

TOWN OF FERDINAND
REGULAR MEETING
November 21, 2023

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, November 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 were Albert Kluemper, Larry and Kathy Meyer, and Jeff and Sherri Schipp.

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

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

Ron moved to approve the request for Chief Blessinger and Assistant Chief Gogel to attend the Indiana Association of Police Chiefs Conference in Indianapolis, January 30, 2024 - February 2, 2024, for \$1,450 which includes hotel fees and registration, plus meals and parking. Chief Blessinger reported Captain Randle will be in charge while she and Assistant Chief Gogel are at Training and will stay in touch. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Ron reminded that, whenever possible, the Chief and the Assistant Chief should not be absent at the same time.

Debbie moved to approve Fire Chief Hoppenjan's request to hire Brett Giesler and Tyler Trent to the Fire Department effective January 1, 2024, subject to passing drug screening. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The department count will be 32 firefighters.

Ron moved to approve Todd Fischer's, Electric Superintendent, request to purchase two transformers, one for an expanding business and one spare for \$32,524. There is a nine-month lead time and a three-year warranty. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Debbie moved to approve Fischer's request to repair the substation backup transformer's oil leak for \$23,710. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Ken moved to approve the purchase of 15 surplus transformers for \$1,875 from Edinburgh and authorize Fischer to sign a hold harmless agreement upon authorization from Bohnenkemper that we have received the proper changes to the drafted document. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brinkman, Water and Wastewater Superintendent, requested permission to hire Midwest Engineering for an engineering survey on the plant to see the potential costs for updates. Ron requested that Brinkman obtain a cost estimate from Midwest. Brinkman requested repair of the SECA jetter for \$7,581.67 by Best Equipment Co. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Brinkman requested the purchase of a submersible pump from Xylem Water Solutions for \$11,328.70. Ron moved to approve the request. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Matt Weyer reported the Park Board and the Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a Weed Wrangle at the Old Town Lake on Saturday, November 11, 2023. He thanked Jill Schipp for coordinating the event.

James thanked all departments for their help with traffic, trash collection, setting up, and tearing down the Christkindlmarkt event.

Albert Kluemper, representing local E-Bike owners, spoke to the Council requesting the stretch of Industrial Bypass from 3rd Street to 23rd Street have paved shoulders added, where they do not exist, to allow bikers and walkers to travel the route more safely. The Council thanked the citizens for coming to the Council meeting and they will consider the request adding it to the connectivity projects the Town is compiling.

At 7:00 PM a hearing was held for the Town Council to consider that Section 7.05.060 “Flood Plain Overlay Zoning District” of the Ferdinand Municipal Code should be deleted and replaced with the language set out on Exhibit A. The Plan Commission of the Town of Ferdinand did, on the 25th day of October 2023, hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of the herein amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and were considered and certified with a favorable recommendation by the Plan Commission 7 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining and 2 absent. 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. Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-20, An Ordinance Adopting Amendments to the Text of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Ferdinand, at the meeting it was introduced. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Ferdinand does participate in the floodplain management and the executed Ordinance will be sent to Savannah at the Department of Water.

Kim Fischer, Marketing and Promotions Coordinator, reported the Town received a \$2,000 grant from the Ferdinand Community Endowment and a \$2,000 grant from the Dubois County Foundation for the pole banner project. She is working on the website prospects and she joined the Folk Fest committee. The grand opening for the Main Street Bistro was held and she is working on Eclipse event planning.

Lueken reported that Electricom applied for an excavation permit near MasterBrand and the department heads have signed off on the application. Debbie moved to approve the permit with a bond amount set at \$2,000. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Lueken will sign the permit and contact the applicant.

Miller reported the close-out check for CCMG 2022-01 has been sent. We should receive the official close-out letter soon.

CCMG 2022-02 Culvert Project is nearly complete. The guard rails still need to be installed. CCMG 2023-01 work will be done in 2024.

