

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

May 21, 2024

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper, and Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller.

Debbie moved to approve the Minutes of the April 23, 2024 Council Meeting and the April 24, 2024 Special Meeting. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Police Chief Kerri Blessinger thanked Berg's Garage for donating a car for use in training and shooting drills and Kathy Meyer, with the Psi Iota Xi Sorority, for planting flowers at the Police station.

Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent reported the smart meters scheduled for purchase in 2025 were received in May. Fischer would like to keep the smart meters and increase the 2024 budget to include the meters. Ken moved to approve the additional expense of approximately \$45,000. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Fischer requested the hiring of a high school student as a part-time employee with the electric department and to assist with the parks department. Ken moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-06, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No 2023-26 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand, providing for the employment of a student/part-time laborer in the electric department following the format given by the high school guidance counselor, at a starting wage of \$12 per hour for 40 hours per week when school is not in session, and 25 hours per week when school is in session, beginning May 31, 2024, at the meeting it was introduced. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Tom Lueken requested that the Town accept East 16<sup>th</sup> Street from Main Street (SR 162) to the end of Cul-De-Sac. Ken moved to accept East 16<sup>th</sup> Street into the Town's Road Inventory allowing the Town to apply for CCMG grant funds for this roadway. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, requested permission to register Brian Hoffman for the water operator apprentice program with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water starting mid-July 2024. Debbie moved to approve. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Brinkman stated Steve Lechner will be retiring on May 30, 2024.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-07, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 04-05, The Drug and Alcohol Substance Abuse Policy of the Town of Ferdinand, Indiana to Designate a Back Up DER effective May 31, 2024, and Appropriately amend the Salary Ordinance. The back up DER is Kayla Hoffman, with an adjustment to the salary ordinance for 2024 to provide an increase of \$0.35 cents per hour commencing May 31, 2024, at the meeting it was introduced. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

The Ferdinand Redevelopment Commission Appointments agenda item was tabled. The 15-member committee to work on the comprehensive plan will be addressed at the Plan Commission meeting on May 22, 2024.

Lueken reported the CCMG 2023-01 and 2023-02 road projects are nearing completion.

Debbie moved to approve the advertisement for bids for the CCMG 2024-01 road projects with the bid opening at 7 PM at the Town Council meeting on June 18, 2024. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Sicard reported there was a Local Safety Tax Initiative meeting held in Jasper on May 15, 2024. He stated that all municipalities are in favor of the income-based tax which would provide funds for police and fire protection.

At 7 PM, Sicard opened the Tax Abatement public hearing. Ruger Kerstiens stated the units will be townhomes instead of traditional apartment units as originally planned. Bohnenkemper stated the application is in order with one small change, KFAM Partners LLC conveys and warrants to True Investments, LLC Lot 1 in Royal Ridge Subdivision. There being no questions from those in attendance, Sicard moved to close the public hearing. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Ken moved to adopt Resolution TA 2024-1C, Confirmatory Resolution Designating an Economic Revitalization Area within the Town of Ferdinand, allowing Sicard and Miller to sign off on the Statement of Benefits. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to keep the Council informed.

Brinkman stated that the water customer survey with WTH is going well.

Sicard will redistribute the IOT Cyber Executive Summary to the Council members, Bohnenkemper, and Clerk-Treasurer along with a template for a Master Information Security Policy and Procedure.

Debbie reported the READI Grant proposal was submitted to the IEDC.

The comprehensive plan will be addressed at the Plan Commission meeting.

EV Charger Hold Harmless Agreement has not been received.

Bohnenkemper reported that May 28<sup>th</sup> is the next Dubois County Leadership Academy session.

Tammy Humbert, Dubois County Emergency Management Director, and Nathan Held, Executive Director of Indiana 15, attended to support the signing of the 2024 Dubois County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Held stated adopting the plan helps when applying for grants and FEMA grants require the Plan adoption. Sicard moved to adopt Resolution 2024-05, A Resolution of the Town of Ferdinand Adopting the 2024 Dubois County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Sicard moved to open the utility rate public hearing set for 7:15 PM. There being no questions from those in attendance, Debbie moved to close the hearing. Sicard moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-04. An Ordinance Amending Section 10.02.080 Regarding Wholesale for Resale Water Rates and Section 10.33.055 Regarding Electric Reconnection Charges. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

At the April meeting, the bid from Vermeer Midwest for \$20,000 for the Vac Trailer was taken under advisement. Brinkman stated the bid was accepted.

Sicard moved to approve Miller's request to attend the ILMCT Training in South Bend on June 23-27, 2024 for \$500, hotel, travel and meals. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Lueken reported the MVH Truck ordered in 2024 is not available, but a comparable 2025 MVH truck should be available. Debbie moved to ratify Lueken's decision to obtain prices from two dealers for the 2025 model. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

At 7:30 PM Ken moved to open the additional appropriation public hearing. There being no questions from those in attendance, Debbie moved to close the hearing. Miller requested the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year:

ARPA	Capital Outlays	\$37,548.60
Cumulative Capital Development	Capital Outlays	\$49,420.00

Sicard moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-05. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Bohnenkemper will reach out to Tom Pittman with Barnes and Thornburg, LLP to request a TIF presentation for the Town Council.

