

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

October 15, 2019

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, in the Town Hall. Present were President, Ken Sicard, Council Member, Ron Weyer, Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller and Town Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper. Ron moved to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2019 meeting. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Sicard recognized the Forest Park Seniors in attendance.

Froman reported the Police Department now has 4 reserve officers after the resignation of Jhazz Bieker and Tyler Foss who have taken full time jobs with other communities. There are four reserves remaining. In 2020, he plans to replenish the reserve force. The Department received \$25,264 from the State Homeland Security Grant Program to purchase eight dual-ban radios. He thanked Dubois County Emergency Management Executive Director, Tammy Humbert, and Deputy Director, Gary Fritz, for their assistance in obtaining the radios.

John Hoppenjans reported the Fire Department had 7 fire and 12 EMR runs in September. The department toured the Trilogy facility. Pump testing has been completed on the trucks. The ISO (International Organization for Standardization), the entity that grades fire service and rates coverage for homeowner and business insurance, will visit in November to complete their survey. The burn ban is still in effect.

Becher reported the Electric Department had one power outage in September. His department will be trimming trees and doing preventative maintenance. They continue to move electric wires from Main Street.

James reported for the Street Department. The Fall Clean-Up was completed and the department is doing patching, repair, drainage tile and ditch work. The 2019 storm water basin inspections were completed. Lueken is working with Brosmer Surveying to redesign the storm basin on Vienna Drive. Leaf pick up will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through November.

Schaefer reported for the Sewer and Water Departments. The department is working to move water meters to the exterior of homes. They are jetting manholes and will exercise water valves in preparation for the ISO visit November 5.

Matt Weyer reported the Rosenvolk Festival will be held at the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park on October 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>. He met with Josh Emmons to set guidelines which will allow camping (by permit only)

this year. He requested the sprinklers remain in operation through tourney season.

James reported Folk Fest held on September 21<sup>st</sup> was a success and he thanked all town employees for their efforts. The Dubois County Leadership Academy has installed eight AED's throughout the county. Construction has begun at the Country Ridge Estate subdivision. Meny's True Value will hold a ribbon cutting at 11 AM on Friday, October 25. Christkindlmarkt eve dinner is Friday, November 15, 2019.

At 8:00 PM, the 2020 Budget Adoption Hearing was held. Miller presented the previously advertised budget. There was a motion to close the hearing by Ron and seconded by Ken. Motion carried 2-0. Ordinance 2019-24, an ordinance for appropriations and tax rates was adopted after the unanimous consent of all council member present, at the meeting it was introduced, on motion by Ken and seconded by Ron. Motion carried 2-0. The adopted 2020 budget is \$2,087,668 and the adopted tax levy is \$827,178. The adopted tax rate is .8025 per \$100 of net assessed value of \$101,950,108. The 2019 tax rate was .6659.

Sicard reported he is still working on the BZA & Plan Commission Appointments.

Matt Weyer reported the Old Town Lake project is moving along nicely. The slide show illustrated the progress being made on the trail. Anthony Weyer is doing his Eagle Scout project at the OTL. Overall Seufert Construction and their sub-contractors are making good progress anticipating completion in January 2020. Pay application # 5 from Seufert was approved by the Park Board and has been submitted for Council approval.

Becher reported the electric infrastructure is progressing. Ron reported there may be a change order related to the stands for regulators. The main transformer has been set.

Sicard is working on the Old Town Lake Dam – ER & Maintenance Plan.

Schaefer reported there is no new information related to the stand pipe water tower. He stated he would like to get started on the water loop installation.

James reported the Industrial By-Pass Community Crossing paving project is complete and the Scenic Industrial Drive and sections of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets and Krampe Drive are nearing completion.

Bohnenkemper reported there is no new Economic Development Commission information as the EDC has not met since the last Council meeting.

Miller reported she and Johnson met with ONI Risk Partners who is interested in providing quotes for health insurance and wellness programs for 2020. No quotes for 2020 have been received at this point.

Bohnenkemper requested the Utility Deposits and Applications was tabled until the adoption of the utility rate ordinance.

The Ferdinand American Legion, represented by Vic Begle, would like a plan in place to perpetually care for the Veterans' Memorial on SR 162. The Legion plans to deposit available funds to an Endowment administered by the Dubois County Community Foundation for the care of the Memorial. He requested the Town, a 501(c)3 entity, receive the distributions from the Endowment and create a separate fund for the Memorial's care. In the event the Legion is no longer able to maintain the Memorial, the Town would maintain the Memorial using these funds. Bohnenkemper will work with the Legion to document the agreement for Council's approval.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park tree line work/shared costs was tabled as the surveying work has not yet been provided.

Bohnenkemper explained the request from the County for a possible assignment to the Town of a tax certificate, related to a small parcel of land near the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street. It was noted that it would result in additional cost and time. The Town already has easements across this parcel. Ken moved to advise the County that the Town is not interested in ownership of this parcel. Ron seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Miller explained the need for a Special meeting on November 6, 2019, at 5 PM to approve a pay request from Seufert for the Old Town Lake Project in order to complete the grant request and receive funding prior to year-end. Ken moved to set a special meeting, as requested, for the purpose stated and any other business that may come before the Council. Ron seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

At 8:15 PM the Utility Rate Hearing was held. Sicard stated a newspaper reported that the reason for the electric rate increase was because the charges from NextEra went up. To clarify, the rate charged by NextEra has remained almost constant for the past 9 years. It is the Power Cost Adjustments (PCA), mainly MISO (Midwest Independent System Operator), ancillary charges and true-up costs that are a significant part of the monthly power supply invoice, that have increased and not the electric cost charged by NextEra. In 2018, the PCA amounted to approximately \$600,000. The Town has not had an electric rate increase for 11 years. Ron explained updating and replacing outdated infrastructure, necessary to get the power delivered to the customer, is part of the cost increase. A Ferdinand resident, Greg Rickelman, voiced he is against the rate increase. Miller reported the monthly operating expenses, monthly revenue and stated the total electric cash balance is projected to be \$1,000,000 at year end which consists of operating cash and capital

reserves. As recommended by the rate consultant, she has contacted the bank to initiate a credit line in the event of an emergency. Sicard communicated his appreciation for the opinions and comments made. Motion was made to close the hearing by Ken and seconded by Ron. Motion carried 2-0. Ken moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-22, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.20 of the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Electric Rates and Charges. Ron seconded. Motion carried 2-0. The rate will be effective on the bills mailed late December.

Schaefer clarified with Mike Petry alternatives and estimated costs to relocate his water meter to the exterior of his home and Petry agree to placement suggestion made by Roger Schaefer.

Ron moved to approve regular claims. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

The following announcements were read:

Town Council Special Meeting	Wednesday	November 6, 2019 at 5:00 PM
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	November 19, 2019 at 7:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	October 23, 2019 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	October 23, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	November 6, 2019 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Commission	Monday	October 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Ron moved to adjourn. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

ATTEST:



Clerk-Treasurer

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL





