



Meeting minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, April 8th, 2026, Mayor Dave Spesia called to order the regular board meeting of the Coal City Village Board in the boardroom of Village Hall. Roll call was taken with Trustee Dave Togliatti, Trustee Dan Greggain, Trustee Pam Noffsinger, and Trustee CJ Lauterbur present. Trustee Ross Bradley and Trustee Bill Mincey; absent. Also in attendance were Attorney Kathryn Nagy, Matt Halloran from Chamlin Engineering, Chief Mike Imhof and Matt Fritz, Village Administrator.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Spesia led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

Budget Meeting 03-18-2026

Mayor Spesia presented the minutes from the budget meeting held on March 18, 2026. No comments, corrections, or questions were raised regarding these meeting minutes.

Motion: Trustee Lauterbur moved to approve the meeting minutes for the budget meeting on March 18, 2026. Trustee Greggain seconded. Motion carried with all trustees voting yes.

Regular Meeting 03-18-2026

Mayor Spesia presented the minutes from the regular meeting held on March 18, 2026. No comments or questions were raised regarding these meeting minutes.

Motion: Trustee Greggain moved to approve the meeting minutes for the regular meeting on March 18, 2026. Trustee Lauterbur seconded. Motion carried with all trustees voting yes.

4. Approval of Warrant List

Mayor Spesia presented the warrant list for approval. Village Administrator Fritz noted a line item for stump grinder blades, which had been instrumental for getting equipment back into inventory after the tornado and continues to be used. A board member inquired about dog waste bags, asking if they were for the dog park, which was confirmed they were. No other questions or comments were raised.

Motion: Trustee Lauterbur moved to approve the warrant list. Trustee Greggain seconded. Motion carried with all trustees voting yes.

5. Public Comment

Mayor Spesia opened public comment, noting two people had signed up to speak.

Deborah Walters a resident of Diamon addressed the board expressing concerns about data centers coming to Coal City. She noted that while she doesn't officially reside in Coal City, she works and shops there and shares the same air and water. She specifically requested information about agenda

item 12 regarding farm property and how it relates to potential data center development. Walters expressed particular concern about the impact on Country Kennels, a dog boarding facility she relies on twice weekly for work and during emergencies and travel. She emphasized the accommodating nature of this facility and questioned what alternatives would be available if data centers force it out of business. She noted concerns about noise impacts from data centers affecting animals, citing studies about audible and inaudible sounds, and stressed this would be constant 24/7 noise unlike passing trains.

Mike Lareau, a Coal City resident since 1970 and current Braceville Township Road Commissioner, expressed concerns about the south of town project. He stated that many people approach him with questions about what's happening, but he doesn't have answers. Lareau noted he had visited a facility in Northlake and found it nice, but emphasized he'd like to be able to answer questions for the people he represents. He estimated that 80 percent of village residents have no idea what's going on south of town and questioned why this isn't being addressed. Lareau raised several concerns including environmental impacts on the Mazon River, questioning whether the village will actually receive promised revenue and if it's guaranteed, whether the village has paid for studies and would be recompensated if the project fails, and what would happen if the data center goes out of business in 10-15 years. He also expressed concern for people who could lose their homes or be directly affected by the project.

Pam Hazard, Maine Township Supervisor at 4700 East Grand Ridge Road, spoke about the unfairness to homeowners who have worked their entire lives and now face decisions at age 60 about whether to sell and give up or wait for an offer that won't provide full home value. She mentioned having horses and a barn, working with animal fostering since 2013, and concerns about animals being affected by frequencies from data centers.

Mayor Spesia clarified that public comment is not a question and answer session, though there would be time for that later. He emphasized that the village of Coal City has not received any formal land use plan for a data center, stating they have only had a conceptual meeting. He noted that once a formal plan is received, it will be much easier to answer all the questions raised during public comment.

Mike Lareau added that he has utmost respect for the elected board members and appreciates all they're doing, noting that residents elected them to represent their best interests.

6. Assumption Church Bike Blessing – April 25, 2026

Village Administrator Fritz presented the special event permit application for the Assumption Church Bike Blessing, noting this would be the second year for this event. The event operates similarly to last year with the provided map showing the route. Chief and the fire department have coordinated on the actual operation for the day.

