



Meeting minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor David Spesia called the Coal City Village Board Meeting to order on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 7:02 PM. A roll call was conducted with Trustee Dave Togliatti, Trustee Dan Greggain, Trustee Pam Noffsinger, Trustee Ross Bradley, Trustee Bill Mincey and Trustee CJ Lauterbur present. Also in attendance were Village Attorney Mark Heinle, Village Engineer Ryan Hansen, Chief Mike Imhof and Matt Fritz, Village Administrator.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Spesia.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2026

Mayor Spesia noted one correction to the September 9, 2026 minutes: Item 13 referenced November 8th as the date for the State of the Village address, which was corrected to November 18th. No other corrections were raised.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 9, 2026, as corrected, was made by Trustee Lauterbur and seconded by Trustee Mincey. The motion carried 6-0.

4. Approval of Warrant List

Village Administrator Fritz requested two additions to the warrant list related to an unforeseen police department communications expenditure. The additions included Camz for installation of communication equipment at an estimated cost of \$4,000, and AT&T for the equipment itself at an estimated cost of \$7,000. No other corrections or questions were raised.

Motion to approve the warrant list as amended, adding \$4,000 for Camz and \$7,000 for AT&T, was made by Trustee Mincey and seconded by Trustee Lauterbur. The motion carried 6-0.

5. Public Comment

Mayor Spesia read the standard public comment rules into the record, including the three-minute per speaker limit, the thirty-minute aggregate cap, and the requirement for civil discourse.

Luke Konecny, of Coal City, addressed the Board in opposition of the proposed Data Center noting the number of 680 million dollars in connection. Luke also expressed opposition to pay raises for elected officials. Luke shared a compliment to the Village's Fall Fest.

Tom Crawford, of Coal City, also addressed the Board, asking an informal question about the height of buildings related to the proposed data center project, referencing prior discussion of a tower.

After all present had been given an opportunity to speak, public comment was closed.

Mayor Spesia asked Village Administrator Fritz to provide a brief status update on the Planned Unit Development (PUD) review for the Aligned Data Center project. Fritz reported that all first-round review comments had been submitted to the petitioner since the last meeting, including specialty reviews covering noise mitigation, traffic impact, and the Drainage District. Staff noted that the comprehensive comment tracking sheet, which already exceeds 200 items, was being updated to incorporate the specialty review responses. The updated sheet will be posted to the Data Center section of the Village website. Fritz confirmed that no date for the next PUD meeting had been set, as the Village is awaiting the petitioner's responses to all outstanding questions before scheduling. Mayor Spesia reiterated that there is no fixed timeline on the process and that it will proceed to completion when all items are satisfactorily addressed.

6. Approval of Block Party Requests

Two block party requests were presented for administrative approval. No board action was required; applicants were directed to sign their permits with Village staff.

October 10th — Mary Street between Oak & Willow: Eddie Leasure, of 295 W. Oak Street, appeared before the Board to describe his request to barricade Mary Street between Oak and Willow for a block party featuring bounce houses and outdoor activities. The Chief of Police indicated no public safety concerns with the request.

October 24th — S. Broadway at Babe's Tap: A request submitted by Tara Krueger of Babe's Tap to close a portion of South Broadway from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM to park a Pink Heals fire truck and a possible additional vehicle for a children's event. The applicant was not present. The Chief of Police confirmed approval of the street closure.

7. Ordinance 26-28 — Granting a Minimum Lot Size Variance at 170 W. Oak Street for construction of a Single-Family Detached Home

Village Administrator Fritz presented this item. He explained that a public hearing was held on September 21, 2026, with no opposition — all attendees were in support of the request. The subject parcel at 170 W. Oak Street is an undeveloped infill lot situated between existing homes at 160 and 180 W. Oak Street. The lot measures 57 feet by 118 feet, falling slightly below the district's standard minimum of 60 by 120 feet. The lot was last transacted in 1992, prior to the establishment of current minimum lot size standards. No additional variances were required, as the proposed construction would comply with all applicable setback requirements, including 8-foot interior side yards and 25-foot front and rear yards. The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously recommended approval. Mayor Spesia noted the community's need for additional housing.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 26-28, granting a variance at 170 W. Oak Street for the construction of a detached single-family home on a lot with a frontage of 57 feet and a depth of 118 feet, was made by Trustee Lauterbur and seconded by Trustee Mincey. The motion carried 6-0.

8. Ordinance 26-29 — Increasing Elected Officials Annual Pay

Village Administrator Fritz summarized the background on this item, which had been referred to a Finance Committee meeting held on September 15, 2026, following its initial introduction at the prior board meeting. The Committee's recommendation was for a modest 3% adjustment — the first increase since 2018 — rather than a larger step increase. The resulting changes to Village Code Section 30.10 increase the Mayor's annual salary by \$300 (to \$10,300), and the Village Clerk's and each Trustee's salary by \$150 (to \$5,150 per year). Mayor Spesia clarified that the pay increase would not affect the current sitting board; rather, it would apply to officials elected in April 2027. Fritz also noted that the ordinance must be adopted a requisite number of days prior to the May 2027 seating of the new board.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 26-29, setting the elected officials' annual salary, was made by Trustee Lauterbur and seconded by Trustee Bradley. The motion carried 6-0.

