



**TOWN OF CICERO
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

Call to Order: President Cox called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Gary gave the prayer. President Cox called for roll call. Members of the Cicero Town Council were present or absent as follows:

Present: Joseph Cox
Eric Hayden
Jacob Everett
Emily Pearson

Absent: Dennis Johnson

Declare a Quorum Present: President Cox declared a quorum with four members present.

Others Present: Rhonda Gary, Clerk Treasurer
Jeff Rednour, Police Chief
Chris Frazier, Fire Chief
Frank Zawadzki, Cicero/Jackson Township Plan Commission Director
Terry Cooper, Street & Utilities Director
Jim Hunter, Parks Superintendent
Aaron Culp, Town Attorney
Keith Bryant, Town Engineer

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Pearson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Everett seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

Town Council Meeting Minutes, August 4, 2026, 7:00 PM

Ms. Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes listed above. Mr. Everett seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Approval of 8/18/26 Claims: Mr. Hayden made a motion to approve claims as presented. Ms. Pearson seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Public Hearing (Wheel and Excise Tax) – Mr. Culp gave a brief recap of the need to impose a wheel and excise tax. Stating that the General Assembly passed a law that requires municipalities to adopt these taxes in order to receive lane miles through the state fund. Council held a public hearing in July and approved Ordinance 07-21-2026-01. The minimum rates are \$7.50 excise tax for personal vehicles and \$5 wheel tax for commercial vehicles. The tax will be collected through the BMV. It is expected to take effect January 1, 2027. Afterwards, Mr. Hayden made a motion to open the public hearing. Ms. Pearson seconded, motion carried 4-0. There were a couple of questions from the audience. Mr. Hayden then made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Everett made a motion to approve Ordinance 07-21-2026-01 as presented. Ms. Pearson seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Council Committee Reports:

1. SWU Management Board Report – President Freeman was not present. Mr. Hayden asked that President Freeman check out the drainage on Iron Bridge Road as well as Park and Washington Streets. Mr. Hayden added that it was not due to the excessive rain. Ms. Gary will forward that request to the SWU Board.

Legal Counsel Report – Mr. Culp presented a real property transfer agreement to the Council concerning the property behind the library. The library will give the property to the town. However, the town must absorb the costs of getting it legally transferred, estimated at less than \$10,000. A quiet-title court action is needed because of an old entity that was created decades ago and later dissolved. The process was estimated to take approximately 3–4 months. Afterwards, Mr. Everett made a motion to approve the real property agreement as presented. Ms. Pearson seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Cicero/Jackson Township Plan Commission Report- Mr. Zawadzki had no new updates.

Town Engineer Report – Keith Bryant

1. Wastewater – The wastewater project is substantially complete, and Reynolds is working through their final punch list.
2. 2026 CCMG – East Jackson is substantially complete. Howard Co. is scheduling the remaining punch-list work.
3. Morse Landing Drive Underdrain Project – Morris Landing drainage is substantially complete, with additional grading/seeding planned in September.
4. 2027 CCMG – Preliminary engineering is underway for the West Jackson project from Pearl Street to the west side of the bridge. Aerial survey should be complete this week.
5. Water – The water plant project continues with equipment evaluation, surveys and design work.

Old Business:

- a. Cicero resident, Mr. Cook returned to report that he has had another flooding incident. He reported water entering his basement and said he went approximately 31 hours without usable plumbing. He believes the Main Street lift station is contributing to the problem and asked the town to find a solution. Mr. Bryant explained that they investigated the sewer, including camera work, and did not find evidence that the Main Street lift station itself was directly causing the basement backup. They identified old private sewer laterals and stormwater/infiltration as potential contributors. The town has completed multiple sewer improvement projects, replacing or lining approximately 3.12 miles of sewer and addressing cross-connections. Council acknowledged that determining where stormwater is entering the system is important because the town is paying to treat that water. Mr. Bryant stated that Main Street lift station will eventually need replacement, and if future development occurs in the area, that could provide an

opportunity to replace and upsize it. In the end, Mr. Bryant offered that they could look at run times and monitor the sewers with the next rain and see what's going on there.

- b. Handicap Parking – The council revisited the handicap parking space located near the businesses east of Big Dog's. A resident had asked that the space be moved because of its location in front of his home. Council discussed the fact that the town needs ADA space as part of its ADA transition plan and to remain eligible for certain road grants. The Council feel that the current location makes sense because it provides access to the businesses and nearby ramps.

New Business: Budget Discussion- Fire requested three additional firefighters, but the recommendation was 3% raise for employees and zero additional FTEs. The 2026 budget is due September 3, and a special meeting was discussed but ultimately the group appeared ready to move forward without one.

Miscellaneous: The Council thanked the entire Town of Cicero Team for all the work that was done this weekend to keep the town safe. The Utility (Water & Sewer) , Fire, & Police for all your hard work this weekend during all the flooding.

Comments by Citizens: Mrs. Farr (Tamarack HOA)- A Tamarack representative addressed complaints about Pond 4 being overgrown and not mowed. She explained that natural vegetation was intentionally allowed to grow because they believe it will help control erosion and stabilize the pond. They said they have consulted environmentalists, scientists, and other experts. Tamarack plans to mow the area now but afterward intends to establish wildflowers/native vegetation as part of a 2–3-year landscaping and drainage plan. They also proposed installing fence and no-trespassing signs between Tamarack and Morse Landing to address property boundaries and liability. The council emphasized that Tamarack still needs to comply with Cicero ordinances, and there was discussion about whether the town's ordinances conflict with Hamilton County recommendations regarding natural vegetation around retention ponds. The council suggested reviewing the ordinances and possibly considering an ordinance amendment if native/wildflower vegetation should be permitted. Tamarack agreed to work with the town, verify property lines, follow the fencing process, and contact Hamilton County regarding drainage requirements.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Evertt made the motion. Mr. Hayden seconded, motion carried 4-0

Signatures on Official Documents!

Signatures of Cicero Town Council

AYE

NAY

Joseph R Cox

Jacob T Everett

____ Eric C Hayden _____

____ Dennis D Johnson _____

____ Emily K Pearson _____

Attested: _____
Rhonda Gary, Clerk Treasurer

The Next Cicero Town Council Meeting will be on September 1, 2026 at 7:00 PM at Cicero Town Hall.