Ken moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-08, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No 2023-26 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Official, Appointees and Employees of

the Town of Ferdinand, providing for Steve Lechner as a Water / Wastewater part-time laborer at a wage of \$30 per hour for 21 hours per week beginning May 21, 2024, at the meeting it was introduced. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

A public hearing was held for the Town Council to consider a zoning amendment to Section 7.05.040 paragraph 17. The Plan Commission of the Town of Ferdinand gave a favorable recommendation on April 24, 2024. The Council gave reasonable regard to the comprehensive plan, the current conditions and character of current structures and uses in each district, the most desirable use for which the land in each district is adapted, the conservation of property values throughout the jurisdiction, and responsible development and growth. Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-09, An Ordinance Adopting Amendments to the Text of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Ferdinand, at the night it was introduced. Sicard seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Debbie moved to pay regular claims. Sicard seconded. Motioned carried 2-0.

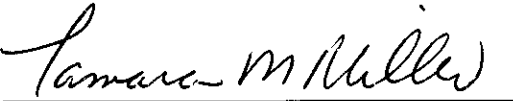
**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

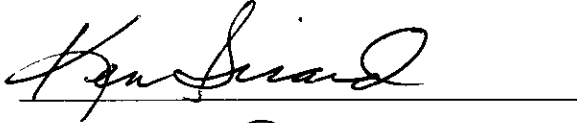
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	June 18, 2024 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	May 22, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	May 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	June 12, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	July 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Town Council Budget Meeting	Tuesday	July 30, 2024 at 6:00 AM
Town Council Budget Hearing	Tuesday	August 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Town Council Budget Adoption	Thursday	September 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM

As there was no further business to discuss, Debbie moved to adjourn. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL





Clerk-Treasurer





*Ferdinand* Est. 1905

*Police Department*

243 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

Phone: 812-367-1806 / Fax: 812-998-2094

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel



The month of April was busy for the Ferdinand Police Department. The Ferdinand Town-Wide Yard Sale was April 3-2-6<sup>th</sup>. I am happy to report that there were no traffic crashes reported. The days ran smoothly with no issues. After checking the numbers, it was found that over 5,000 vehicles came through our town during the first day of the yard sales.

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, was the Ferdinand Eclipse at the Park Event. It was a huge success. The Town hosted over 4,000 people at the event with an additional 1,200 at the Monastery Event. Traffic concerns were minimal and there was only one crash reported. It was a phenomenal eclipse to witness. During the 8<sup>th</sup>, over 5,813 vehicles came through Ferdinand.

The Ferdinand Police Department has several things we have been working on.

1. Radios: I have met with a representative from the company as well as the other Chiefs and the Sheriff to see what make and models they are going to be ordering. I also have two demo radios that should arrive in about a month for us to try out. Radios are very expensive so I want to be sure that the money invested is something high quality and that will last. Technology is constantly changing. The average cost per radio, including accessories, is about \$8500.00. There is also the issue of programming. There are several issues in the Ferdinand area that affect reception. We are continuing to work to ensure the best practices are followed and purchases are well informed.

2. Training: On May 20<sup>th</sup>, I have Law Man Tactical coming to Ferdinand to teach a vehicle close combat safety course. I have invited all the local agencies as well. It will be a fantastic opportunity to work together and have the same training. I am very excited to have this group in to train. They provide the latest and most up to date training for law enforcement. The training will focus on concealment and cover with vehicles, and we will be utilizing both live ammunition and simulation rounds.

The Ferdinand Police has also scheduled training meetings with the Sisters of St. Benedict. This will involve training for active shooter scenarios and other safety issues.

Ferdinand Police are working with the Dubois County Sheriff's Office and the School Corporation for training to be held at the schools over the summer. This training is invaluable for officers should there be an issue at the schools.

Respectfully,

Kerri Blessinger, Chief of Police



# Ferdinand Police Department

243 W 10th Street, Ferdinand Indiana 47532

Phone: 812-482-9150 / Fax: 812-998-2094

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger

Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel



## Calls For Service Report April 2024

Total Calls For Service	361	Calls For Service Report April 2024	
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	8	Missing Person Adult/Child	2
Animal Complaint	5	Parking Violation	
Assist Other Agency	15	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	1
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)	2	Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	2
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	22
Civil Matter /Dispute		State Dispatch	
Citizen Assist	3	Scam	1
Debris in Roadway	1	Security Check	60
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	5	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	5	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3
Drug Complaint		Theft	3
Domestic Problem	8	Traffic Control	2
Escort	1	Traffic Warnings	36
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	
Extra Patrol	124	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	
Finger Printing		Vandalism	
Fire	1	Vehicle Accident	8
General Information	11	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	1
Harassment		Document / Paper Service	2
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	1
Investigation	2	Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	5
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	13
Intoxicated Person	3	Pursuit	
Juvenile Incurrible/Runaway	1		
Lines/ Poles Down	2		
Lost/ Stolen License Plate	1		
Mental Subject			



# FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

221 E. Fourth St. P.O. Box 31

Ferdinand, IN 47532

## 2024 Summary of Incidents

	<b>FIRE</b>	<b>EMR</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>MAY</b>				
<b>JUNE</b>				
<b>JULY</b>				
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
<b>DECEMBER</b>				

**Tyler Trent has passed his EMR tests and is now certified. He is starting his Firefighter 1 & 2 classes.**



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[www.ferdinandindiana.org](http://www.ferdinandindiana.org)

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## Electric Department Report

May 21, 2024

- No unplanned outages
- Pole change outs south side of town and west of Main St
  - 4 kv conversion on west side of Main St
- Safety meetings for all depts. monthly video and log sheets using IPEP and IMEA material
- Service relocated for gas station on south side of town and new service installed
- Request approval for a part time employee
- We received next years shipment of meters on 5.15 due to a miscue of the supplier. With council permission we can pay the invoice this year and the next shipment will not be until 2026 so we would not have an invoice next year.

KENNETH SICARD, President  
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member





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## Town Council Meeting Street Dept Report

May 21, 2024

A majority of work for CCMG 2023-01 and CCMG 2023-02 has been completed. Two streets with water line improvements and two blocks on east 8th street will need to be completed.

Trying to keep up with mowing in right of ways and retention ponds along with weed control.

This also is the time of year we spend more time hauling of limbs and yard waste due to storms and mowing season.

We did some asphalt patching on utility cuts and some potholes.

Did some stone shoulder work along several streets where we had wash outs due to heavy rains.

We had a tree go down across the road at 6th and Delaware. Got it cleaned up and had a couple others call in for storm downed limbs the past week or so.

Dug up and repaired a clogged storm drain pipe along 20th Street near Northview Dr.

Requesting the Town Council to Accept East 16th Street from SR road 162 to the end of cul-d-sac into our inventory.

**KENNETH SICARD, President**  
**TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer**

**DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member**  
**SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney**

**RONALD WEYER, Member**



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**Water:**

MRO's filed with IDEM

Georgia street main-

Tie in for the water main on Georgia between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> is installed

Services being switched to temporary main this week for water main on 3<sup>rd</sup> between Alabama and Georgia.

Water services on Georgia between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street moved from AC Transit water main to new Plastic C-900 main

New 2 inch water service installed at Sunoco Gas Station on South side of town

Flushing and valve exercising has finished

March usage:

<b>Monthly Water Treatment</b>	
Total Gallons	5,955,000.00
Max. Day	307,000.00
Min. Day	12,000.00
Avg. Daily	198500

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

**Wastewater:**

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Solids discharged 3.6 mg/l per day average

Phosphorus levels of .7 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

MONTHLY REMOVAL SUMMARY					Total Monthly Flow: (million gallons) 10.21
Percent Removal	BOD5	S.S.	Ammonia	Phosphorus	
Primary Treatment	NA	NA			
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			Percent Capacity
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			(actual flow/desig 49%)
Overall Treatment	99.1	98.1	99.7	86.6	
Phosphorus limit would be 80 % removal. (compliance achieved)					

All reports have been filled with IDEM

**Education:**

Attended Indiana Rural Water Alliance South Water Operator Expo, the department learned new operations of field equipment, maintenance techniques of older sewer mains and fire hydrants, as well as meet and talked to our IDEM inspectors for both Water and Wastewater.

Permission to send Brian Hoffman to start his Alliance Apprentice Program for obtain his Water Operator Distribution Medium Liscence (DSM)

He would start classes at the end of July

Other:

Steve Lechner's Retirement date is Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024



Ben Brinkman  
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

KENNETH SICARD, President

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May 2024

Working with (VIV) gathering all surveys and meeting with the team on departmental pages.

Working on town video with Kara Hinshaw.

Promoting our Heimatfest - worked with Lori Klem on a flier to promote event with event listings and times.

Main Street Program - Liaison between the town and this new program - Conference with ROI Lisa Abbott - several ideas for town projects and fundraising for Main Street Committee

Ordered Heimatfest Banner as well as Town Summer Banners - Hank should complete this week.

New summer billboards are up Eastbound and Westbound - waiting on new design for Folk Fest. Also, waiting to see if Folk Fest committee agrees on paying for the Westbound billboard to advertise the Folk Fest.

Continue to work with Ferdinand Merchants monthly and also on the committee to plan the Ferdinand Annual Banquet. Working on awards as well as nominations for the annual event. Also ordered samples for table setting.

Meetings with Visit Dubois County as part of their board of directors - Marketing campaign for Folk Fest - Visitor Center Campaign reached 18,514 people - 2nd most clicked on event was the Folk Fest - marketing to - Bowling Green KY, Cincinnati, Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Paducah, St. Louis and Terre Haute

Spoke with Homestead Pizza (new owners) and Frick Concrete - they are all on board with a ribbon cutting and will be getting back with me on dates that will work. They are both working on signage and improvements to their buildings.

Social media posts.

Working on Photos of police department activities.

Meeting with tech from Frontier on May 17th to show him the demise of the building they own on Main Street and would like to get them to implement improvements.

KENNETH SICARD, President  
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
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