

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

July 18, 2023

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Council Member, Ron Weyer; Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Kayla Hoffman.

Ron moved to approve the Minutes of the June 20, 2023 Council Meeting. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, stated the Fireman's Ball is Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> and the doors will open at 5:00 pm at the Ferdinand Community Center.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, reported the National Water Service started putting in the non-potable pumps. They will begin concrete work on July 24<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that lead service line surveys will be sent out in the next couple of weeks to residents.

James stated the Town's current fueling system circuit is down. SynEnergy will split the repair bills with the Town as they are running behind with the installation of the new fueling system. Employees can still use the pump in a bypass mode and will track usage on paper sheets. SynEnergy should receive modem parts on Thursday and will schedule installation of the new fueling system.

Brinkman stated the non-potable permit renewal passed and will be good for ten years.

The close-out documentation for CCMG 2022-01 has been submitted. We are waiting for the close-out letter from INDOT for 2022-01.

Lueken stated he is waiting to hear about a start date on CCMG 2022-02 & CCMG 2023-01. He believes that the two contractors will work together on the projects.

Debbie moved to allow Ken to sign off on the Community Crossing Matching Grant commitment letters for 2023-02. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper will follow up with Ruger Kerstiens to see if he has documentation from his plumber regarding the location of the water leaks in the Forest Oaks Apartments. There was no decision made regarding a sewer credit.

The property owner of 1305 Main Street is working to clean up the property.

Bohnenkemper stated the ARPA Additional Appropriation may be needed before year-end.

Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2023-05, A Resolution Amending the ARPA Plan Adopted by Ordinance 2022-17. The resolution adds 2 AEDs, one for the park department and one for the Senior Center. The resolution also adds 21 first Aid kits, one for each Town vehicle. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Ron also moved to approve the purchase of the 2 AEDs and first aid kits. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Lueken relayed that he reached out to three contractors for quotes for two new A/C units for the Senior Center. He received one quote back which was reasonably priced. Debbie moved that Lueken to move forward with the quote he received for the A/C unit. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard stated he plans to schedule a meeting with local Town Council Presidents and Mayors regarding the Local Safety Tax Initiative.

Hoffman distributed the accounts receivable report to the Council. There were no utility disconnections last month.

Bohnenkemper and Blessinger are working on getting a CISM policy for the Council to approve for Town Employees. They are looking into different policies through ISP and Vanderburgh County to obtain ideas on what the Town of Ferdinand's should look like. Blessinger is meeting with a representative from Jasper Memorial who is a part of the Critical Incident Team to discuss what is available to us. Blessinger is working to get on the board for Dubois County.

Johnson stated she is working with Universal Design on potential sidewalk projects. Universal provided a proposal to assist with the Master Planning/Preliminary Design of potential sidewalks at three separate areas. The Council will discuss which sidewalk area/areas they would like to move forward with the planning stage at the budget meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Lueken is looking into the history of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Mississippi Street to obtain information to be able to add the streets into the road inventory.

Sicard stated he has been in contact with Mr. Oser, who was in attendance, Sharon, and Tom regarding Georgia Street. Prints were located from a few years back which Sicard will provide to Universal to review. This process will not hold up requested curb and gutter projects that are in the works for two different residents. The project for these residents is expected to begin the week of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Johnson stated that the health insurance committee held its first meeting on July 12, 2023

with the Town of Ferdinand's representative, Tony Cochren. He did not have any definite numbers for insurance rates. The Town is also getting rates from one other representative.

There have not been any additional problems with trash pick up since the last meeting.

Blessinger announced that if you are in need of a UTV inspection, please call non-emergency dispatch to meet a Ferdinand Officer at the Ferdinand Police Department. For the inspection the Town is only accepting cash or check and the individual will be provided a receipt for the inspection.

Bohnenkemper stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the May minutes in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph states white signs indicate Town maintained streets and green signs indicate privately maintained streets. The minutes should have read "green signs indicate Town maintained streets and white signs indicate privately maintained streets." Debbie moved to correct the May minutes and to have the new minutes placed on the website. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard relayed that the Town has been contacted by the County in regards to the election this year. There are no competitive races in Ferdinand or in the County that Ferdinand Citizens have a voice in. The County wanted to know if Ferdinand would still want to have an election at a cost of \$10,000. All four elected officials gave the County their recommendation to not host an election this year. The County Election Board will take the considerations and will make a decision if there will be an election.

At 7:30 PM Robert Reynolds, with LWG, who prepared the electric rate study joined the meeting by telephone for the introduction of the Electric Rate Ordinance. He explained the rational for the rate increase:

- The last rate increase was in 2019.
- Utility decreased rates by 1.4% in 2022 due to the reduction in URT.
- Since 2019, inflation and increased costs have reduced margins
  - Without an increase a reduction in reserves may occur
- Help increase cash reserves in improvement fund
  - In 2019 the substation project was started and cost around \$1,677,783. Most of the project was funded from cash reserves held in the improvement fund.
  - This rate increase will help restore lost funding and pay for future improvements needed to the system
- After the proposed increase, the rates will still be one of the lowest in the area
- The proposed electric rate increase will be reflected on the utility invoice dated October 25, 2023 due November 10, 2023

The Electric Rate Ordinance 2023-10, An Ordinance amending Chapter 10.33 of the Ferdinand

Municipal Code Regarding Electric Rates and Charges was introduced. Ron moved to hold a Public Hearing on August 15, 2023 for 7:30 PM. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The Ordinance will appear in the Ferdinand News, posted, and mailed to individuals outside of the corporate limits. The last rate increase was in 2019.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-11, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9.06 of The Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Traffic Regulations, at the meeting it was introduced. This Ordinance states no parking on the south side of Third Street from Maryland to the end of Third Street and no parking on the North side of Third Street from 162 to Carolina. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The following residents were in attendance from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street: Clint Schaefer, Jeremy Bocking, Shane Sisco, and Johnathan Hulsman. Residents expressed their concerns about drivers speeding on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. A request to put a stop sign in on the street was made. Chief Blessinger asked that the residents give her one month to monitor the problem to see if a stop sign is necessary. There will be increased law enforcement on the road and the Police Department has recently obtained new radar guns to help monitor vehicle speeds. Chief Blessinger will monitor the situation for a month and then we can revisit the issue if it still has not been resolved.

Clint Schaefer expressed concerns of the intersection of Michigan Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street being dark in the winter months when kids walk to school. The Council will relay the concern to Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent, about making the intersection brighter.

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

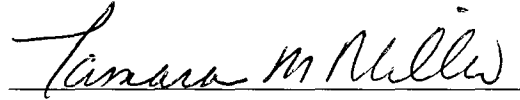
**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	August 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	July 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	July 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM-Cancelled
Park Board	Wednesday	August 9, 2023 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	July 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Town Council Budget Meeting	Tuesday	July 25, 2023 at 6:00 AM
Town Council Budget Hearing	Tuesday	August 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Town Council Budget Adoption	Thursday	September 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM

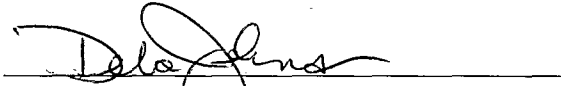
As there was no further business to discuss, Debbie moved to adjourn. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL



Clerk-Treasurer





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*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 newest vehicle in the Ferdinand Police Department fleet has been completely up-fitted and now out on patrol. We are very happy with the way it turned out. We also purchased a new hand-held radar to detect speeding vehicles. Both the hand-held radar and printer systems are being tested in the new patrol vehicle to evaluate performance and user friendliness to see if they can be used in other vehicles. Both items are more cost effective than previous equipment as well as installation.

I recently learned about a grant offered by the Criminal Justice Institute regarding laptop computers and printers. We have applied for the grant and if awarded, would be given 5 laptops, 5 printers, and 5 scanners. I am eagerly awaiting the response to see if we are awarded.

The Heimatfest was held June 17<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the fest, a meeting was held and safety plans discussed for the fest and the marathon. FPD assisted with traffic control as well as security patrols. There were no incidents to report. Thanks to all who worked so hard on the festival.

We worked on and completed a protocol for hazardous material/body fluid exposure. I put together folders for all of the officers in order to facilitate, should be have additional issues. I spoke with Jasper Memorial Hospital as well as the Dubois County Health Department. I am confident that should an exposure occur, the officers are educated.

Officers Clouse and Jones have been registered to attend the Medicolegal Death Investigators Training held by St. Louis University August 21-24. This class specializes in death investigations and recognizing the methods and manner of death. I have attended it in the past and it is an excellent training.

Officers Merkley, Seffernick, and Randle will be attending the Detective and New Criminal Investigator School held by the Public Agency Training Council. This 5-day course is a comprehensive introductory level overview for the law enforcement officer who has the crucial task of conducting investigations of suspected criminal offenses. During this course the student will also be exposed to various injury, death, homicide and sexually sensitive investigative training. I have also attended this class. It will be an excellent way to educate our officers.

All funds utilized for this training are budgeted as well as provided from the continuing education funds within our budget.

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	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p><b>Calls For Service Report</b></p> <p><b>June 2023</b></p> </div>  </div>			
Complaint Type		Total			Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	2				Missing Person Adult/Child	
Animal Complaint	5				Parking Violation	1
Assist Other Agency	19		Property Lost/Found/Recovered	3		
Battery/ Assault			Protective/Restraining Order	1		
Burglary (attempted)			Prowler (report of)			
Burning Complaint	1		Report to Station	1		
Child Abuse/Neglect			Return Messages	17		
Civil Matter /Dispute	1		State Dispatch	14		
Citizen Assist	4		Scam	1		
Debris in Roadway	3		Security Check	2		
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	5		Suicide/or a Suicidal Person			
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	1		Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3		
Drug Complaint	1		Theft	2		
Domestic Problem	2		Traffic Control	2		
Escort	3		Traffic Warnings	30		
Eviction			Traffic Citations			
Extra Patrol	30		Trespassing			
Fight			Threats/ Intimidation			
Finger Printing			Vandalism			
Fire			Vehicle Accident	2		
General Information	14		Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene			
Gun Permit			Vehicle Check	3		
Harassment			Vehicle Lock Out			
Hazardous/ Not Chemical			Warrant			
Investigation	1		Weather Related Problems	3		
Identity Theft			Welfare Check	4		
Illegal Dumping			911 false calls	17		
Intoxicated Person	1					
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway						
Lines/ Poles Down	1					
Lost/ Stolen License Plate	1					
Mental Subject						