9. Approval of Valerio Road Improvement Bids — D Construction

Village Administrator Fritz and Village Engineer Hansen presented this item. Only one bid was received for the Valerio Road Improvement and Structure Removal project: D Construction, Inc. of Coal City, at an estimated cost of \$230,759.25 under a unit price contract. Fritz explained that approval had been delayed since the July 15, 2026 bid opening in order to coordinate with the Claypool Drainage Authority, which had not reviewed the plans prior to bid. Staff indicated that those coordination efforts had progressed to a point where board approval was appropriate, though some minor outstanding drainage comments remained. Hansen noted that the project is also anticipated to require a change order to address final drainage review comments, which would come before the Board separately if it exceeded the applicable threshold. The project would construct a new road segment connecting Valerio Road to Will Road, eliminating the unsafe bridge on Will Road. Completion was anticipated yet this calendar year, weather permitting.

Trustee Noffsinger asked about the two-month delay since the bid opening; Fritz confirmed the delay was due to the drainage district coordination effort. Trustee Togliatti inquired whether any change orders were anticipated; the Village Engineer confirmed that some adjustments would likely be needed but could not yet quantify the exact difference.

Motion to award the bid for Valerio Road Improvement Construction to D Construction, Inc. at an estimated cost of \$230,759.25 was made by Trustee Lauterbur and seconded by Trustee Togliatti. The motion carried 6-0.

10. Report of the Mayor

Mayor Spesia extended thanks to all staff and volunteers involved in Fall Fest planning, acknowledging that inclement weather significantly impacted this year's event. He noted that the 250th Anniversary celebration, held separately, enjoyed favorable weather and was well-received. Mayor Spesia

announced the 2026 Community Service Award winner: Tammy Moran. She was selected from three nominees — Janice Unger, Tammy Moran, and Cherie Seiger. Mayor Spesia highlighted her extensive community contributions, including membership on the Coal City Park Board, the Coaler Drive Festival and Event Committee, leadership of the Back to School Bash, participation in Fall Fest planning, and a lead role in organizing the 250th Anniversary Coal City Salute. The award will be formally presented at the State of the Village address on November 18, 2026, at Lyons Hall at 3:00 PM.

11. Report of the Trustees

Trustee Lauterbur had no report.

Trustee Mincey thanked all involved with Fall Fest, recognized the car show winner Brett Bianchetta for his 1962 Chevy II (Best in Show), and reported attending the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Conference, where he completed eleven sessions over two and a half days and made valuable connections.

Trustee Bradley had no report.

Trustee Noffsinger had no report.

Trustee Greggain echoed the Mayor's thanks to police, maintenance, and office staff for their efforts at Fall Fest. He noted that despite the weather, 45 vehicles participated in the car show, far fewer than the typical 100–150 on a fair weather day, but commended those who came out regardless.

Trustee Togliatti had no report.

12. Report of Village Clerk

Village Clerk Kayla Melvin reported attending the IML Conference, where she participated in approximately ten sessions. She found the experience highly informative and valued the opportunity to connect with other municipal employees, clerks, and mayors from across the state.

13. Report of Village Attorney

Village Attorney Mark Heinle reminded the Board and Village staff of the annual sexual harassment prevention training requirement under Illinois law, which applies to governmental employers. He noted that free online training portals are available through the Illinois Department of Human Rights and the IML. While elected officials are not strictly required to complete the training as they are not considered employees, Heinle indicated it is considered best practice. He advised that certificates of completion should be submitted to the Village Clerk or Village Administrator for retention on file. He noted the requirement is calendar-year based and encouraged all parties to complete it before year-end.

14. Report of Village Engineer

Village Engineer Hansen reported that striping on Broadway north of North Street was completed that day, finalizing the non-MFT road improvement contract for 2026. A final payment and contract closeout will be brought to the next board meeting. Hansen also reported that contracts for the ditch cleaning project were with the contractor, who remained confident the work could be completed before year-end. Discussion briefly touched on construction activity on Dresden Road, a county road; Hansen

explained that the work appeared to be a full-depth reclamation project and was not expected to disrupt the Village's portion of Broadway.

15. Report of Chief of Police

Fall Fest: Chief Imhof expressed satisfaction with how Fall Fest was managed under difficult weather conditions, noting that the decision to adjust the schedule was the right call. He observed that attendance was higher than anticipated given the weather, and that no public safety incidents occurred.

Police Communications Update: Chief Imhof thanked the Board for approving the warrant list additions related to police communications. He explained that the department had been experiencing service outages with its current internet and communications provider since late June or early July 2026. The situation deteriorated to the point that, the day before Labor Day weekend, all internet services and mobile data terminals (MDTs) went down completely. The department temporarily addressed the issue using cradle point mobile routers on loan from the Grundy County Sheriff's Office. The approved expenditure will fund independent routers for each police vehicle — a practice already standard among most area departments — providing a long-term, reliable solution. Chief Imhof noted that the timing of the purchase coincides with a vendor sale that will result in significant cost savings. Full deployment is expected within the next one to two months.

2026 Halloween Trick or Treat Hours: Chief Imhof announced that, since October 31st falls on a Saturday this year, Trick or Treat hours will be held from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The earlier end time was chosen to ensure children are off the streets before dark, given that sunset occurs around 6:00 PM. The hours will be included in an upcoming Village newsletter.

16. Report of Village Administrator

Village Administrator Fritz reported attending the IML Conference and noted that sessions attended provided useful information about programs that may — or may not — warrant further exploration for the Village. He flagged one program as a potential future consideration. Fritz also reminded the community that the Coal City High School Homecoming Parade is scheduled for Friday, October 2nd on South Broadway, and encouraged residents to be prepared for the temporary street closure that afternoon.

17. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:39pm was made by Trustee Lauterbur and seconded by Trustee Greggain. The motion carried 6-0.

X 

Kayla Melvin
Village Clerk