

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

February 21, 2023

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Council Member, Ron Weyer; Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper and Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller. Also in attendance was a girl scout, Annalise.

Ron moved to approve the Minutes of the January 17, 2023 Council Meeting. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Department head reports (attached) were distributed to the Council prior to the meeting.

Kerri Blessinger, Chief of Police, requested permission to send Rob Randle to a free Grants Strategies Training held by Northeast Counter Drug Training Center on March 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> in Clarksville, IN. Debbie moved to approve attendance and travel expenses for the conference. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Blessinger presented the Heartland 5K and half marathon routes agreed upon by both Blessinger and the Heartland Race Committee. Ron moved to approve the Heartland 5K and half marathon routes. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve the purchase of a Flock System safety camera for the Police Department with a cost of \$2,850 for the first year and \$2,500 for the second year. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Blessinger requested permission to purchase SB-7 Radio Devices at a first-month cost of \$2,558.46. Ron moved to approve the purchase. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve Ordinance 2023-01, an Ordinance Authorizing and Regulating the Operation of Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles on the Streets and Alleys under the Jurisdiction of the Town of Ferdinand, at the meeting it was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, requested permission to have the Fire Truck 2 motor replaced an estimated cost of \$20,000 for labor and a new motor. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve additional costs from Brosmer Land Surveying for legal

descriptions needed for the CCMG 2022-2 project. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Town-wide clean-up will take place on April 4<sup>th</sup> for the west side, April 5<sup>th</sup> for the east side and then April 6<sup>th</sup> if needed. Residents will need to use 6 stickers for their group of items being disposed.

Debbie moved to approve for required water tank inspections for \$2,000 per tank for a total of \$4,000. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve Steve Lechner, Steve Becher, Scott Hoffman, Kyle Lechner, Ben Brinkman, & Austin Ryan to attend the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Conference March 14, 15 & 16, 2023 in French Lick including travel and meals if needed. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

James requested ratification of permission to hire Austin Ryan for the water/wastewater department condition offer of employment (drug testing) has been done. Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-02, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2022-47 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand. The ordinance approves the pay for Austin Ryan, Water/Wastewater Laborer, at a rate of \$21.25 per hour, plus an additional \$.50 per hour upon obtaining CDL License; 2 hour minimum at time and a half for emergency calls and two hour minimum for non-emergency call outs to service parks, effective February 24, 2023, at the meeting it was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

James, reporting for Brinkman, requested permission to have Automation Enclosure install a new control back panel on Lift Station #2 at a cost of \$11,945. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

James requested permission to purchase a 2018 Ford Taurus for \$17,916 for a Town Manager vehicle using insurance proceeds received as part of the payment. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

James reported IMEA requested Ferdinand guest host the Bloomington electric conference on October 3-5, 2023 which included two free admissions and an opportunity for a town representative to speak at the conference. Sicard moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Two representatives, Tad Stahl and Taylor Hollenbeck, from the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT), spoke to the council regarding cyber security and gave a detailed description of services they can provide.

Ken moved to approve Matt Tretter's request to place a roll-off dumpster on Robin Drive for up to 21 days. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard is going to contact prospects to fill the two vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Miller gave an update on the outstanding utility accounts receivables and stated she has submitted roughly \$6,600 in outstanding receivables to the TRECS program to collect outstanding balances. We have confirmation of roughly \$2,300 in expected collections.

Council discussed the renovation plans at 202 E. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bohnenkemper reminded Council that the 330 Maryland should either be rezoned from residential or a special exception could be requested. The ideal time for this to be done could be at the same time a variance request is made for the proposed awning on 202 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-03, An Ordinance Adopting Employee Handbook to be Codified as the Replacement Chapter 3.25, Personnel Policy, of the Municipal Code of the Town of Ferdinand, at the meeting it was introduced. The handbook reflects the change from 6 months of employment required to earn Personal Time Off to 60 days as approved by Council, updates to reflect ordinances passes related to benefits, current employment law and a change to non-binary pronouns. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. After printing, the handbooks will be distributed by James to all employees.

