

**Regular Meeting of the  
Cornersville Board of Mayor  
and Aldermen  
December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**



**Those Participating:** Mayor John Luna, Vice Mayor Sherry McClintock, Doris Arthur, Mary Johnson, Janice Kerber, Town Attorney Billy Ostermann, Town Administrator Taylor Brandon, Officer Sam Barnes, and Administrative Assistant Beth Vick

1. **Luna called the meeting to order.**
2. **Luna led the Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Arthur said the Invocation**
4. **Approval of the Financials:** Johnson made a motion to approve the financials as presented Kerber seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote, and all voted in favor of the motion.
5. **Approval of the Minutes:** Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Arthur seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion and there was none. Luna called for a vote, and all voted in favor of the motion.
6. **Citizens Comments:** none
7. **Resolution 25-361 Declare old Kyocera copier surplus goods:** Brandon stated the copier is not working and cannot get parts any longer. Johnson asked what Brandon's suggestion was. Brandon stated to throw it away. Kerber made a motion to accept Resolution 25-361 to name the old Kyocera copier surplus. McClintock seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote, and all voted in favor of the motion. Motion Passed 4-0
8. **Other Business:**
  - a. **Received first payment request on CDBG – sidewalk:** Brandon stated the first payment was requested mostly for engineering and surveying of the area for the block grant sidewalk. He stated it was around \$51,000 and received around \$41,000 back for the town's match portion. Luna asked when the next CDBG is available. Brandon stated the town cannot apply for another one until this one is resolved.
  - b. **Discuss Mike Hartley New Town Road subdivision counteroffer:** Ostermann stated at the board's last meeting, the board decided to make a counteroffer back to Mr. Hart

- c. ley's attorney for the Town to pay \$20,000.00 to Mr. Hartley for the installation of a ditch on New Town Rd. Through his attorney, Mr. Hartley rejected the town's offer. Mr. Hartley counteroffered back to the town with his original offer for the Town to pay \$43,000.00 to install the ditch. Ostermann stated there was some ambiguity in the lines of if the counteroffer is rejected, Hartley will pursue another avenue. He stated he did clarify with Ms. Ginger Shofner, Hartley's attorney, they did want the board to consider it a counteroffer and not a rejection. He stated he had sent the counteroffer by email to Brandon. Brandon stated he did not make copies for the board because he thought it was attorney/client privilege. Ostermann read the letter to the board.

Luna asked what the board's options are; counteroffer, reject, or accept. Ostermann stated the BOMA made a counteroffer and Hartley counteroffered back with it is not acceptable. Luna asked if the board rejects, will it automatically go to court. Ostermann stated not necessarily for Hartley must sue the town first. Kerber asked Luna what his opinion was. Luna stated he thinks there is fault on both sides, but he does not want to go to court. He stated he would rather spend \$43,000 of the taxpayer's money than go to court and possibly have to spend \$120,000. Brandon stated the town has insurance coverage if a lawsuit is filed. He stated there are many things insurance does not pay, for instance damages. Luna asked how much the insurance premium will increase. Brandon stated our premiums will go up if the insurance company as a whole has lots of claims.

Ostermann stated he knows Ms. Shofner, and she is a good attorney. He stated the damages they will seek will not be \$43,000. Ostermann stated they will get third party quotes to get everything done and that will be the base line where they start. Kerber stated the town has already spent upwards of \$40,000 and then add another \$43,000 is not acceptable to her. Arthur asked Brandon how much had already been spent from the town, and Brandon stated close to \$50,000. McClintock stated that does not include the \$25,000 for gravel the board agreed to pay on this subdivision after the drainage ditch is complete. Johnson stated with \$43,000 and already spent \$50,000 and add the gravel, that is over \$100,000 and she does not want to set a precedent for others. Luna stated that has already been taken care of. Ostermann stated he believes all the issues from this project and the problems from both sides, will not happen again, for the town has learned from this case. The Town will handle projects differently today than it did when this subdivision was approved.

