

TOWN OF FERDINAND  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 19, 2019

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, in the Town Hall. Present were President, Ken Sicard, Council Member, Deb Johnson, Council Member, Ron Weyer, Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller and Town Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper. Ron moved to approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting. Deb seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard recognized the Forest Park Seniors in attendance.

Seffernick reported the Police Department participated in the annual active shooter drill at the high school and a lockdown with full evacuation drill at Ferdinand Elementary. They provided traffic control for the Monster Dash and Convent 5k's and the Christkindlmarkt. They completed their firearms training.

John Hoppenjans reported the Fire Department had 10 fire and 8 EMR runs in October. They also participated in the active shooter drill and the annual fire prevention day at Ferdinand Elementary and Forest Park Jr. High. They collected trash for the Adopt-A-Highway program and completed drivers training. The ISO (International Organization for Standardization), the entity that grades fire service and rates coverage for homeowner and business insurance, postponed their visit until January 2020.

James reported the Electric Department had two power outages in October. They are doing regular maintenance, replacing poles and continuing to move electric wires and poles from Main Street.

Lueken reported the Street Department replaced a failed storm tile on 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Convent Road. They are filling potholes, picking up limbs from the storm and preparing their equipment for winter weather. The Asset Management Plan has been updated to meet the December 1, 2019 deadline. He is working to update the road inventory due to annexations. The inventory is part of the INDOT calculation for road maintenance funds. He will renew his ERC certification in December and Miller or Kendra Schipp will become ERC certified in December,

Schaefer reported for the Sewer and Water Departments. They repaired two water main breaks and made several water/sewer service taps. The SCADA system that monitors the water level at the water towers has not been functioning properly. A different antenna will be placed

higher to avoid radio wave interference from other businesses. The IDEM sewer inspector noted minor procedural items that have been implemented. New EPA nitrate removal requirements are likely to be implemented within five years. Schaefer requested IRWA training December 9-11, 2019 at a total cost of \$450 for Schaefer, Stallman and Ernst plus travel and meals. Deb moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. He presented a drawing of the proposed water loop project on east 5<sup>th</sup> street stating the completion of the loop would create a backup water source for Trilogy and increase water pressure. He requested Bohnenkemper prepare easement documentation to present to the neighboring property owners and the Sisters.

Matt Weyer reported for the Park Department. The softball tourney season wrapped up and the parks have been winterized. He thanked Lueken and his department for their hard work. Tree planting is planned for the 18<sup>th</sup> street park this fall.

At 8:00 PM, Bohnenkemper introduced Ordinance 2019-25, An Ordinance Adopting Amendments to the Text of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Ferdinand, Indiana related to fencing exemptions and the Improvement/Building Permit Application. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on October 30, 2019. They approved, with a favorable recommendation, the adoption of said amendments to the text and certified the amendments. Deb moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

James reported the Christkindlmarkt attracted an estimated 10,000 visitors. He thanked the Town employees for their contribution to the event. He requested the Christmas tree lighting be held on Friday, December 6 at 6:30 PM. Ron moved to approve the request. Deb seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The Dubois County Leadership Academy has installed eight AED's throughout the county. The newly formed Dubois County Chamber of Commerce will commence January 1, 2020 and board applications are available. The annual Chamber dinner will be held Wednesday, December 4, doors open 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:20 PM, at the Ferdinand Community Center. The window installation at the 202 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> street building is slated for early 2020. He met with Memorial Hospital regarding the implementation of a Safe Haven Baby Box in the region, possibly Ferdinand. He requested the employment of Ben Becher for any department, excluding electric, for three weeks at \$10 per hour over the Christmas break. Ron moved to approve the request. Deb seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron Weyer recused himself from the discussion of the Universal Tax Abatement discussion. Bohnenkemper received an application for Tax Abatement and a signed Statement of Benefits Real Estate Improvements from Universal Package LLC, Lessee and Ranger Realty LLC,

Owner requesting a 9-year Tax Abatement according to the point system set by ordinance as follows: Year 1 thru 6 - 100%; Year 7 - 75%; Year 8 - 50%; and Year 9 - 25%. Mike Brandes, CEO/Owner, explained his investment of \$2.1 million includes plans to demolish part of the existing structure, the old Jasper Seating/DMI building, revamp the exterior and construct office space and a steel warehouse. The light manufacturer of packing materials will bring at least 21 jobs to Ferdinand. He requested assistance in plans to route truck traffic. Sicard will look into options. Bohnenkemper requested the Council accept the Application, adopt the Resolution TA2019-01, Designating the Area as an Economic Revitalization Area, and set a public hearing for 8 PM on December 17, 2019. Deb moved to approve the request relying on the information provided by Bohnenkemper. Ken seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Brandes offered to drop off very preliminary plans at Town Hall for Town representatives to review if interested.

Ed Cole with Dubois Strong, reported the Rural Broadband Committee is working to prove the need for Broadband in order to apply for grants. Dubois County is 70 out of 92 in rural broadband service. 550 freshmen from Dubois County schools participated in the Tour of Opportunity. 60 agriculture professionals attended the Ag Summit. The Enterprise Loan Fund has \$52,000 available for startup businesses.

Sicard recommended the Council appoint Matt Widhollf to another term on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Ron moved to approve. Deb seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard appointed Don Farina Sr. to the Board of Zoning Appeals open position with a term expiring December 31, 2022.

Matt Weyer reported the Old Town Lake project is expected to be complete in January 2020. The trail is 95% complete. The final grant draw request has been submitted and is expected to fund within four weeks. The DNR inspection is scheduled for January 8, 2020. Anthony Weyer is undertaking his Eagle Scout project at the OTL including planting trees provided by the town.

Ron Weyer reported the electrical infrastructure project is progressing. The overhead structure is nearly complete and many components are now in place. They are planning for an end of year completion.

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

Schaefer stated the water tower maintenance is on hold until the water loop project is completed.

Lueken stated the Community Crossing projects are complete and Miller will complete the close out reports.

Bohnenkemper reported the Economic Development Commission would like to present the EDC Revolving Road Loan Program at the January 21, 2020 Town Council meeting at 8:00 PM. Bohnenkemper will prepare the required notifications.

Johnson reported the health insurance committee is waiting for providers to finish their review of the FormFire reports and provide rate quotes. The current policy will expire January 1, 2020.

Bohnenkemper is reviewing the Dubois County Community Foundation documents that will allow the Town to be the recipient of endowment gifts to maintain the Veteran's Memorial in perpetuity. The Legion has agreed that the Memorial's real estate deed have a clause that in the event the Legion is no longer in existence, the Memorial ownership would go to the Town. She will prepare and route a memorandum of understanding to both Council and the Legion and if acceptable to both parties, it would be ready for Council approval at the December meeting.

Bohnenkemper reported survey work was done regarding the 18<sup>th</sup> street park tree line to determine the location of trees that need to come down and who will bear that cost and who will get the lumber. She will prepare and circulate a written agreement between the Town and the adjoining land owner and if acceptable to both parties it is to be available to sign at the December meeting.

Bohnenkemper reported a replat was approved by the Plan Commission at its October 30, 2019 meeting. The Town received a signed performance bond from PIC, for the installation cost of the private line, and a cashier's check in the amount of \$1,840. The performance bond and the check will remain in the vault until infrastructure is completed. Deb moved to approve and accept the performance bond, and allow Sicard and Miller to sign off on the performance bond. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller stated she is updating the 2003 Capitalization Policy that will be introduced at the December meeting. The policy will increase the capitalization threshold from \$1,000 to \$5,000 as recommended by the SBOA and simplify the current procedures.

Deb moved to schedule a Special Meeting on January 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM to discuss the Employee Handbook. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper reported at the Plan Commission Meeting on October 30, 2019, Steve Grundhoeffler approved the plans for the enhanced existing detention area on Vienna Drive jointly owned by Weyer, the School Corp and the Town. She will circulate a memorandum of understanding explaining the details of the enhancement allowing for removal of riprap and

fencing and replace with grass. Sicard moved to allow Lueken and Bohnenkemper to communicate the proposed plan to the property owners. Deb seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to approve regular claims. Deb seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The following announcements were read:

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	December 17, 2019 at 7:30 PM
Town Council Special Meeting (Employee Handbook Review)	Tuesday	January 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM
BZA	Wednesday	December 18, 2019 at 6:30 PM (November meeting cancelled)
Plan Commission	Wednesday	December 18, 2019 at 7:00 PM (November meeting cancelled)
Park Board	Wednesday	December 4, 2019 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Commission	Monday	December 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Economic Development Commission Special Meeting	Tuesday	January 21, 2020 at 8:00 PM

Ron moved to adjourn. Ken seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL



Clerk-Treasurer