Debbie moved to adopt Resolution 2023-03, A Resolution Amending the ARPA Plan Adopted by Ordinance No. 2022-17. The resolution adds four items: Town Hall generator, Roof and External Renovations to 202 W. Third Street, 2 Air Conditioning units for the Senior Citizen Center and the replacement of the engine on Fire Truck 402. There was a change to item number 14 Police Radio replacement upgrade, to add "or suitable alternatives". Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Council requested that James inform Lueken to acquire a rough number for the painting costs of 202 W. Third Street exterior.

Debbie moved to allow Ken Sicard and Tamara Miller to sign off on the contract with Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission for Codification of Ordinances for \$1,951.92. The cost of

updating the code is \$1,700 and \$251.92 for eight 4” binders. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller stated the Town will hold an optional health screening on April 24, 2023 for Town employees at a cost of \$45 per employee, to be paid by the Town. Spouse screenings and additional tests will be offered at the employee’s cost.

Ron moved to allow Sicard and Miller to sign the Agreement for Professional Area Economic Development Services with Dubois Strong for 2023 for \$5,062.78. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard moved to approve James’ request of \$1,000 for the Dubois County Leadership 2023 Program. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard stated the proposed Local Safety Tax Initiative for public safety would have to be adopted by the County Council and then adopted by the individual communities. He stated 79 out of the 92 Indiana Counties already have this tax in place. Dubois County is the 69<sup>th</sup> lowest tax of all Indiana counties. Blessinger added the tax is one of the best investments we can make in our community. The tax could potentially generate \$120,000 per year to the Town for public safety purposes only.

Bohnenkemper stated the Generations 3-Year Lease is up for renewal in July 2023. Lueken will meet with Generations representative to document the equipment listed on the lease.

Ron moved to approve Miller’s request to attend the ILMCT Training in Muncie on March 19-23, 2023 at a cost of \$450, hotel room at \$96 per night, travel and meals. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve the Kurt Garner invoice related to the Historic District Designation for \$3,400. \$2,400 is due now and the last \$1,000 will be due in 2024. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller stated the Christmas Decoration funds raised in 2022 totaled \$17,715 and in 2023 totaled \$1,175. Included in the funds raised is a grant from the Dubois County Foundation for \$5,000 and a donation from Ferdinand Tourism for \$5,000. Funds were used to purchase decorations from The Village of Rosemont and to purchase new banners. The remaining balance is \$10,310. Johnson thanked all individuals, organizations and businesses for their generous contributions.

Debbie moved to pay regular claims. Ron seconded. Motioned carried 3-0.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Special Town Council Meeting	Thursday	March 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	March 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	February 22, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	February 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM-Cancelled
Park Board	Wednesday	March 8, 2023 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	May 1, 2023 at 6:00 PM

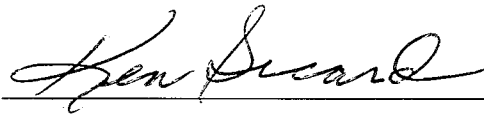
As there was no further business to discuss, Ron moved to adjourn. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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

1. FLOCK System
2. Siyata SD 7 Device
3. The Ferdinand Police Department Chief and Assistant Chief attend the Chief's Association Conference in Indianapolis, IN. This was a great opportunity to network and explore equipment options. It also provided us with mandatory training hours. The connections established will be very beneficial for the future.
4. We have worked with IPSIC and First Net to determine and establish the best course of action regarding radios.
5. I have registered for the Chief's School offered at ILEA per IC Code.
6. I have met with and continue to work with local public officials and chiefs to discuss the Public Safety Tax.
7. A meeting was held with the Marathon Committee in regard to the Heartland Half Marathon. The route was approved by all parties.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Total Calls For Service		201	
<b>Calls For Service Report</b>			
<b>January 2023</b>			
			
