

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

December 18, 2018

The Ferdinand Town Council met for their regular meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 in the Town Hall. Present were President, Ken Sicard (arriving mid meeting), Debbie Johnson, Vice-President and Ron Weyer, Council member, Tamara Miller, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper. Minutes of the November 20th meeting were approved on motion by Ron and seconded by Deb. Motion carried 2-0. In attendance were Webelos Scouts: Jacob Keller, Hayden Pior, Bryce Memmer, Collin Lorey, Trent Tyree and Conner Hochgesang along with their Den Leader, Kayla Keller and several parents.

Froman reported police calls for November and presented a report of department activity. He reported there were no accidents during the Christkindlmarkt and traffic control went very smoothly. His department participated in various officer training programs and presented safety programs at the local schools. The new police vehicle is being customized before delivery.

Fire Chief, John Hoppenjans reported 4 fire runs and 11 first responder runs in November. John introduced the newest volunteer firemen, Winston Glenn and Shaun Mehling.

Steve Becher reported on the electric department. They are trimming trees and replacing poles.

Tom Lueken reported the street department is working on leaf pick up with December 20 being the last day. He reported the ADA transition plan is complete. He completed his ERC certification. He plans to reapply for a Community Crossings Grant in January of 2019. He noted the trash bins in the park are to be used by park visitors and not to be used to dispose of trash in order to avoid buying a trash sticker.

Chris James gave the water and sewer department reports for Roger Schaefer. He stated the water portion of the Kersteins subdivision is complete. The sewer department is waiting for IDEM permits to complete their work in the subdivision. The old lake dam has been inspected and we are waiting for results. They have received some applications for the open position for that department.

Matt Weyer gave a park update.

Chris James thanked the police and street department for their help with the Christmas tree lighting. He thanked Universal Design for allowing the tree to be placed on their property. He stated the purchase of an outdoor stage is in progress for use by Dubois County entities. Dubois County Tourism is working with the Community Foundation to purchase a 24x32 ft. stage which will be stored at the 4-H fairgrounds. The stage will be available to Dubois County communities to rent for events like the Heimatfest and the Folk Fest. He reported the INDOT ADA sidewalk projects are complete. AIM-On

December 11, James, along with representatives of industry and other municipalities, met to discuss the fiscal outlook of Dubois County. Information was presented by Drew Klacik showing the positives of the area economy, as well as some troubling negatives, including an aging workforce. Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness was on hand to talk about potential legislation coming up this session which would provide local governments the opportunity to create a new funding source.

Ken Sicard, with the approval of the Council, appointed Andy Rohleder to the BZA. A motion was made by Deb and seconded by Ron to approve the appointment. Motion passed 3-0. Sicard appointed, with the Council's approval, Don Foerster to the BZA and Planning Commission for 4-year terms on each. A motion was made by Ron and seconded by Deb to approve the appointment. Motion passed 3-0. Sicard requested the Council's approval to appointment Matt Weyer to the Park Board for a 4-year term. A motion was made by Deb seconded by Ron to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Deb. Motion passed 3-0. Sicard appointed, after the Council's nomination, Michael Cummings to the Economic Development Commission for a 4-year term. A motion was made by Ron and seconded by Deb to approve the appointment. Motion passed 3-0.

Matt Weyer gave an update of the Old Town Lake project. He hopes to bid the Old Lake Trail project soon and to open bids in February, possibly at a special meeting. He is waiting final approval from the Division of Water. Cutting of select trees must happen before March 31 to avoid any issues with bats returning to nest. He noted the OTL Project received a sizable donation last month and has promises from others for donations. The OTL Project video was shown at the Chamber Dinner last month.

8:00 PM-There were no bids for the fire truck. John Hoppenjans requested permission to donate the firetruck to an Indiana fire department near Scottsburg that lost equipment in a fire. The council approved John's request to contact that department regarding a donation. Bohnenkemper reminded the Council of the right of first refusal mandated by statute.

Becher reported on the Sisters project progress.

Ron Weyer gave an update of the new electric substation project. Requests for quotes for the aluminum structure and then a for actual install have been sent out and bids are due back at the January 15, 2019 meeting. The backup transformer is on schedule for delivery in early January. The new transformer for the substation is on schedule for April delivery. The new substation is scheduled to be up and running by September 2019.

Tom Lueken reported the ongoing problem of dirt being tracked onto 5th street. He will contact the construction company/developer to remedy the situation prior to involving IDEM.

Ken is working on the emergency response program and will report at a later date.

James informed council he was contacted by Marc Hansen with Suez Water System Consultants, regarding the setup of a cost control plan for repair of our water tanks. This was timely information based on the recent figures presented by John Wetzel with Midwest Engineers concerning the upkeep of our tanks. A meeting was scheduled for the week of Jan 14-18 with Suez. An update on that meeting will be presented at the February council meeting.

Deb Johnson reported for the insurance committee. After reviewing the options, the committee recommended the town continue insurance through United Health Care. The town will pay for the premium increase of 7.5% and the employee portion of the premium will remain the same. There is an employee insurance meeting on December 20. New cards are being issued.

Sharon Bohnenkemper explained the Begle Tax Abatement request for new construction of a 12-unit apartment building on the northside of Ferdinand adjacent to the Industrial Bypass. She has received the signed Statement of Benefits and introduced a Resolution to designate the area as an Economic Development Revitalization Area. Dakota Begle, owner of Royal Ridge apartments, spoke about the success of the previous apartment building as a result of the initial tax abatement that was granted by the town and requested the same for the second building. A motion was made by Deb accept the application, adopt Resolution TA 2018-01 designating the area an economic revitalization area and set a public hearing for 9:00 PM on January 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ron. Motion passed 3-0.

A request was made for a waiver of the building and sign permit fees related to the Veterans Memorial Project. A motion was made by Ken to waive the permit fees. Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

The following agenda items were tabled until the next council meeting:

3. Ordinance Authorizing Investment of Town Funds
4. Region 15 Contracts for Service-Code Book/Zone Maps
5. Economic Development Income Tax-2 Year Plan
9. Approve Water, Electric & Sewer Budgets 2019
14. Salary Ordinance

Tom Lueken reported on the Dr. Thomas building posing the question of whether to winterize the building. The council will address at a subsequent meeting after potential leasing options are explored.

Community Crossing Matching Grant (CCMG) first call for 2019 will open January 7 and close February 1. He requested the Council's support of the projects. He received a call from Senator Erin Houchins regarding the 2018 CCMG lack of funding for our 2018 Applications. She will support our application and suggested that we contact Mark Messmer and request his support as well. No Dubois County applicants received CCMG Funds in the 2018 fall call. Deb made a motion to authorize Ken to

sign the commitment letter showing support for the funding. Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Chris James requested Ben Becher be hired as a seasonal winter employee from December 21-January 17 at the rate of \$9.50. A motion was made by Deb and seconded by Ron to approve the request. Motion passed 3-0.

Ken made a motion to approve Sharon Bohnenkemper as a full-time Town Attorney as an employee contingent upon preemployment testing. Deb seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. The council will further discuss the details of the employment at a subsequent meeting.

Miller requested that Kendra Schipp's part time office position be classified as a paid internship, working at least 150 hours this semester. A motion was made by Deb approve the request for hours and change her title to Paid Intern at \$9.25 per hour. Ron seconded the motion. 3-0.

Miller requested the council change the utility autopay from the 5th of the month to the 10th to encourage more participation in the autopay option saving time and money for the town. A motion was made by Deb to approve the request. Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Regular claims in the amounts of \$143,997.84 and \$705,512.93 were approved to pay on motion by Ron and seconded by Debbie. Motion carried to pay regular claims 3-0.

There was a motion by Ken to schedule an Executive Session at 1:00 PM and a Special Meeting at 2:00 PM on Friday, December 28, 2019. The motion was seconded by Deb. Motion passed 3-0.

The council will meet in regular session on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:30 PM. The meeting of Economic Development Commission will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:00 PM. The Park Board will on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at 4:30 PM. On Wednesday, January 19, 2019 the Zoning Board will meet at 6:30 PM and the Plan Commission will meet at 7:00 PM. As there was no further business to discuss, Deb made a motion to adjourn and Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

ATTEST:



Clerk-Treasurer

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL







