~ opened with the pledge of allegiance with Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour opening in prayer. The Town of White Hall Council meeting was held in the Council Chambers at the Town of White Public Safety Building and called to order by Mayor Jason DeFrance at 6:00 pm.

**Officers Roll Call:**

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Mayor Jason DeFrance</i>         | <i>Present</i>         |
| <i>Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour</i>    | <i>Present</i>         |
| <i>Councilmember Bob Wotring</i>    | <i>Present</i>         |
| <i>Councilmember Kristine Mason</i> | <i>Absent with Pay</i> |
| <i>Treasurer John Jacobs</i>        | <i>Present</i>         |
| <i>Councilmember Mandy Espanol</i>  | <i>Present</i>         |
| <i>Recorder Charles Mason</i>       | <i>Present</i>         |

*Also present:*  
*Chief of Police Geno Guerrieri*  
*Town Administrator Cindy Stover*

*A quorum was present.*

***Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour made a motion to excuse Councilmember Kristine Mason with pay due to illness.***

***Motion passed.***

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Minutes for the 8.24.26 Town Council Meeting were approved as written.*

**Citizens' Concerns:**

None.

**Treasurer & Financial Reports:**

This will be voted on at the next meeting.

**Communications & Announcements:**

- a. Farmers Market 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month from 9 am – noon. May 23<sup>rd</sup> through Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Empowerfest October 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm
- c. General Election Early Voting October 21<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>. 8:30 am – 4:30 pm on weekdays and 9 am – 5 pm on Saturdays.
- d. General Election Day Voting November 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 am – 7:30 pm
- e. Christmas Parade December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

A discussion was held on adding the Fall Clean Up day scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> on the next agenda.

**Public Hearing:**

None.

**Marion County EMS Report:**

None.

**Park Committee:**

None.

**Police Department Report:**

Chief of Police Geno Guerrieri stated for August 2026, there were 47 cases, 390 calls for service, and 53 citations.

Chief Guerrieri then stated the White Hall PD has been patrolling at White Hall Elementary School every morning.

**Legal Department Report:**

Town Attorney Trey Simmerman stated that he spoke with White Hall Medical's attorney over the weekend and there was an inspection on the site today. He also stated there is interest in conveying the property to the town with consideration and a donation element.

**Town Administrator Report:**

Town Administrator Cindy Stover stated that the Town can put the election on the Marion County ballot in 2030 if the Town does a 3-year term the next term.

Town Administrator Cindy Stover then stated that audit questionnaires will be going out to individuals soon.

Town Administrator Cindy Stover stated that an annexation handout has been worked on and those are almost ready to go out in the next couple of days.

Town Administrator Cindy Stover then stated that a Sign Ordinance will be going out to make a tweak to the Town code and the Police Department's general code.

#### **Nuisance Report:**

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated there was a meeting today at the old White Hall Medical Building and the owner's son stated that he will work on closing the building back up with tamper resistant screws and bring a dumpster to clean it out.

#### **Engineer Report:**

None.

#### **Unfinished Business :**

None.

#### **New Business to Consider:**

##### **Consider Public Works Project:**

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that the Public Works Department needs additional storage space for its salt supply. Town Administrator Cindy Stover stated that the matter has not yet been voted on, but funds were included in the budget for the project, and the anticipated cost came in under budget at \$8,089.00 for a 25 ft x 15 ft structure and concrete.

Treasurer John Jacobs mentioned a local company that may be a better price and Public Services Director George Hagan stated he will check into that.

***Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour made a motion to move forward with the salt storage shed for no more than \$8,089.00***

***Motion passed.***

### **Consider Christmas Lights Display:**

A discussion was held on adding a lighted Christmas tree to the area the Town cleared below Red Roof Inn. Council reviewed photos and discussed options provided by Town Administrator Cindy Stover.

A discussion was held on having a tree and lighting ceremony at Middletown Commons.

Costs are being obtained for several options and will be brought back to Council.

### **Consider Appraisal Costs:**

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that Doug Wise has provided a verbal commitment of \$3,500 for an appraisal, which he would be willing to defend in court if necessary. Town Attorney Trey Simmerman stated that he believes the proposed cost is reasonable and he recommends doing this.

***Recorder Charles Mason made a motion to hire professional appraiser Mr. Wise for the purpose of performing the best and final offer appraisal as well as for his courtroom testimony.***

***Motion passed.***

### **Final Remarks:**

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that at this time, Council will give their final remarks. Then, FSU students visiting the meeting will hear from local representative Guy Ward, watch a demonstration of one of our K-9s, and then enjoy food and drinks in the break room for all. Mayor Jason DeFrance thanked Jersey Mike's, Little Ceasars, and Munchies for their food donations.

Councilmember Mandy Espanol stated that she would like to see fall type banners go up between fall and Christmas instead of the veteran banners staying up.

Treasurer John Jacobs agreed with Councilmember Mandy Espanol and asked about any news on Ruby Drive. Town Administrator Cindy Stover stated that she hasn't heard anything and will reach out.

Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour stated that the fall season is here and there are a lot of things going on in the community and next meeting Council needs to look at Trick-or-Treat times.

Recorder Charles Mason stated that a man approached him about a speed limit sign off of Route 73 that you cannot see. Town Administrator Cindy Stover stated she will bring it to the attention

of the DOH.

Councilmember Mandy Espanol asked whether the regularly scheduled Council meeting would be held on October 12th due to the Columbus Day holiday. After discussion, it was determined that Columbus Day is not an observed holiday for Town employees or Councilmembers so the meeting will be held as regularly scheduled.

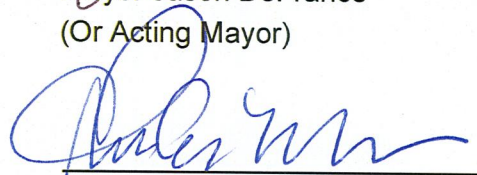
**Adjournment:**

***Recorder Charles Mason made the motion to adjourn.***

***Motion passed.***

*Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Jason DeFrance  
(Or Acting Mayor)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder Charles Mason  
(Or Acting Recorder)

Minutes prepared by Kristin Kirk