## 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>14</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>23</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>JULY</b>				
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
<b>DECEMBER</b>				

**Reminder of our annual Ferdinand Firemen's Ball July 22 at the Ferdinand Community Center with fried chicken dinners starting at 5 pm**



## Electric Department Report

July 18, 2023

- 2 unplanned outages
  - Storm damage 30 customers, approx. 30 min
  - Bad connection 1 approx 2 hours
- Pole change outs east side of Main Street area
- Main Street lighting from 13<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Finished Lee Ct reconductor project
  - Removed 1000 ft of primary and 4 overhead transformers from the back yard lots to reduce tree trimming and future backyard work
  - Upgraded 3 adjacent transformers on neighboring streets because of cost savings of original project



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

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# Town Council Meeting

July 18th 2023

Worked on next round of CCMG projects.

Did some pot hole repairs.

Worked on weed control along roadways and parking lots.

Had a lot of storm damage cleanup to do.

Working on getting our 23rd street drop off site hauled off.

Mowing road right of ways.

Started prep work for curb and gutter on part of west side of Georgia Street.

*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**



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**Water:**

MRO's Filled with IDEM

Monthly total use in gallons	7,750,000
Max used a Day	325,000
Min. used a Day	181,000
Avg. Daily use	263233.33

Leak found at CVS meter pit on Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup>, meter cracked at the bottom of meter, meter was replaced and is now being rebuilt.

Starting up on bringing meters from inside the home to outside meter pits starting next week, roughly 220 services

We will be sending out water service line inventory surveys to property owners as part of the service line inventory requested by the EPA.

Envelopes will include a return addressed envelope with stamp and ask residents to answer to the best of their knowledge to this survey.

**Wastewater:**

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Monthly plant flow 8.32 Million gallons  
 40% capacity  
 Solids discharged 2.7 mg/l per day average  
 Phosphorus levels of .9 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

IDEXX system training and set up is set for July 19<sup>th</sup>

Sprinkler system is up and running,

June usage 3 nights  
 Average per day 23,800  
 Total gallons 71,400

**Education:**

Clint and Scott have started Water Apprentice classes this past week

Kyle and Austin will be Starting their Classes the July 25th

Ben Brinkman

Water/Wastewater Superintendent



## PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

*July 2023*

### **General Park Report**

- The park board meeting was held on July 12 and July 14, 2023.
- The board discussed future budgeting items and planning in preparation for July's budget meeting.
- Water irrigation is now available and happening on the fields.
- There is one remaining softball tournament scheduled for this summer which is coming up this weekend.
- The park board would like to thank Eagle Scout candidate Jacob Keller for his Eagle Scout project in which he installed a French drain along a portion of the Old Town Lake that had experienced the need for additional drainage in the wet seasons. Jacob recently completed the project with the help of the park department.

Matthew Weyer  
July 16, 2023



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## TOWN MANAGER TALKING POINTS FOR JULY 18, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

1 – We are still awaiting set up and installation of our new employee fueling system at the Utility Complex. Kudos to Tammy for contacting SynEnergy (our fuel provider) and working with them to install a new reader system in a mutually beneficial arrangement. Unlike our current model, which is a card reader device, the new unit will be activated by employees entering a special PIN number to track usage.

2 – I am working with Josh Schermerhorn, our field representative with I-PEP, to host a Blood Borne Pathogen training session in later August. This training will be for our Street and Utility personnel, and may be expanded to include individuals from other I-PEP communities. A future safety session we are exploring in the coming months concerns chainsaw operation safety. This is valuable, free training, that we hope to take full advantage of to benefit our employees.

3 – As of today, we are just under two months away from the 2023 Ferdinand Folk Festival. Vendor applications are continuing to come in at a steady clip, with our preferred applicant deadline set for Friday July 28. We will still accept applications through the month of August, but vendors may not be placed exactly where they want or wish. Promotional posters are in and will start popping up in various merchant windows and other locations starting August 1. A big tip of the hat to Branded by Woods for creating some awesome artwork for us again this year.

*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

4 – The 5<sup>th</sup> and final regular DCLA session is this Thursday morning at the Mobel Room. This session focuses on a combination of topics including religious & civic leadership/philanthropy/education & vocational opportunities. All three teams are into the fundraising and promotional phases of their Capstone projects, working on putting the finishing touches together before our August 16 graduation ceremony. Many thanks to those folks who have given or will give of their time and talents to participate in our sessions.

*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**