Arthur stated she knows the town has made mistakes, but Mr. Hartley has also made mistakes. Arthur asked if the board needs to finish this tonight and make a motion. Brandon stated yes, there needs to be a motion and a second to decide what the offer is. Arthur made a motion to reject the offer. McClintock seconded the motion. Luna asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. Luna called for a vote, and all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed 4-0

- d. **School Zone lights installation:** Brandon stated the new school zone lights are up and running. He stated TDOT did change the scope of the project, but they are functioning.
- e. **Street Improvement History:** Brandon stated he has been working on a Street Improvement History, listing all the streets in town, and giving them a grade. He stated he wants to use that as a tool to decide where we are going to pave with the priority being in grades D and F. He stated unsafe conditions will take precedence over the grading.

Brandon stated he will try to have it ready for the January meeting for budgeting reasons. Brandon stated the list excludes state highways. Johnson stated April Lane needs guard rails around the creek drop off.

- f. **January 2026 BOMA Meeting date change:** Brandon stated the January meeting will be moved to January 8, 2026, because January 1st is a holiday.
- g. **December 16, 2025 Planning Commission meeting date change:** Brandon stated due to December 23, 2025, being a Christmas Holiday week, the December Planning Commission has been changed to Tuesday, December 16, 2025.
- h. Mayor Luna stated he wants to set up a Fire Department Committee regarding pay, expectations, and hiring a chief and firefighters. He stated the Town of Cornersville pays volunteer firefighters the average rate as the national average and some do not pay volunteers. Arthur asked why we need another committee. Luna stated the committee is only temporary.

Johnson asked if anyone knew, other than what was in the resignation letter, why the entire volunteer fire department resigned. Brandon stated there were some conversations back and forth, but it related to budget cycle after the new fiscal year. He stated Chief Fox came in his office and wanted a new fire truck. Fox thought the town should sell one of the other fire trucks to purchase a squad truck. Fox also asked to purchase a Polaris Side by Side with a trailer. He stated a side by side has much less firefighting capability than the town already has. Brandon stated the truck itself, when outfitted, would be around \$70,000 and the Polaris would be around \$70,000 not including the trailer. Brandon stated there was a disagreement about purchasing new items especially after the budget was approved by the BOMA and State of Tennessee. McClintock stated the town had recently purchased turn out gear and SCPA's for the firefighters.

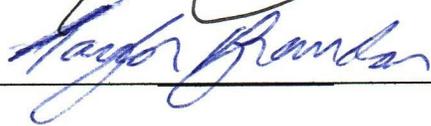
Brandon stated Fox told him the trucks were "whooped and a death trap". To verify Fox's statement, Brandon asked Public Works Director Scott Stiles to take the fire trucks to Brindlee Mountain in Alabama for an inspection. He stated there needed to be some repairs, but the trucks passed inspection. Brandon stated he asked Brindlee Mountain if the town were to sell them the trucks, what would they do with the trucks. Brindlee Mountain told him they would make the repairs and sell it to another small department.

Brandon stated the fire department rosters have been declining for the last several years and were down to only five (5) firefighters. Brandon stated he would like to do what Chapel Hill is doing and figure out a time most incidents happen to have someone on a part-time status as a firefighter. If there were no fire calls, the part-time firefighter can help Stiles with Public Works. McClintock asked how the town been able to attract more firefighters. Brandon stated word of mouth. Kerber asked if South Marshall Fire Department covers the Town of Cornersville. Brandon stated yes for we all pay county taxes. The roster for South Marshall and Cornersville were basically the same people. Johnson asked would the one working that day be paid. Brandon stated yes. The person could be a firefighter somewhere else and get additional hours in Cornersville. He stated the payroll would be around the same as it was. Johnson stated it is definitely something to look at during the budgeting process to help keep our citizens safe.

Arthur asked how important is it to have a department right now. Brandon stated to keep our ISO protection class at 5, not 9 or 10, is important. He stated different staffing is beneficial for both. Luna stated he would like to start in January 2026, a monthly report to the board from each department supervisor of what all the department did the month before. McClintock stated the BOMA asked the fire chief for a monthly report at least twice and it was never submitted. Luna asked if they wanted to continue this discussion in the next meeting and asked everyone to think of questions to ask.

Kerber made a motion to adjourn. Arthur seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor or Vice Mayor  Date 1/8/26

Town Administrator  Date 1/8/26