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	3	Missing Person Adult/Child	0
Animal Complaint	2	Parking Violation	1
Assist Other Agency	13	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	1
Battery/ Assault	0	Protective/Restraining Order	0
Burglary (attempted)	0	Prowler (report of)	0
Burning Complaint	0	Report to Station	0
Child Abuse/Neglect	0	Return Messages	32
Civil Matter /Dispute	2	State Dispatch	0
Citizen Assist	2	Scam	0
Debris in Roadway	0	Security Check	0
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	12	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	1
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	2	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	8
Drug Complaint	0	Theft	1
Domestic Problem	1	Traffic Control	1
Escort	2	Traffic Warnings	42
Eviction	0	Traffic Citations	5
Extra Patrol	6	Trespassing	0
Fight	0	Threats/ Intimidation	0
Finger Printing	0	Vandalism	1
Fire	1	Vehicle Accident	10
General Information	17	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	1
Gun Permit	0	Vehicle Check	4
Harassment	0	Vehicle Lock Out	0
Hazardous/ Not Chemical	1	Warrant	1
Investigation	0	Weather Related Problems	0
Identity Theft	0	Welfare Check	7
Illegal Dumping	0	911 false calls	20
Intoxicated Person	0		
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway	0		
Lines/ Poles Down	0		
Lost/ Stolen License Plate	0		
Mental Subject	0		



## FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

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

Ferdinand, IN 47532

### 2023 Summary of Incidents

	<b>FIRE</b>	<b>EMR</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
<b>MARCH</b>				
<b>APRIL</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>				

**Sabrina Becher started her EMR classes.**

**402 update at meeting.**

**Last week the ladder truck 405 and all our ground ladders were inspected. Other than a few items to watch for on the 405 it passed. They take an oil sample and send it off and won't know the results for a bit yet.**



## **Electric Department Report**

Feb. 21, 2023

- Multiple outages cause by storm on 2.16
- Pole change outs east side of main street area
- Tree pruning and winter projects



Town of Ferdinand  
2065 Main Street  
PO Box 7  
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007  
Phone 812-367-2280  
Fax 812-367-1303  
[townofferdinand@psci.net](mailto:townofferdinand@psci.net)

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**Water:**

MRO's Filled with IDEM

Monthly Water Bought	
Total Gallons	6,895,000.00
Max. Day	265,000.00
Min. Day	191,000.00
Avg. Daily	222,419.00

I would like to ask permission to call for Water tank inspections since they are due this year per IDEM's 5-year inspection rule, last inspection was done in 2018, this will allow us to get proper up to date quotes on the tank renovations that are needed at both tanks to repaint and bring up to OSHA standards.

Cost for inspection will be about \$2000 per tank and estimates will be based on those inspections.

**Wastewater:**

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Monthly plant flow 15.53 Million gallons

52% capacity

Solids discharged 6.0 mg/l per day average

Phosphorus levels of .5 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

Non-potable pumps were taken out Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>

Attached are the pictures of the pumps dismantled as you can see they are worn completely out.

I will be stopping up at Orleans on the way back from Indy Thursday to look at the pumps and talk options with NWS.

Non-potable permit application has been sent to IDEM

All supplies have come in for Friends of The Chaple project- will be starting week of the 27<sup>th</sup>

**In a separate note,**

Clint has received his letter to take his Class II Wastewater Exam

Kyle will be taking his Drinking Water Exam for his DSM in May.

We are currently in the process of moving the break room into the superintendent office and moving the superintendent office into the break room, to allow more room for the apprentices to do their class work and more usable space for guys to take breaks together.

**Education:**

Ben and Scott are at the WWETT conference for water and wastewater hours in Indianapolis February 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.

Request permission for employees to get to Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Conference in French Lick Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday- Steve Lechner, Scott Hoffman, Kyle Lechner and Ben Brinkman

Thursday- Steve Becher, Clint Meyer, Austin Ryan, and Ben Brinkman

**Open Position:**

Request for approval for offer and hire of Ausitn Ryan for the open Water/ Wastewater position with start date of Friday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the rate of \$21.25/ hr. and a \$.50 raise after completion of CDL.