CCMG 2023-2 award to the Town was \$476,465.97. Debbie moved to approve advertising for bids to be opened at some subsequent meeting. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Debbie thanked all of those who worked to put the grant application together.

Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2023-07, a Resolution authorizing Ken Sicard, Town Council President, to sign the INDOT LPA Contracts and CCMG Agreements. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard stated he has documented a Local Safety Tax 5-Year Spending Plan for Ferdinand, should the Safety Tax be passed, using input from the Police and Fire Chiefs. He will review with Chief Blessinger and Fire Chief Hoppenjans before sharing with the Council.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to the Council.

Bohnenkemper stated the CISM is not yet ready.

Debbie stated she is meeting with Tom Lueken and Universal tomorrow on the Main Street sidewalk project.

Lueken requested the Council accept 18th Street and Mississippi Street into the Town's Road Inventory. Debbie moved to accept. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brinkman stated there are a few commercial and landlord water customer surveys that need to be delivered.

Tom Lueken, Property and Street Superintendent, stated the Senior Citizens Center roof work has not yet started.

Debbie moved to approve the 2024 Water, Electric and Sewer budgets as previously distributed by Miller. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The Fire Protection Contract with Ferdinand Township was approved for \$44,000 on a motion by Ron and seconded by Debbie. Also, in motion, Sicard and Miller to sign the contract. Motion carried 3-0. The contract is to be paid in two installments: \$22,000 payable on June 30, 2024, and \$22,000 on December 30, 2024. In addition, the Township will pay the Town \$30,000 for a partial payment for a Fire Department Pick-Up Truck by January 31, 2024.

The Use of Municipal Public Parks Contract with the Ferdinand Township was approved for \$34,000 on a motion from Ron and seconded by Debbie. Also, in motion, Sicard and Miller to sign the contract. Motion carried 3-0. The contract will be paid in two installments: \$17,000 on June 30, 2024 and \$17,000 on December 30, 2024.

Debbie moved to allow Bohnenkemper to sign off for the Town for the Billboard 12-month contract for one billboard eastbound with Lamar and one billboard westbound if it becomes available from another advertising company. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard read the Proclamation declaring November 20, 2023 as 2023 Forest Park Marching Rangers Band Week. The Marching Rangers won their 12th State Band Marching Contest on Saturday, October 28, 2023. Debbie moved to approve the proclamation. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard moved to sign the Certificate of Appointment designating Beverly Schulthise as the Representative of Ferdinand to Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission for another 1-year term. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to approve payment of the AIM invoice for \$2,264 for 2024. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper stated that Ralph Pund submitted a properly completed demolition permit application for the St. Ferdinand Church barn with the appropriate bond and insurance certificate. The department heads have all signed off on the application. Debbie moved to approve the permit and have Sicard sign the permit. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	December 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	December 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	December 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	December 13, 2023 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	January 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM

As there was no further business to discuss, Debbie moved to adjourn. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

Tamara McMiller
Clerk-Treasurer

Ken Sicard
Debbie Jensen
Ron Wyz



FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

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

Ferdinand, IN 47532

2023 Summary of Incidents

	FIRE	EMR		TOTAL
JANUARY	2	12		14
FEBRUARY	2	13		15
MARCH	4	14		17
APRIL	2	4		6
MAY	5	18		23
JUNE	3	15		18
JULY	3	8		11
AUGUST	8	10		18
SEPTEMBER	6	14		20
OCTOBER	3	5		8
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

We went to the elementary school for our fire prevention day.

We conducted our annual roadside clean up along 264.

Madison Lindauer was our representative at the IVFA parade at Holland.

We did receive our pick-up truck and have put it into service. 408 is its identity.

Would like the permission to accept Brett Giesler, Tyler Trent, and Trenton Gayhart, on the department on January 1, 2024, after they pass their drug screen.



Ferdinand Est. 1905

Police Department

243 West 10th Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

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

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger

Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel

1. The month of October was a busy month for the Ferdinand Police Department. I was recently appointed to the 911 Dispatch Board as a representative for the Town of Ferdinand. I am looking forward to actively participating in this board.
2. On October 2nd, I met with the Ferdinand Fire Department members and held a training session. Chief Hoppenjans and I have a strong working relationship and will continue to cross-train our agencies.
3. On October 4th, I met with the board of the Community Center. They will be participating in the Narcan program for the Community Center.
4. The Ferdinand Police Department recently received a donation from an anonymous donor of \$20,000.00. This very generous donation will be utilized for radios and computer equipment.
5. On October 20th, the Ferdinand Police Department installed several new laptops as well as several new desk top computers. These were very needed pieces of equipment which will assist us with daily operations.
6. A very big congratulations to the Forest Park High School Band as well as the Forest Park Soccer team! The Ferdinand Police Department was happy to assist with escorts and supporting our teams.
7. The YMCA held the Monster Dash on October 28th. The department assisted with traffic and safety for the participants.
8. I would like to ask for permission for myself and Assistant Chief Gogel to attend the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police Conference January 30th-February 2nd. We attended this conference last year and gained a great amount of knowledge from not only networking, but also purchasing information. The conference also includes several guest speakers discussing the issues facing policing as well as ILEA information. Additionally, it includes meeting both of our requirements for our State Mandated training requirements. The cost for both of us to attend is \$600.00 with an additional \$850.00 for the hotel fees. Meals and parking will also be submitted. Breakfast and lunch are provided by the conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerri Blessinger, Chief

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		Calls For Service Report October 2023	
	317		
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm	4	Missing Person Adult/Child	1
Animal Complaint	3	Parking Violation	4
Assist Other Agency	18	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	1
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)	1	Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	2
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	14
Civil Matter /Dispute		State Dispatch	8
Citizen Assist	5	Scam	
Debris in Roadway	1	Security Check	62
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	4	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person	4	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	6
Drug Complaint	2	Theft	
Domestic Problem	1	Traffic Control	1
Escort	3	Traffic Warnings	28
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	4
Extra Patrol	49	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	
Finger Printing		Vandalism	3
Fire	3	Vehicle Accident	14
General Information	37	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	3
Harassment			
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	
Investigation	4	Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	4
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	4
Intoxicated Person	3	Pursuit	1
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway	2		
Lines/ Poles Down			
Lost/ Stolen License Plate			
Mental Subject			

Electric Department Report

Nov. 21, 2023

- 1 unplanned outage
 - 4 customers for one hour due to equipment failure
- Pole change outs east side of main street area
 - 4kv upgrade transformers
- Town hall Generator waiting for fuel hook up
- Purchase 15 25 kva transformers from another utility for the 4kv conversion at a substantial savings.
- Back up substation transformer oil leak repair
 - \$ 23,710, because of specialized nature of substation repair only one quote was available.
- Transformer purchase for business upgrade
 - 2- 500 kva transformers for \$ 32,524- one for the building and 1 for a spare that can be used for multiple locations.



Town of Ferdinand
2065 Main Street
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
Phone 812-367-2280
Fax 812-367-1303
E-mail: twnofferdinand@psci.net
www.ferdinandindiana.org

Town Council Meeting

November 21, 2023

Most our time has been trash pickup and curb side leaf removal.

Reinstalled stop, street name, speed limit and No passing signs by the culvert project.

Finished painting handicap symbol, needed stripping and signage for the attorney office.

Spent a good deal of time with Tammy submitting our road asset management plan which is required by December so we can continue applying for CCMG.

Waiting a login time for my ERC recertification expires in December this is also required for applying for CCMG.

Hopefully got the needed information together for adding four sections of road to certification.

New Business

#4 waiting for any Council comments the department heads don't see an issue with what they are doing according to the scope of work presented in application.

#5 I was at the office when the close out letter came in need Tammy to confirm.

#6 CCMG 2022-02 they got rain out on **Friday** the 17th they were going finish the paving need to place the surface yet other than that the project is near completion the guard rails need to be installed and we need to do check list. The roads were planned to be open on **Friday** the rain was the last delay.

#7 CCMG 2023-01 will be done in the spring the weather is getting to where they don't want to start and not be able to finish until spring.

#14 Like I stated in my report hopefully everything is needed and the Council approves and we forward to the State to see if they approve.

#16 I originally was told it would be done by now I not sure what time exact time will be.

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



Town of Ferdinand
 2065 Main Street
 PO Box 7
 FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
 Phone 812-367-2280
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townofferferdinand@psci.net

Water:

MRO's filed with IDEM

Vienna Drive project,
 Hydrants are in service,
 Main still needs to pass bacterial test before being put into circulation, tests have been postponed till road work is completed

October usage:

Total Gallons	6,888,000.00
Max. Day	280,000.00
Min. Day	171,000.00
Avg. Daily	223451.61

Flushing is just over half way.

Wastewater:

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Monthly plant flow 6.8 million gallons
 .32% capacity
 Solids discharged 2.8 mg/l per day average
 Phosphorus levels of .5 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

All reports have been filled with IDEM

Permission to seek out Midwest Engineering for an engineering Survey on the Plant to see costs for updates to the plant since we are entering year 25 of the plant without any major upgrades, to help curb costs and add automated monitoring for flows suggested heavily by IDEM in their latest inspection.

In a separate note,

Interviews were conducted Monday for the open Water and Wastewater position.

Ben Brinkman

Water/Wastewater Superintendent



PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

November 2023

General Park Report

- The park board meeting was held on November 8, 2023.
- The board discussed some planning of the Fifth Street sports fields and complex master planning for future improvements.
- The board discussed 2024 park lease rates.
- The board took receipt of the trees that were ordered earlier in the year and will be planted around the various parks.
- The Park Board and the Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District hosted the Old Town Lake Weed Wrangle on Saturday, November 11th. There was a great number of Ferdinand residents of all ages that participated for over 3-hours and made great strides in removing invasive plant species throughout the property. We are grateful for those who chose to take the morning to better their community

Matthew Weyer
November 20, 2023



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TOWN MANAGER TALKING POINTS FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

1 – The final version of the 2023 Dubois County Housing Study was released by Dubois Strong on November 8 and was shared by Ken. These findings appear to suggest that Dubois County as a whole is still trending in a positive direction for the next decade. Population growth thru the county has held a .6% annual increase over the past 30 years and it is believed this level can be supported or exceeded in the next decade. Some of the positives from the report for Ferdinand: that new housing has filled quickly, showing growth potential for the community, access to I-64 and Dubois County jobs offers opportunities for stable growth. The report also found household income across the county has grown, with Ferdinand experiencing the largest increases

2 – Thanks to the Street Department for installing our newest AED unit last week- this device has been placed outside the Street Department breakroom at the 5th Street Complex. Our own employees based at 5th Street will be the beneficiaries from having this unit on site, filling a previously unfilled need.

3 – Team Lucas of the most recent Dubois County Leadership Academy received some very positive news in recent weeks. The Dubois County Council approved \$100,000 in funding to go toward the purchase of LUCAS devices for all Dubois County fire departments. Counting this funding, nearly \$200,000 of the more than \$222,600 price tag has been raised for these purchases. The team is hopeful final support will be

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

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RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager

provided via the Dubois County Community Foundation. This has been, by far, the largest project taken on by a DCLA team.

4 – We will have our next I-PEP safety program, in the Ferdinand Library Community Room, at 10am on Friday December 8. This session will cover all facets of Winter Weather Safety, including equipment operation and maintenance, proper employee clothing, treatment in the event of cold weather injury and more. Although primarily for Town of Ferdinand employees, other I-PEP communities may send employees as well.

5 – Work has begun on the Town's Cyber Assessment offered jointly by Indiana and Purdue University's, in conjunction with the Indiana Office of Technology. Our local team has been established and will be working toward this goal in the coming weeks and months.

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

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