Alex Kuhel, representing the church, provided background on the event. They moved it earlier this year (from late May to April 25th) hoping to get more participation before peak riding season. They're working with Freak at Top Fuel to pull in more participants and reaching out to various establishments. The intermediate school principal Tracy Carlson will include information in the virtual backpack. The blessing covers not just bicycles but also scooters, wheelchairs, wagons, and strollers. Following the blessing, Ron Marketti will present a Civil War presentation in the hall, with artifacts on display. Food will be available including hot dogs, popcorn, pizza, popsicles, and pop. Last year they had 16 participants and hope to build momentum as an annual event. Kuhel noted a gentleman with a Facebook page focused on bike events was impressed that Coal City offered bike blessings, as he'd never encountered this elsewhere.

A board member asked about the parade route approval, and Chief confirmed it's basically the same as last year and they were well prepared. The event may need to be flexible depending on participation numbers and potential street closures.

No formal board action was required as this was a permit application for information purposes.

7. Ordinance 26-08 – Amendment of Ord #21-41 to Allow a Leased Auto Sales location at 825 E. Division

Village Administrator Fritz presented ordinance 26-08 to amend ordinance 21-41, allowing a leased auto sales location at 825 East Division Street. The matter was discussed at the planning zoning board and received unanimous recommendation for adoption. The background involves property that was part of McCoy Marine's conditional use approvals in 2021, though some property has since been sold. Robert Wildenhain, present in the audience, hopes to do auto sales at this C5 zoned property. The current enabling order from 2021 specifically allows boat sales, storage, and repair but doesn't mention motor vehicles, necessitating this amendment.

Wildenhain explained they live in Coal City, their children attend local schools, and they want to keep their business local as a way to bring in sales tax revenue.

Mayor Spesia questioned what types of trucks would be sold. Wildenhain clarified light duty trucks only, no semis, stating there isn't enough land for larger vehicles. He plans to keep about 25 vehicles on the lot, focusing on SUVs, smaller compact SUVs, and light trucks. Trade-ins might occasionally bring in larger vehicles, but that's not the business plan.

Wildenhain confirmed there will be an office in the existing 2-story garage building, with a small wall and desk downstairs for customer transactions.

The business will be called "Kat's Auto Sales".

A member from the audience requested clarification on light truck weight limits, suggesting B or C plates as maximum to provide clearer parameters.

Motion: Trustee Lauterbur moved to adopt ordinance 26-08, amending ordinance 21-41 to allow for a leased auto sales location to operate on C5 zone land. Trustee Greggain seconded. Motion carried with all trustees voting yes.

8. Resolution 26-06 Amendment for FY26 Annual Budget for Necessary Expenditures

Village Administrator Fritz presented resolution 26-06 for amendment of the fiscal year 26 annual budget for necessary expenditures. This annual resolution shores up expenditures prior to the fiscal year ending April 30th. The resolution addresses programs that need amendments before year-end, with explanations provided in the memo.

A significant expense was the collective bargaining agreement settlement requiring retroactive pay, funded from accumulated fund balance from previous fiscal years when negotiations hadn't been settled. The village's fund balance going into the year was just over \$1,700,000, providing sufficient funding to offset utilization across recommended programs including both police and street/alley departments.

Street and alley expenses included significant snow removal costs after eight years of lower utilization, with additional expense from Sunday snow events requiring overtime rates.

This resolution aligns with previous budget meeting discussions and should not surprise board members.

Motion: Trustee Greggain moved to adopt resolution number 26-06, amending the fiscal year '26 budget to allow for necessary expenditures. Trustee Togliatti seconded. Motion carried with all trustees present and the Mayor voting yes.

9. Resolution 26-07 Appropriating MFT Funds for Annual Street & Alley Repairs

Village Administrator Fritz and Village Engineer Matt Halloran presented resolution 26-07 for appropriating MFT funds for annual street and alley repairs. This annual resolution allows expenditure of \$350,000 from motor fuel tax allotments for street repairs, requiring submission to IDOT.

Village Engineer Halloran outlined the street and alley committee's plans including Valerio Road improvements, North Broadway repairs from North Street to the recently replaced bridge, and various in-town streets: Daisy Place, Mary Street south of Division to Maple, and West Gordon Avenue from last year's intersection work out to Broadway. The map also shows ComEd ditch cleaning work funded separately.

The plan includes sidewalk installation on Marguerite Street from Maple up to Oak Street using MFT funds. For Valerio Road, only the paving portion can be funded with MFT as new road construction restrictions limit MFT usage, but this accounts for part of the overall project cost.

Motion: Trustee Lauterbur moved to adopt resolution 26-07, approving the expenditure of \$350,000 in MFT funding and adopting the 2026 street and alley repair plan. Trustee Greggain seconded. Motion carried with all trustees voting yes.

10. Approval of 2026 Street & Alley Annual Maintenance Program

This item was incorporated into the previous resolution discussion and motion.

11. Authorizing Entry into Contract and Procurement of America 250 Events/Attractions

Village Administrator Fritz presented contracts for the America 250 celebration continuing the ongoing authorization process for June 20th events. The total cost for this evening's contracts is \$10,780, including AMJ Spectacular Events for stage rental, tent rental, and the American Legion Band for evening entertainment at the high school.

Fritz recommended holding items for legal review before final execution while getting authorization to reserve the services. The committee's hard work is evident as the celebration approaches quickly.

Motion: Trustee Lauterbur moved to authorize the mayor and/or administrator to enter into agreement for the procurement of \$10,718 worth of contracted services for the America 250 celebration to include contracts with AMJ Spectacular Events, Rod Emling, Joliet Tent Company, and the American Legion Band pending legal review and approval. Trustee Togliatti seconded. Motion carried with all trustees voting yes.

12. Receipt of the Hauschild Farm & Properties Annexation

Village Administrator Fritz presented information about the Hauschild Farm annexation petition. The property spans from the east side of the UP railroad to Berta Road, including five parcels but excluding the residence at the northeast corner. The petition requests agricultural zoning rather than the automatic RS-1 residential zoning.

The annexation will require two public hearings: one at planning and zoning for agricultural versus RS-1 zoning consideration, and another at the board of Trustees level for the annexation agreement.

The property owners request agricultural zoning and reimbursement for certain property tax line items (parks and preexisting debt) for services they wouldn't receive.

The property totals 253 acres located east of UP railroad, west of Berta Road, across from Hoffman on the south side of Reed Road.

No board action was required as this was informational presentation of the petition.

13. Report of the Mayor

Mayor Spesia reported on the solicitation permitting requirements as the season approaches. He emphasized residents should verify solicitors wear proper badge lanyards from the police department, and call police if solicitors lack proper identification. Officers will respond to have unauthorized solicitors leave the area.

14. Report of the Trustees

Trustee Lauterbur noted seeing new equipment at North Park and asked about old equipment removal. Administrator Fritz confirmed the old equipment was removed as of that afternoon, with new equipment delivery pending.

15. Report of Village Clerk

Village Clerk noted the economic interest forms deadline of May 4th, reminding board members who haven't completed them yet. She noted some had already confirmed completion.

16. Report of Village Attorney

Village Attorney Katie Nagy welcomed herself back to Coal City and had no report.

17. Report of Village Engineer

Village Engineer Matt Halloran provided updates on North Broadway, planning to present preliminary plans at the first May meeting after another street and alley committee meeting. Regarding the water plant, painting was completed inside and the facility is looking good. He's working to get completion dates from contractors but facing challenges in getting firm commitments.

Mayor Spesia asked about bidding timeline for approved road projects. Halloran explained he wants to tie everything together including Valerio Road design work, hoping to bid sometime in May. The timing should coordinate well with water plant completion for concurrent public works projects.

18. Report of Chief of Police

Chief addressed solicitation permits, encouraging residents to call police if they encounter solicitors. Proper solicitors must have lanyards or identification from the Coal City Police Department. Some permits last about a year, like a recent ice cream truck operator whose permit expires in May requiring renewal.

The Chief thanked the community for outstanding support shown to an officer who experienced a tragedy over the weekend, noting the exceptional response from citizens, police departments, and fire departments.

Fritz asked about "no trespassing" signs effectiveness. The Chief explained that while such signs don't create automatic citations, they help establish credibility if residents don't want solicitors, and officers can use discretion for potential citations when combined with lack of proper permits.

19. Report of Village Administrator

Administrator Fritz reported successful implementation of See My Legacy software for organizing America 250 celebration efforts. The system is already receiving donations and helping coordinate the eight different drives and initiatives planned for the event. It allows people to participate in various ways - parade participation, sponsorship, contests - while streamlining communications that previously fell to individual staff coordination.

Fritz will attend legislative efforts in Springfield next week to assist Will County governmental advocacy. Key issues include comprehensive housing solutions that remove local planning and zoning control, and continued state reduction of income and sales tax returns to local communities through local government distributed fund reductions. Trustee will accompany him, with other board members welcome to participate if interested.

20. Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn at 7:52pm: Trustee Lauterbur moved to adjourn. Trustee Greggain seconded.
Motion carried with all trustees voting yes.*

X 

Kayla Melvin
Village Clerk