Ben Brinkman

Water/Wastewater Superintendent



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## Year End 2022 report

### Water:

- Total Gallons used 84.179 million gallons
- Gallons per day used average, 230,627 gallons per day
- Highest day usage was in November because of a main break of 459,000
- Lowest day usage was in October at 91,000 because Patoka had us shut down on one valve for a boil order.
- Minimum daily usage per contract with Patoka is 200,000 gallons per day average
- Maximum daily usage per contract with Patoka is 300,000 gallons per day average

### Wastewater:

- Annual Average flow of .334 million gallons a day
- Average of 48% capacity
  - Allowing for another 980 homes to be built before a sewer ban would be put in place.
- With a 97.7% solids removal rate
- 99.7 % ammonia removal rate
- 49.64 inches of rain for 2022
  - Max rain was 2.5 inches in a day



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# Town Council Meeting

February 21, 2023

Completed sweeping streets and vacuuming out all drain inlets throughout Town

Working on extending a culvert on Pine Dr. and State Road 162

We received our remaining half of our road salt contracted for 2022

Replaced some more faded street signs

We are working on cleaning and servicing all seasonal equipment , tractors and all other equipment

## NEW BUSINESS

#5 Calcar called me Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup>, checking if they should keep 3rd Street on their schedule. I told them we hope it will still be able be done in the necessary time frame. He asked me to let them know as soon as we know

#6 I hoping Sharon will address the need for additional survey cost

#7 CCMG 2023-01- application submitted

#20 Town Clean up dates Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup> normal trash pickup April 4<sup>th</sup> west side April 5<sup>th</sup> east side and April 6<sup>th</sup> if needed

*Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.*

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member  
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager



## PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

*February 2023*

### **General Park Report**

- The park board met on February 8, 2023.
- The park board held their annual major lease discussions with the various league presidents and leaders. We discussed with the leagues the requirements for Lease Forms, Certificates of insurance requirements, and Schedules. We also discussed any specific facility needs or wants and will look to accommodate as best we can. The park is working on putting together a tourney schedule for all of the weekend tourneys that have been requested.
- The board approved the purchase of lumber for new back boards for the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park horseshoe pits. The horseshoe league will graciously donate their time and install them.
- The park board approved the purchase of a John Deere commercial lawn mower which was quoted for \$17,777.76. Three bids were received and the low bid—Hutson John Deere—was accepted. The mower was budgeted for this year and is under the budgeted amount. According to the salesman, ordering the mower now will allow us to receive by May 2023 which will allow the mower to be put into service this mowing season.

Matthew Weyer  
February 13, 2023



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## TOWN MANAGER TALKING POINTS FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

1 – Applications for this year’s Dubois County Leadership Academy are now open for filing. The Executive Board met on February 2 to finalize the course offerings and a tentative session schedule. Deadline to submit an application is Friday March 31. We also took part in a Zoom session with IU Professor Kyla Deckard to discuss how the Sustaining Hoosier Communities program can work with the DCLA. Deckard believes IU’s PACE (Political Action & Civic Engagement) Program will be able to create a toolkit for developing a future session or modifying an existing session.

2 – We are continuing work on the 2023 Ferdinand Folk Festival (Saturday September 16). The musical artist selection process has begun, with three acts finalized and more to come in the following weeks. It is the group’s hope to hold an official musical line-up announcement by the end of March/early April. 2023 donation request letters will be sent out by month’s end and work on the 2023 vendor application has started as well. We have also received a commitment from an artist for the Children’s programming segment of the day!

3 – Dubois Strong hosted a meeting on February 14 with John Wetzel of Midwestern Engineers, Patoka Water officials, members of St. Henry Water, along with Ben, Ken, Sharon and I. The focus of this meeting was a follow-up to a gathering held last May to discuss a potential expansion of Patoka Water services; specifically targeting the Mobel site

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RONALD WEYER, Member  
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager

on Ferdinand's north side and the Huntingburg Airport, the two best sites in the county for business/industrial development. Midwestern was able to create, in Ken's words "a roadmap for the future" showing possible routes for new and expanded water services. We are not committing to any actual project but the study provides clear approaches to later improvements when the time for growth arrives.

4 – Finally, I am asking official permission to purchase a new Town Manager's vehicle to replace the 2013 Taurus that was totaled last fall. The car in question is a 2018 Ford Taurus at Evansville Kia with just over 56,300 miles and in really good condition. Price tag is \$17,916 with no trade in. It is my recommendation that the Town sell the Jeep Compass straight out, which should bring us a higher amount than what was offered as trade-in.

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**CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager**