



Coal City Village Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 2026

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Spesia called the Coal City Village Board Meeting to order at 7:05pm on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. The meeting immediately followed a public hearing on the FY27 budget.

Roll Call: All trustees and Mayor Spesia were present: Trustee Togliatti, Trustee Greggain, Trustee Noffsinger, Trustee Bradley, Trustee Mincey, and Trustee Lauterbur. Also, in attendance were Chief Mike Imhof, Mark Heinle, village attorney, Matt Halloran, Chamlin Engineering and Matt Fritz, village administrator.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Spesia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the meeting minutes from April 8, 2026. Mayor Spesia noted one correction regarding item 4 under the warrant list approval, clarifying that dog waste bags were confirmed to be for the dog park, not that they were not for the dog park.

Motion: Trustee Togliatti moved to approve the April 8, 2026 meeting minutes as corrected.
Trustee Greggain seconded. Motion passed with one abstain vote from Trustee Mincey.

Approval of Warrant List

Mayor Spesia questioned two identical payments of \$270 to the Illinois Office of the Attorney General and Illinois State Police for sex offender registration funds. Fritz confirmed these were separate invoices to different entities. Chief confirmed this is standard practice with separate payments required to the state and separate entities.

Motion: Trustee Bradley moved to approve the warrant list. Trustee Lauterbur seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Several residents spoke regarding the proposed data center:

Luke Konecny expressed continued opposition to the data center, stating it was already dividing the town and making people angry.

Kristen Kurdenok (2500 South Carbon Hill Road) appeared with her neighbor Lori Cora. She read her statement to the board. As a military widow and main provider for her household, she operates a dog boarding facility while Lori runs photography and construction businesses. She expressed strong opposition to Ordinance 26-03 that annexed land around their properties, creating "industrial islands." She detailed how the planned 11 industrial buildings with 24/7 generator noise would destroy their businesses and quality of life. The developer's offers were described as insulting lowball settlements that wouldn't cover replacement costs. She demanded either fair relocation compensation reflecting

2026 rebuild costs including business goodwill, or implementation of 1,000-foot no-build buffers with level 3 sound enclosures on equipment facing their properties. She emphasized they would not sacrifice their homes and businesses for a billion-dollar company trying to save money on buyouts. Kurdenok supplied the board with a copy of her written statement for the record.

Denise Novak is also opposed to the data center. She stated that she has clients from Minooka that are already starting to have issues with sink holes in their yards as well as their concrete cracking and curiosity of bills going up and taxes.

Brenda Gerber also expressed opposition to the data center for previously stated reasons.

Owen Kurdenok (Kristen's son) also spoke against the project. Stated his father fought for this country and the business he left is his livelihood and future. He stated it is hard to see a data center (a billion dollar company) come and treat them unfairly.

Heather Hunter asked about timing for receiving project information.

Brenda Gerber requested that when information becomes available, it be posted prominently throughout the community including signs by McDonald's and church programs, as many residents remain unaware of the proposal.

Mayor Spesia explained that the village has not yet received the land use plan from the developer, which is needed before any formal consideration can occur. He emphasized they cannot answer specific questions until this documentation is received, and timing depends entirely on the developer. He assured residents that information will be widely communicated once available, noting that agendas are currently posted at Village Hall, on the website, and at the library.

Ordinance 26-09: Adoption of Fiscal Year 27 Budget

Fritz referenced his earlier presentation during the public hearing, noting the budget includes a 25% decrease in expenditures from the previous year due to completion of phase 1 lead service replacements and postponement of a planned bond debt issuance project. Major projects include phase 2 design engineering for North Broadway (80% federally funded), North Park equipment replacement, IDNR grant funding beginning, Valeria Road connection to Will Road, and common easement drainage ditch maintenance along the bike path.

Motion: Trustee Lauterbur moved to adopt Ordinance 26-09 adopting the FY27 budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2026. Trustee Bradley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 26-10: Variance for 255 West First Street

Fritz reported this ordinance resulted from Monday evening's public hearing. The variance allows an accessory structure (treated as a garage due to exceeding 300 square feet) to be placed 8 feet from the eastern boundary instead of the required 9 feet. The petitioner, Terry Halliday, could not attend but indicated availability for questions. The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously recommended approval, with no public opposition. There were no questions from the board.

Motion: Trustee Greggain moved to adopt Ordinance 26-10 granting a variance at 255 West First Street allowing minimum interior yard setback of 8 feet adjacent to the newly constructed accessory structure. Trustee Mincey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 26-11: Variance for 115 East Walnut

Fritz explained this variance also resulted from Monday's public hearing. The project adds a roof over the front doorway and existing bay window, creating a front porch that encroaches into the front yard setback. The required 25-foot setback will become 21 feet. The neighborhood has numerous houses with varying front yard setbacks due to its age, with many built before current requirements. The builder/petitioner (Dave Clubb) noted that 11 of 20 houses in the two-block area already encroach significantly, with some only 8-15 feet from the road, making this 21-foot setback reasonable. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommended approval.

Motion: Trustee Lauterbur moved to adopt Ordinance 26-11 granting a variance at 115 East Walnut allowing a minimum front yard setback of 21 feet adjacent to accommodate the new front porch improvement. Trustee Mincey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 26-12: Prohibiting Possession of Certain Synthetic Products and Drugs

Chief Imhof explained that gas stations are selling unregulated substances not FDA approved. A coalition of municipalities is addressing this issue with similar ordinances. As a former school resource officer with extensive student contacts, he emphasized these substances reach youth and need to be banned to protect children and young adults.

Village Attorney provided detailed explanation of the ordinance, describing it as addressing a "cat and mouse game" where manufacturers make slight chemical changes to circumvent regulations. The ordinance targets both known substances and "novel psychoactive substances" - variations designed to skirt existing laws. He clarified that adult-use cannabis remains legal under Illinois law and this ordinance doesn't change that. The ordinance specifically targets "empty THC products" - intoxicating substances not yet illegal but subject to upcoming federal regulation. It also regulates nitrous oxide sales for recreational use while exempting legitimate medical and industrial uses. The ordinance includes kratom, which is already banned for minors under state law but would be banned locally for everyone.

Motion: Trustee Togliatti moved to adopt Ordinance 26-12 prohibiting the sale of certain synthetic drugs and products within the Village of Coal City. Trustee Greggain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Authorizing Mayor to Enter into Contract with Axon Enterprises Re: Tasers

Fritz explained the police department currently has three tasers shared among officers per shift. The contract totals \$12,661 spread over three years and was budgeted for the upcoming year. Chief noted this represents a significant officer safety improvement, providing each officer with their own taser. Heinle confirmed the master service agreement had been negotiated with several improvements after multiple rounds of revisions.

Motion: Trustee Bradley moved to authorize the mayor to enter into contract with Axon Enterprise Inc for the receipt and renewal of tasers within the Coal City Police Department. Trustee Lauterbur seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Spesia shared that he recently encountered a relative of Lucille DeGulie, Coal City's centenarian from two years ago. She is now 102 years old, remains sharp, and continues living in town with family. He wished her a belated 102nd birthday and noted the pleasure of meeting this wonderful lady.

Report of the Trustees

Trustee Lauterbur noted that North Park equipment is currently in the parking lot next to North Park, with installation expected shortly. Trustees Mincey, Bradley, Noffsinger, Greggain, and Togliatti had no reports.

Report of Village Clerk

Deputy Village Clerk, Linda Sula reminded trustees about the annual legislative breakfast, requesting RSVPs by April 30th for those interested in attending. She noted excellent compliance with Statement of Economic Interest filings, with only one or two remaining.

Report of Village Attorney

Village Attorney welcomed being back from Florida and reminded that a certified copy of the budget ordinance must be filed with Will and Grundy County clerks within one month.

Report of Village Engineer

Halloran provided updates on the water plant project, with the overhead door installation scheduled for April 30th. He noted plans to schedule a presentation about the water plant project, likely the week following installation or the subsequent week.

Report of Chief of Police

Imhof announced a motorcycle blessing event this Saturday at 9:00 AM, clarifying the village's supportive but non-organizing role. He addressed solicitation permit season, noting Facebook posts about required credentials for door-to-door sales.

Report of Village Administrator

Fritz announced that the Coal City Business Alliance is adding a Coaler race feature to the 250th celebration, with team advertising opportunities coming soon. Mayor Spesia reminded everyone to save the date for June 20th for Coal City's Salute to America's 250th celebration on Broadway, featuring various entertainment.

Adjourn

Motion: Trustee Lauterbur moved to adjourn. Trustee Mincey seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.



Linda Sula, Deputy Clerk